

Kigali, 2nd August, 2018

The African Democracy Forum has learned with dismay, the worrisome prevalence of post parliamentary and presidential election-related violence which took place in Harare, Zimbabwe, between opposition protesters and security forces, whereby 3 unidentified people were killed and others wounded. The ADF condemns such acts of violence which are hostile to the holding of democratic elections.

We welcome successful holding of elections peacefully, however, we are concerned about the development characterized by strong tensions and violence that cause loss of life and injuries. We call on the candidates, their respective parties and their supporters to take immediate steps to avoid recurrence of such unfortunate occurrences. The ADF also urges the security forces to exercise restraint in dealing with the ongoing situation and to ensure that innocent civilians are not harmed.

The ADF encourages all Zimbabwean political stakeholders to refrain from acts that would undermine the credibility of the electoral process and the legitimacy of its outcome. The African Democracy Forum expresses its compassion and solidarity to the aggrieved families, the Government and people of Zimbabwe.

While elections alone are insufficient for democracy, they are nevertheless a prerequisite. This is because they provide an important opportunity to advance democratization and encourage political liberalization. The opposite, which is the failure or absence of elections, largely defines dictatorship, therefore, it is through fair and peaceful elections that we can have an Africa and a Zimbabwe that will prosper.