

ELECTIONS REPORT

Gender Analysis of Candidates in the March 2022 By-Elections



**Women and Law
in Southern Africa
Zimbabwe**

INTRODUCTION

President ED Mnagwagwa set the 26th of March 2022 for By-Elections in 28 parliamentary seats.

The seats became vacant by reasons of:

- Death of an elected member
- Resignation of a candidate
- Dismissal from being a Member of Parliament
- Expulsion of a candidate from a party on whose ticket he or she was elected



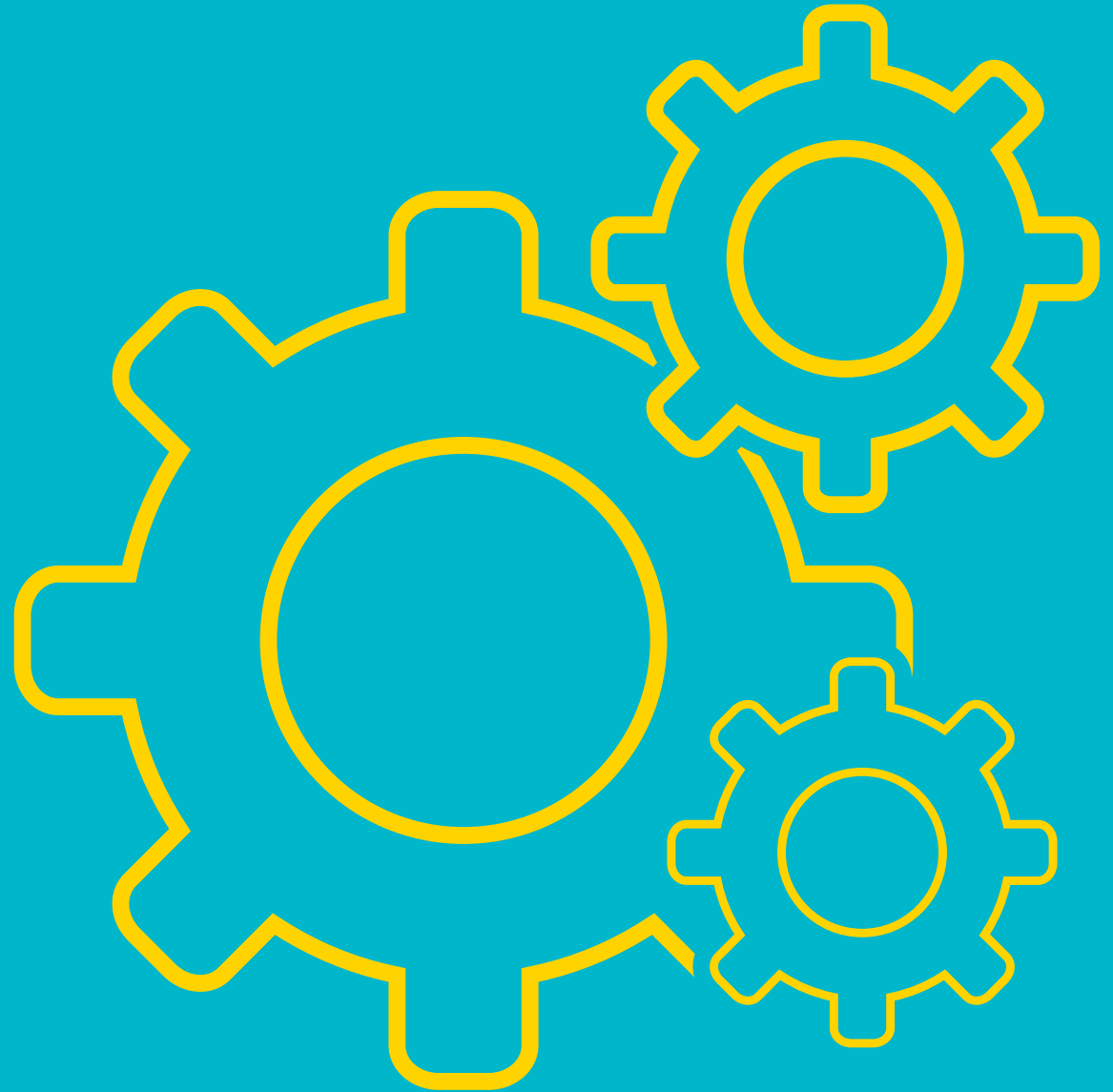
BACKGROUND

- **Zimbabwe adopted a constitution in 2013 which incorporated provisions for the achievement of gender equality under section 17, 56 and 80.**
- **Despite the provisions in the 2013 Zimbabwe Constitution especially section 17, 56 and 80 that promote gender balance, there is still a long way to go before gender parity in political representation becomes a reality in Zimbabwe, particularly for women who have been marginalised for centuries.**
- **The call by the Government to extend the piecemeal 60 quota seats for women in the national assembly has failed to increase the number of women to 50% .**
- **Women who were selected into parliament through the quota have faced alot of challenges, yet the government has extended to quota for the next 10 years.**

- Despite all the challenges faced by women on proportional representation seats, the government has been extended the quota seats for the next 10 years in the National Assembly and also Local government level.
- Women's equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for simple justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account.
- Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.
- Any society like Zimbabwe benefits from the increased representation of women in public political office .

METHODOLOGY

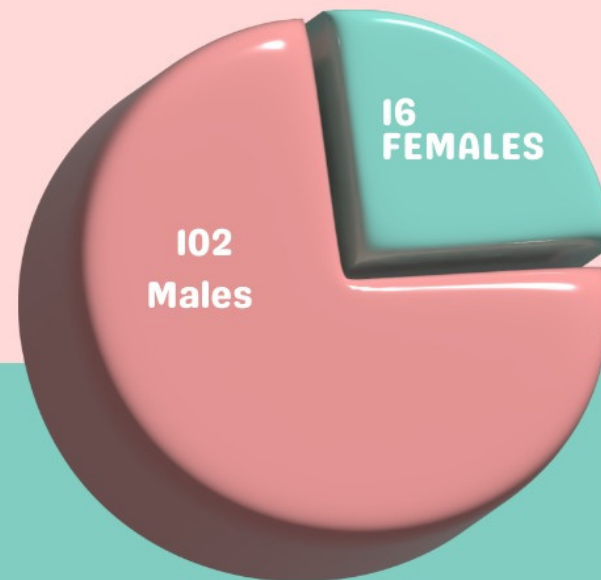
The study used desk research mainly from Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. The study was quantitative, and its focus was on gender disaggregation of candidature by province and constituency. The data was analysed using Univariate analysis describing one variable i.e. gender.



KEY FINDINGS -National Statistics

Segregation of Nominated Candidates for Election as Members of the National Assembly By-Elections

Out of 118 nominated candidates only 16 are women

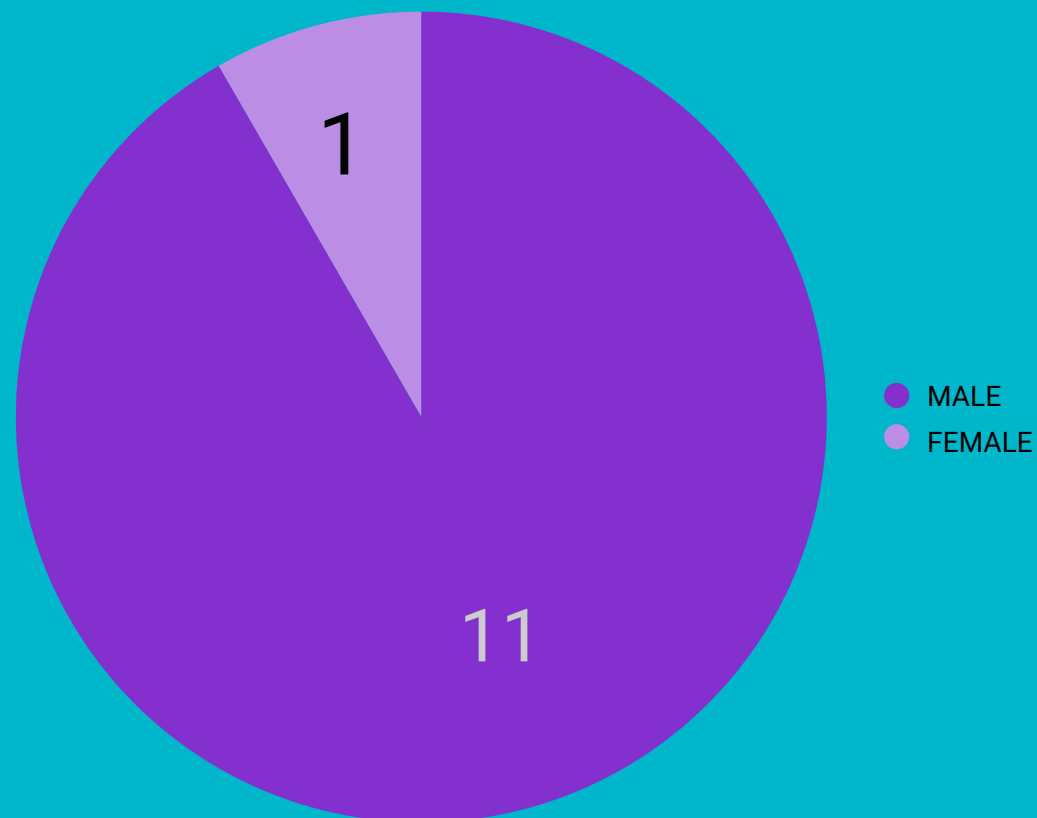


There are 28 parliamentary constituency seats in the 26 March 2022 By-elections. The total number of candidates contesting is 118, consisting of 102 males and 16 females. There are 15 Political parties and 7 independent candidates

KEY FINDINGS -Provincial Level

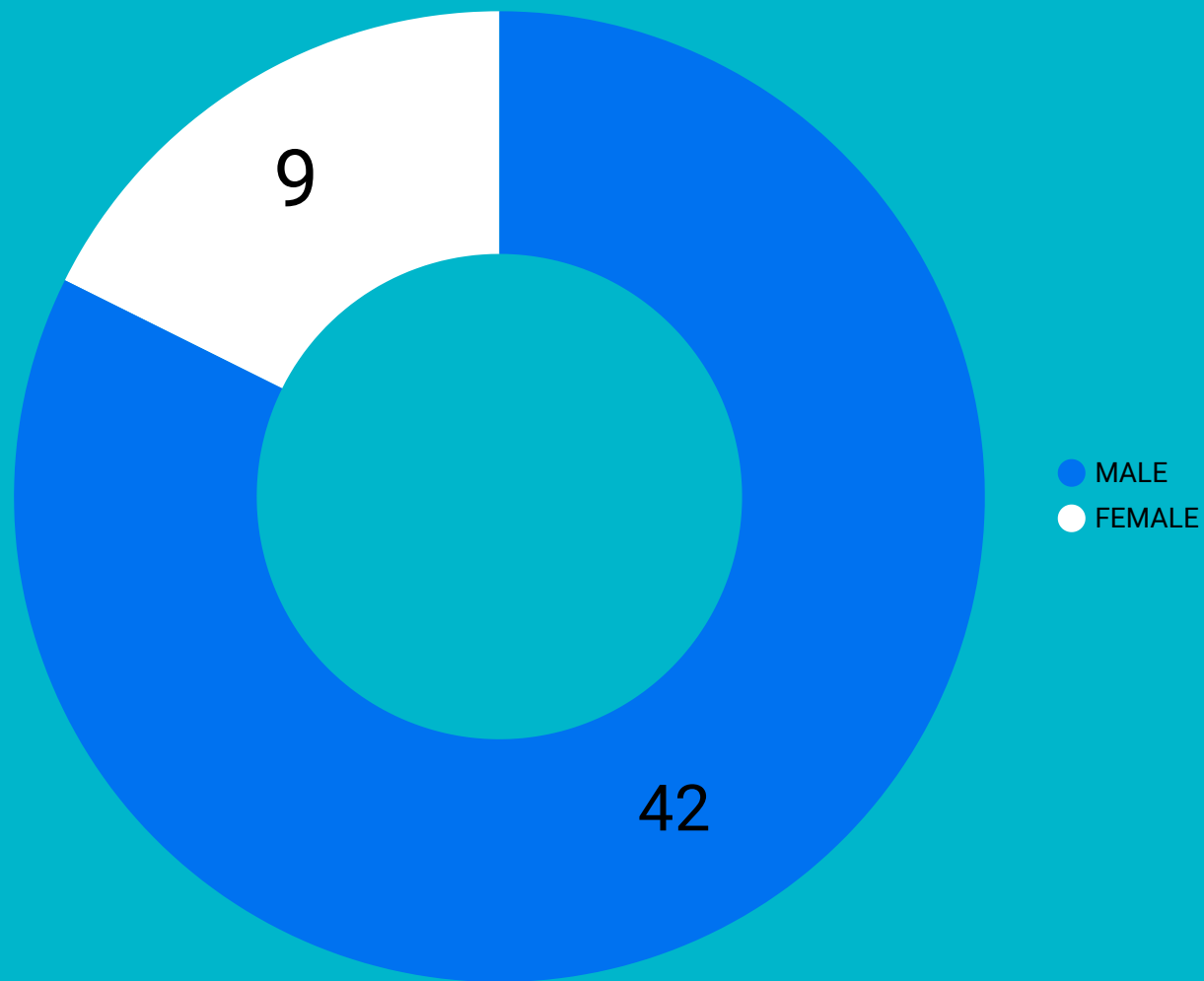
BULAWAYO PROVINCE

There are 12 nominated candidates from 7 political parties and 1 independent candidate contesting for national assembly seats in 2 constituencies in Bulawayo. Out of 12 candidates there are 11 males and only 1 female.



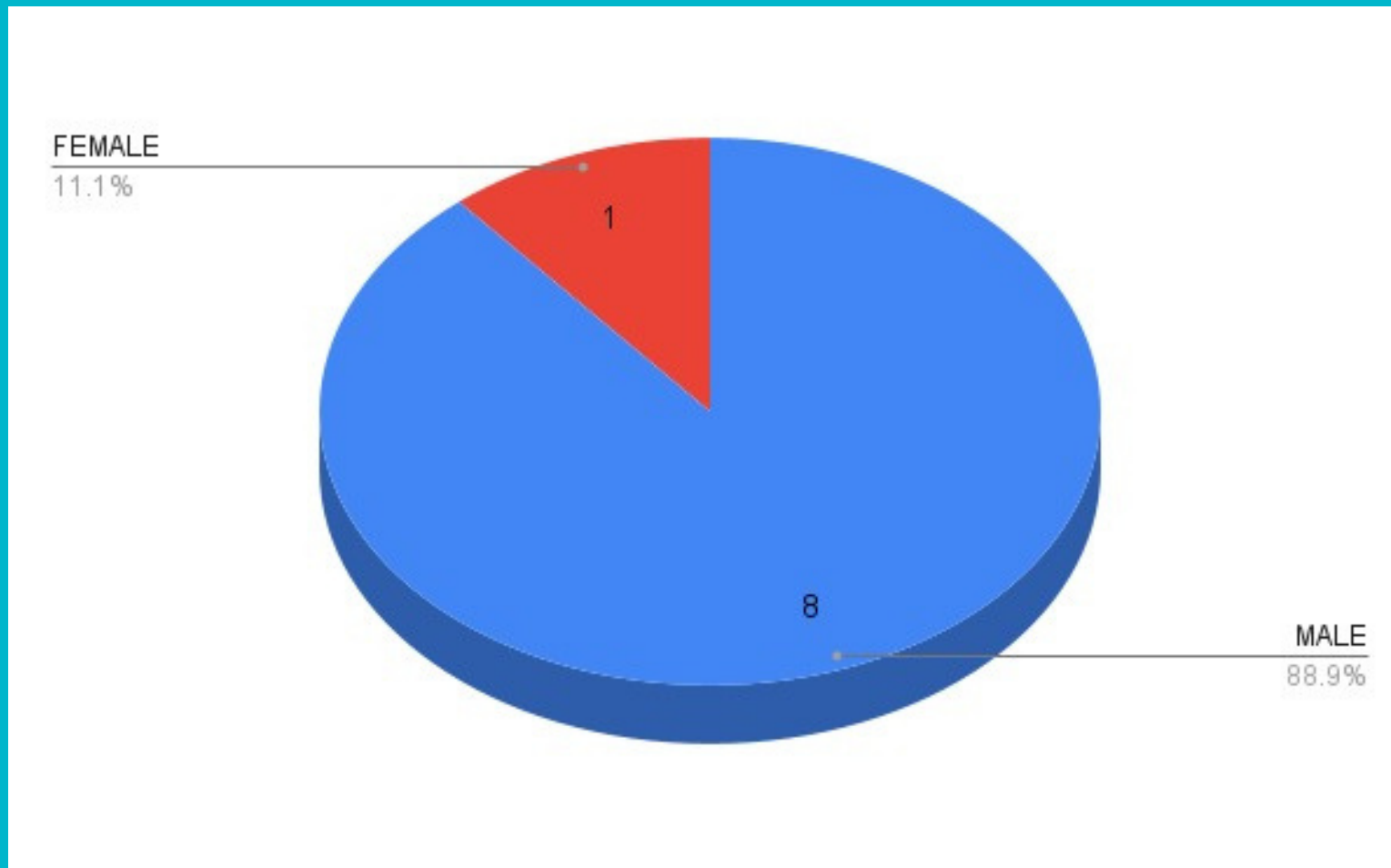
HARARE PROVINCE

There are 51 candidates from 10 political parties contesting for national assembly seats in 12 constituencies in Harare . Out of the 51 candidates 42 are males and 9 are females.



MANICALAND PROVINCE

There are 9 candidates from 7 political parties contesting for National Assembly seats in 2 constituencies in Manicaland Province. Out of 9 candidates 8 are males and only 1 is female .



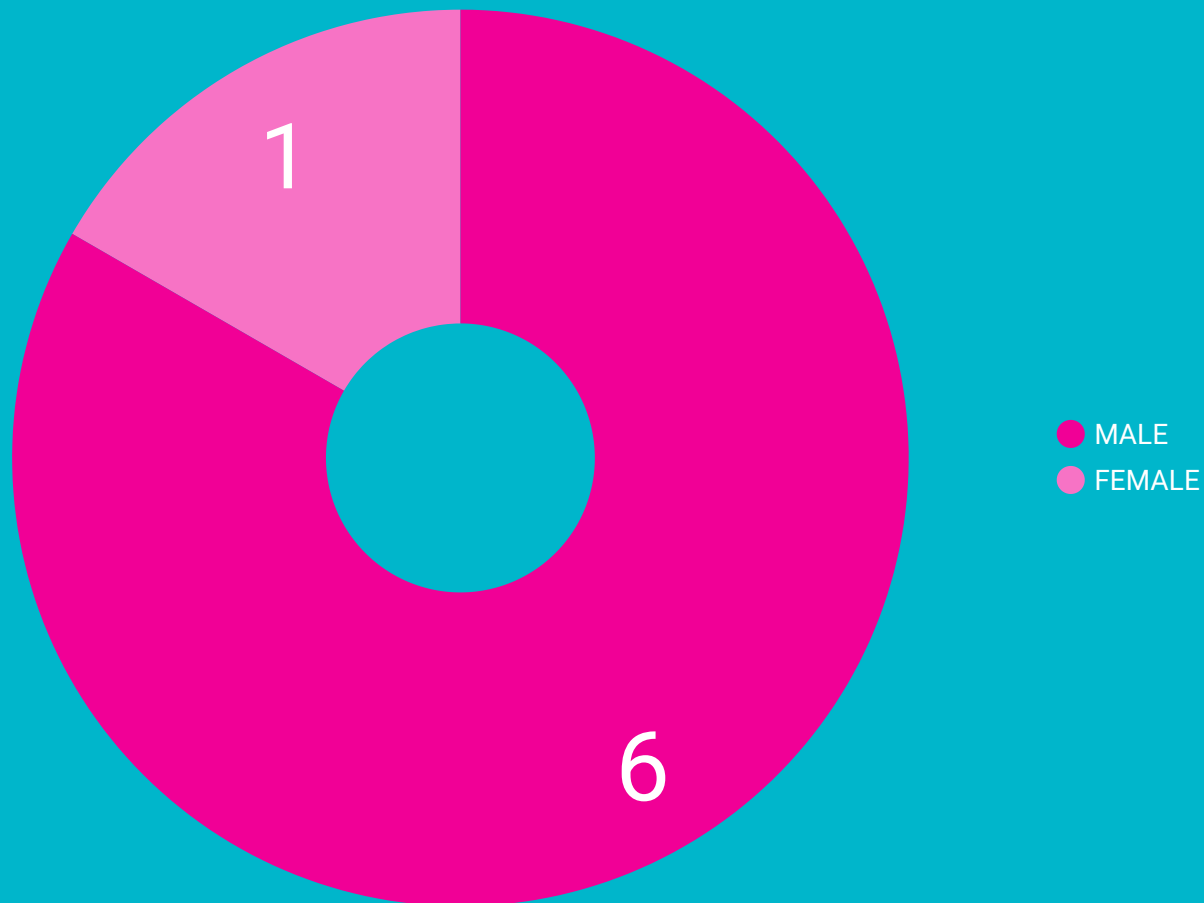
MASHONALAND EAST PROVINCE

There are 12 candidates from 6 political parties and 1 independent candidate contesting for National Assembly seats in 3 constituencies in Mashonaland East Province . Out of 12 candidates there are 12 males and 0 females



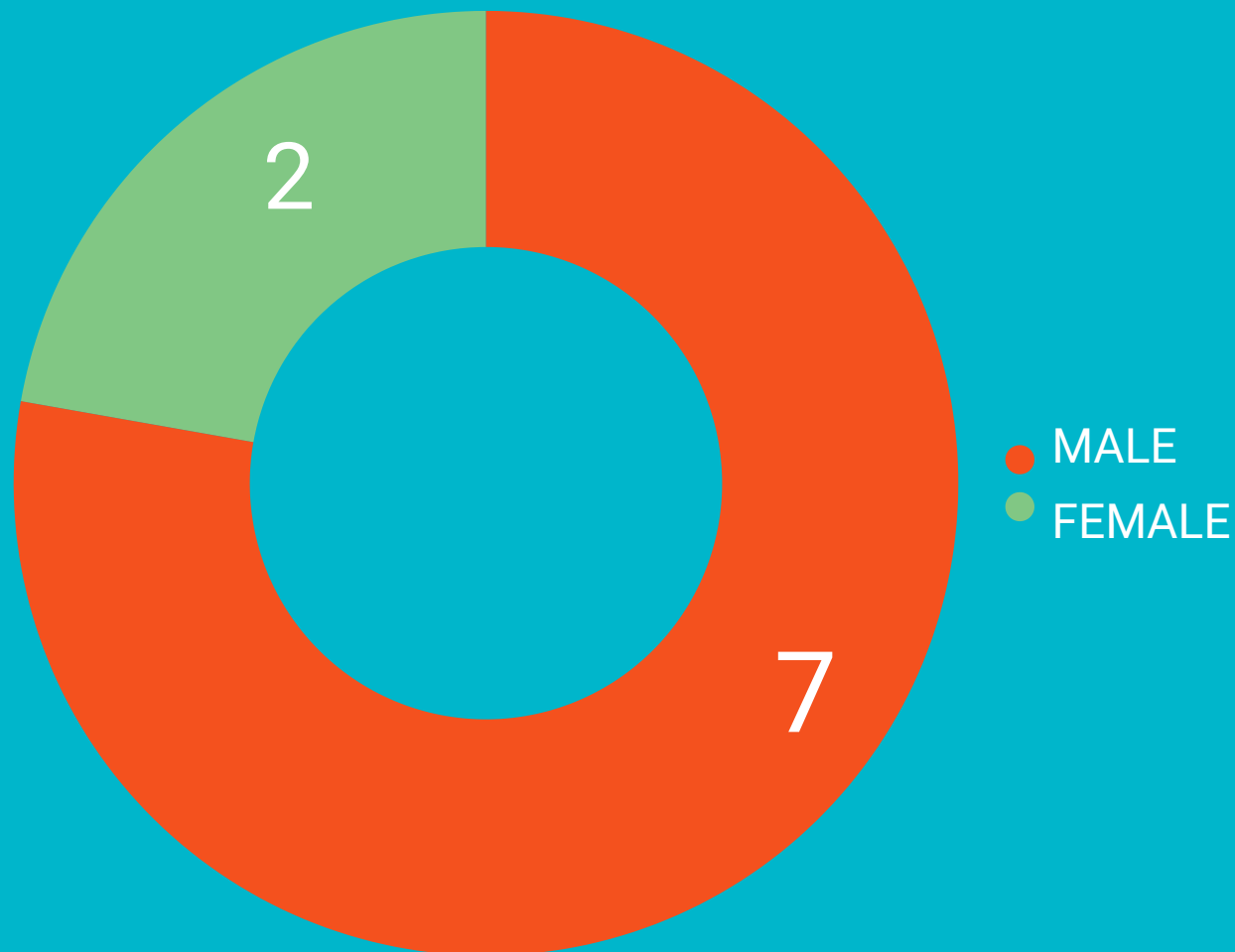
MASVINGO PROVINCE

There are 7 candidates from 6 political parties contesting for National Assembly seats in 2 constituencies in Masvingo Province . Out of 7 candiadtes 5 are males and 1 female.



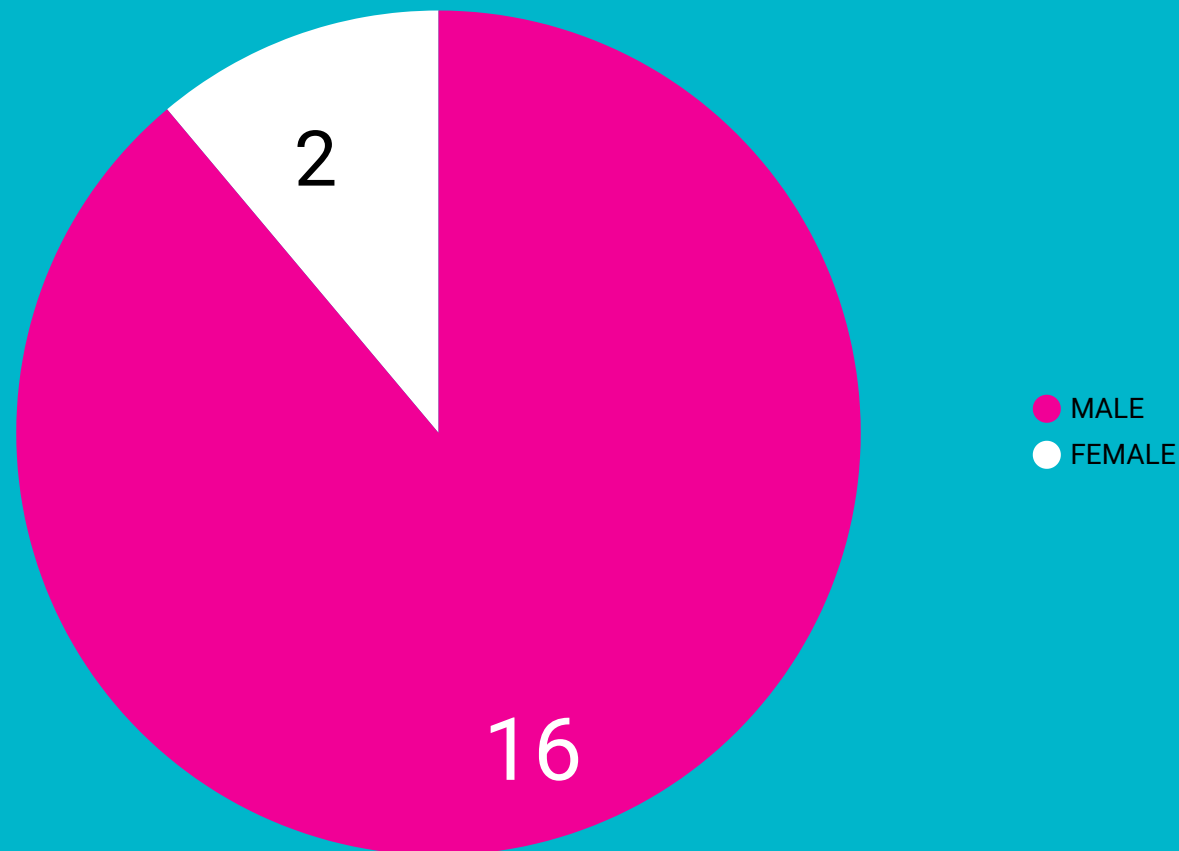
MATABELELAND NORTH PROVINCE

There are 9 candidates from 5 political parties and 2 independent candidates contesting for National Assembly seats in 2 constituencies in Matabeleland. Out of 9 candidates there are 7 males and 2 females.



MIDLANDS PROVINCE

There are 18 candidates from 7 political parties contesting for National Assembly seats in 5 constituencies in Midlands Province. Out of the 18 candidates 16 are males and 2 are females.



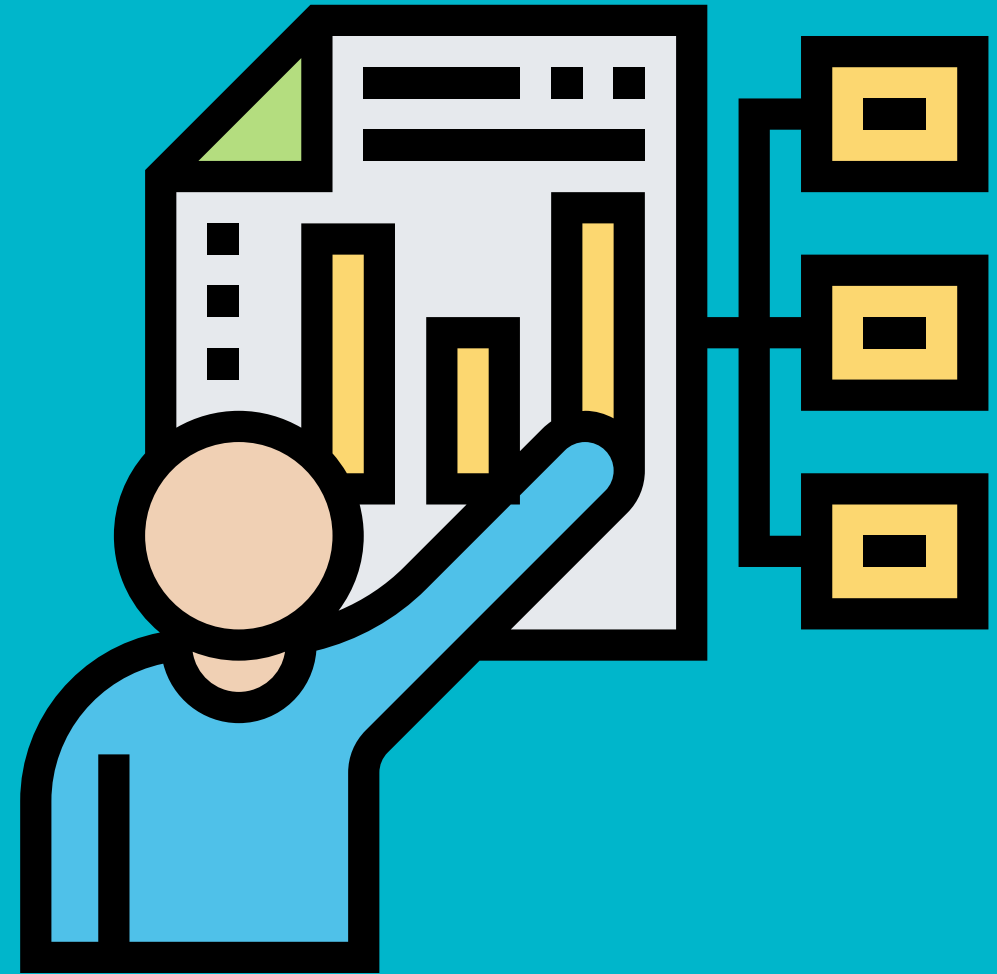
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Constitution Section 160 – Amend the Constitution

- Section 160 should be amended to include the allocation of seats to gender in equal numbers on a rotational basis with every delimitation.

2. Electoral Act Section 46 – Nomination of Candidates

- This Section should be amended to provide for the nomination of candidates standing for any political party to represent at least 50% of both women and men.
- The other option would be to legislate that political parties must ensure that in any district in which the political party is represented, at least 50% of the seats are represented by women.



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