

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Media statement

17 April 2008

Peters says Zimbabwe election results may be fraudulent

New Zealand is increasingly concerned about the continuing delay in the release of official results of Zimbabwe's election, Foreign Minister Winston Peters said today.

"The ongoing delay by the Zimbabwe Election Commission to release the full election results raises fears that Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party are preparing to steal the parliamentary and presidential elections once again.

"If the election result is to be considered valid, it is crucial that the process upholds the international principles for free and fair elections which Zimbabwe itself has endorsed.

"There are strong indications from various sources that the means to produce fraudulent results from this election were secured by the ZANU-PF.

"The manipulation of the actual election results appears to be continuing with the revisiting of the results for the parliamentary election.

"ZANU-PF appears to be attempting to regain its lost majority in parliament, and to retain the presidency, by seeking recounts in 23 constituencies.

"The international community is increasingly concerned that once again the will of the people of Zimbabwe will be frustrated by a government that refuses to respect the democratic process and the rights of the people they are meant to represent.

"The results of the parliamentary and presidential elections should be released immediately," Mr Peters said.

ENDS

Contact: James Funnell (Senior Press Secretary) 04 471 9710 or 021 838 372

Or james.funnell@parliament.govt.nz

**The Minister's statements and speeches are available at
www.beehive.govt.nz**