



Republic of Botswana

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ZIMBABWE ELECTION 2013**

**Gaborone, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2013** – The Government of the Republic of Botswana will continue to monitor the elections in Zimbabwe and will announce its position after receiving the verdict of its election observers in that country.

For now however, the Government of the Republic of Botswana notes that there were reported cases which occurred in the lead up to the Election Day that fell short of best practice for the conduct of credible elections in a Democracy.

It therefore remains to be seen as to whether these issues will affect the final result, as Election Day itself, is not the only factor in considering whether an election is free and fair. In essence, the credibility of the elections is determined by the entire process before and after the holding of elections.

However, we wish to commend the people of Zimbabwe for the orderly manner in which they conducted themselves during the Election Day. We remain optimistic that the situation in Zimbabwe will continue to be peaceful.

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