



Zambia Elections Information Centre

ZEIC

9028, Buluwe Rd, Lusaka
10101,
+260 97 8778148
info@zambiavote2016.org
zambiavote2016.org

ZEIC WEEKLY REPORT

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Report by
Zambia Elections Information Centre

INTRODUCTION

With the complexities that come with holding tripartite elections, it has become essential to find viable means of improving the quality of elections and facilitating for real time corrective action to challenges as they occur before, during and after elections. The aim of the Zambia Elections Information Centre is improve the quality of elections through sharing information at various stages of elections with key stakeholders with the hope of resolving the challenges. The Election Information Centre is, a project anchored on ICT where trained election observers and citizens share information and views on elections. In 2016 ZEIC will monitor the following components of the election cycle;

- 1. Media**
- 2. Campaign Financing**
- 3. Citizen's views**
- 4. Election observation**

This report presents a weekly collation of issues emerging from our various interactive platforms that vividly highlights what is happening across the country as the election period unfolds. The report provides information obtained through careful and detailed analysis of reports sent in by credible election observers and monitors as well as citizens from across Zambia who are actively participating in the election process. This information is verified, validated and analyzed by a qualified team of analysts for purposes of aggregating the data received.

As part of ensuring that our discussions are not only informative but interactive, we will have expert representation from key stakeholders in the election process, to feature on our radio and TV shows and address some of emerging issues. We would like to categorically state that as a platform, we are non-partisan and we will not share unverified information. Citizens are rest assured that our reports are assessed by a team of qualified analysts who work round the clock to ensure that we remain credible and factual as a platform.

Every week, our platform will generate reports accompanied by numbers and aggregated data to provide a descriptive picture of what is happening country wide. The following emerged as key on our platforms this past week;

KEY ISSUES OF THE WEEK

- ❖ Political Violence
- ❖ Campaign Financing
- ❖ Women Participation and Adoption Process
- ❖ Asset Declaration
- ❖ Understanding and Comprehension of Referendum on the Bill of Rights

VIOLENCE

As campaign period is underway, tensions are high between political party supporters and cadres which as a result has led to an increase in violence. Reports recorded on a daily basis across our various platforms have indicated that the escalating levels of violence are a matter of genuine concern to the Citizens of Zambia who are key stakeholders in the election process.

Some of the specific issues emerging include:

- ❖ That violence is being perpetuated by mainly two political parties whose cadres have the blessing of their top leadership to cause havoc
- ❖ If left unabated, the escalating violence will have a negative bearing on this year's general elections as people will be fearful of the environment and stay indoors to avoid clashes thereby contributing to voter apathy.
- ❖ Reports show that at least two to three violence cases are recorded on a daily basis between rival political parties in different parts of the country where political campaigns are taking place.
- ❖ One particular citizen says political party officials give money to their supporters at the grassroots to go and disrupt activities of other political parties using violent means and protect these supporters with a blanket statement that their supporters were provoked.

- ❖ Political cadres are increasingly becoming unruly to the point where they have no regard for Law Enforcement agents. This is as evidenced by verified reports of a police man having been brutally beaten by two cadres from a named political party.
- ❖ Some citizens feel the Police is powerless because there have been instances where cadres block the road or pass without being checked by the police.
- ❖ The disorderly conduct by political cadres has raised questions among the citizens on the ability and capacity of police and law enforcers to protect innocent citizens who get caught up in the political fracas and their ability to maintain law and order as per their mandate.
- ❖ Some citizens have suggested that perhaps there could be military intervention to compliment the Zambia Police Service for the duration of the election period.
- ❖ That the police should not be seen to act in favor of the ruling party but protect all Zambian citizens and thereby prove their effectiveness as the police service.
- ❖ Citizens have called on ZEIC to initiate dialogue with the political parties that are perpetuating violence.
- ❖ Citizens have called on the organizations and institutions mandated to protect them not to remain quiet, that violence must be condemned regardless of political affiliation.
- ❖ There is a general feeling that there is no political will from the political party leaders to stop their supporters from being violent.
- ❖ The vulgar language by some political party officials from various parties has been cited as one of the contributing factors to violence.
- ❖ Lack of updates from the police on what they are doing about the escalating levels of violence

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) announced that campaign period for all contesting political parties for the 2016 general elections will run from 16th May to 10th August. This being the case, the role of money in politics cannot be undermined especially now that campaign period is officially ongoing. With less than sixty days to go before the polls, political parties have intensified campaigns to spread their political messages and expand their reach across the ten provinces of Zambia.

As the Zambia Elections Information Centre, one of the things we are tracking as the election process unfolds, is Campaign Financing. Campaign Financing refers to funds raised to promote political candidates, political parties or policies in an election. Political campaigns have huge expenditure and costs as a result of a political party, its staff and supporters traveling across the country. We have taken time to elaborate the role of money in politics and challenge citizens, the media and election observers to take interest in the implications of political parties being funded by unknown sources.

While interacting and exchanging with citizens, these are some of the issues that have come out of the platforms:

- ❖ Alerts have been sent to ZEIC through our social media and ICT platforms about members of a named political party spotted at a political rally with GRZ registered vehicles
- ❖ Citizens expressed conflicted views on whether it is lawful for all public servants to use public resources entrusted to them by virtue of their office or if the Law only provides for specific offices to do so.
- ❖ One particular citizen highlighted that he feels parties invest in so many campaign materials to blind people from focusing on the real issues such as policies and plans for the nation should that party form government and instead splash materials to the electorate.
- ❖ Concerns have been raised on where the source of money for some political parties who have exhibited extravagance by moving from province to province using choppers and branded vehicles.
- ❖ The use of public resources to further political party causes has constantly been raised by concerned citizens especially directly in relation to the ruling party.
- ❖ Citizens have also highlighted that the component of campaign financing that ZEIC has introduced is helping them appreciate the amount of resources political parties are deploying in this campaign and how that affects the playing field for other parties whose resources may not equal what another party is channeling out.

Some of the questions phrased by ZEIC to drive the conversation around Campaign Financing awareness and indicators were:

- ❖ How much does it cost to have a one minute advert produced?
- ❖ How much does it cost to flight one advert?
- ❖ How many times a day does the advert run multiplied by the duration of the campaign period?
- ❖ What is the cost of mounting one billboard multiplied by the number of cities and provinces where several are mounted?
- ❖ How much does it cost to hire a bus?
- ❖ What is the cost of ferrying supporters in buses from province to province?
- ❖ What is the cost of printing Tshirts, caps, chitenges etc and distributing those across the country to thousands of supporters?
- ❖ How much is hiring a chopper per hour?

These questions help put into perspective for the citizen, how much money goes into political campaigns and what the possible long term implications are. It also helps the citizens and other stakeholders weigh how much goes into political campaigns against how much it would cost to put up a hospital for example.

WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND ADOPTION PROCESS

As Zambia's democracy progresses, there is need to level the playing field for women to participate in the political dispensation of the country. In the interest of equity and equality, women should be given the opportunities to run for political office and take up decision making positions.

In assessing the status of women's participation in the 2016 general elections in Zambia, the Zambia Elections Information Centre lead partner on women's participation in governance processes, Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL) monitored the process of adoption and nominations for a period of three months in 63 districts and shared a report with statistics emerging from there. Some of the key findings are;

- ❖ Fewer women have been adopted to contest in the 2016 elections as compared to 2011, especially at parliamentary level.
- ❖ 138 women were adopted in 2011, however only 87 women have been adopted across political parties for the 2016 elections.
- ❖ The UPND has adopted more women (29), followed by PF (24) and FDD (18). MMD has adopted 8, while Rainbow and UNIP both have 4 candidates each.
- ❖ The number of women adopted in 2016 at parliamentary level has decreased by 36 percent
- ❖ Some women have been adopted as Mayors and Chairpersons, despite the position being elective for the first time.
- ❖ At Parliamentary level, 15 out of the 23 women that were in Parliament have been adopted by the PF and UPND. Representing 65% of the women parliamentarians adopted from the previous parliament.
- ❖ Corruption was one of the major challenges faced by women vying to stand as some adoption committees at various levels were soliciting for bribes in order to have their adoptions secured.
- ❖ Most women who won primaries at ward, constituency and district levels were left out and not adopted when the decisions were being made at provincial level.
- ❖ In certain cases, women who were legally adopted by some political parties and awarded adoption certificates, were dropped on the very last day and replaced with men.
- ❖ In some political parties, the adoptions were done in secrecy and at the very last minute, leaving many women in the dark not knowing their fate until the day of nominations.
- ❖ 138 women filed in their nominations in 2011, while in 2016, only 94 women have filed in nominations, 87 on political party tickets, while 7 as independent candidates.

- ❖ The requirement for candidates to verify their educational qualifications and get the tax clearance was both cumbersome and costly. The process was not decentralized and this posed a challenge to candidates from the most rural parts of the country travelling to Lusaka to undertake the process. This became an added cost to women in rural areas who felt discouraged and abandoned the process of filling in nominations despite being qualified.
- ❖ Most women that were ready to participate in the elections dropped out of the race at the nomination stage due to the failure to meet the educational qualification as required by the amended constitution of Zambia
- ❖ Failure by some women to raise the nomination fees which were hiked in 2016 was the other reason why few women managed to file in nominations

Citizens who were engaged through the various platforms set up by ZEIC for active interaction, highlighted a number of factors that could have led to the reduction in the number of women participating in this year's election. Among others, these were;

- ❖ The political environment in Zambia is less than ideal due to brutal character assassination as opposed to issue based politics.
- ❖ There are constant sexist remarks targeted at women in politics
- ❖ Violence associated with political parties makes women vulnerable and desist from participating for fear of being harmed.
- ❖ There is no political will within most political parties to empower women and let them take the lead.

ASSET DECLARATION

There is requisite that presidential candidates and their running mates must declare their assets during the nomination process to contest in the general elections in Zambia. Asset declaration is a person's balance sheet that covers all their assets from their homes, valuables and financial portfolios to liabilities such as debts, mortgages and all sources of income that may either be in form of directorship,

investments or consulting contracts. It may even extend to gifts and sponsorship deals.

Asset is declaration for a platform like ZEIC to monitor because it helps prevent abuse of power by the elected officials and increase accountability for public resources. It also helps to build trust in the public institutions that manage the resources of the country on behalf of its citizens as well as reduce on corruption. It is a useful process to hold politicians accountable because if he/she is seen to be living beyond their means, asset declaration can be a good point to start with investigations.

In the case of Zambia, 9 political parties are contesting and among these, some of the key asset declarations during nomination were;

- ❖ UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema topped the list with K73.16 million in assets.
- ❖ UPND Running Mate Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba was second with K31.8 million in net assets.
- ❖ Hichilema, he declared land and buildings worth K36.95 million; shares worth K13.75 million; receivables K2.07 million and K1.55 million as cash, among others. The UPND leader's liabilities in 2014 was K450,000 but has none this year while his payables are worth K0.54 million and contingency amounting to K0.62 million.
- ❖ PF leader Edgar Lungu was third with K23.7million
- ❖ Edgar Lungu also declared that he owns a Toyota Land Cruiser GX V8 worth K450, 000; a farm at no 919/50 in Lusaka valued at K2.5 million and a piece of land in Kanakantapa area valued at K150, 000.
- ❖ The Head of State has a plot at stand No 12676/m in Chalala valued at K800,000; Lex House suit No.1 worth K2 million; Lot No 211 Njalwe valued at K1.5 million and another on 38479 valued at K4.8 million

- ❖ PF Running Mate Inonge Wina has net assets amounting to K3 million, with shares in a number of private and listed companies

The process did not go without controversy as some flags were raised by citizens, stakeholders on the declarations especially with regards to the two political parties considered to be front runners. Flags raised included;

- ❖ Critic on President Edgar Lungu's sudden rise in wealth after he declared assets worth K23.7 million, about K13 million more than what he declared 15 months ago.
- ❖ A poll carried out on our online platforms received votes within 24 hours and indicated that over 70% of the poll voters felt that not all assets were declared by the presidential candidates.
- ❖ Citizens also queried how much the president earns and how much he possibly gets in terms of allowances and whether it is possible to calculate his net worth now based on what he gets paid.

Interestingly, the other 7 political parties did not stir up any debate in this regard.

REFERENDUM ON BILL OF RIGHTS – REPEAL OF ARTICLE 79

The Bill of Rights is an issue that is a constant feature through the weekly interactions with citizens on the ZEIC platforms. In recent weeks the conversation has been centered on the framing of the referendum question and what the 2nd part of the question, which speaks to the repealing and replacing of article 79 really means. The issues that continue to tag at the platform are;

- ❖ Citizens having little or no knowledge of the Bill of Rights
- ❖ People are skeptical about voting fearful of voting for something that is too complex to comprehend

- ❖ There is limited time to come to sensitize people so that they have adequate knowledge or understanding of the document.
- ❖ Some citizens feel the article 79 was purposed to safeguard the citizens or prevent politicians from making amends to the Bill of Rights hence repealing it means the people of Zambia do not have a say
- ❖ Others feel that the Bill is progressive and a Yes vote must be advocated for
- ❖ There are concerns on the quality of voter educators that the ECZ has sent in the field to educate the people on Referendum
- ❖ More than 4 alerts have indicated that the field educators themselves lack knowledge and understanding on the Bill of Rights hence are failing to communicate effectively to the people.
- ❖ There's a feeling that Civil Society is playing politics and not representing the people of Zambia
- ❖ An online poll run on ZEIC platforms indicated that 79% of the poll voters are looking forward to this year's General Election while only 21% are looking forward to the Referendum on Bill of Rights
- ❖ 54% of the citizens we are interacting with have heard of the Bill of Rights while 46% have actually read it.
- ❖ Some citizens who have since read the bill say they are comfortable with it and see no reason to vote no on it.
- ❖ There's consensus that civil society, government and ECZ must all team up and use the remaining time wisely to educate people on the Bill of Rights.

WEB AND SMS PLATFORMS USAGE

There have been a cumulative xxx SMS reports, xxx web reports to ZEIC platforms as of 11/06/2016

NO.	PLATFORM	SMS REPORT	WEB REPORTS
1.	Citizens		
2.	Media		
3.	Observer		
4.	TIZ		

Twitter

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	STATISTICS
1.	Tweet impressions	78,700	13,100 impressions per day
2.	Engagement rate	1.2%	More engagement than 0.6% prior week
3.	Link clicks	51	Average 9 link clicks per day
4.	Retweets	277	Average 46 Retweets per day
5.	Likes	175	Average 29 Likes per day
6.	Replies	159	Average 27 replies per day

Facebook

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	STATISTICS
1	Page Likes	2,582	Over 1,400 new likes 2400 page visits
2	Posts	341	460 Likes on posts 192 Comments 92 Shares
3	Page impressions	46,815 Organic 57,322 Viral impressions	
4	Videos	1,055	

Instagram

NO.	ITEM	DETAILS	STATISTICS
1	Followers	222	Avg of 5 new followers per week
2	Posts for the week	7	Avg of 1 new post per day
3	Likes per week	15	Avg of 2 likes per post

Whatsapp

NO.	TOPIC	PERIOD OF REPORT	STATISTICS
1.	Violence cases: it has been noted that during the run up to the elections a number of reports on violence have been recorded.	Second week of May – first week of June 2016	7-9 violence cases reported on a weekly basis around Zambia.
2.	Abuse of office: political public figures abuse office (authority).eg. Usage of government vehicles during campaign.	Third week of May	1-2 reports weekly on abuse of office.
3.	Bill of Rights and Referendum: Citizens of Zambia share concerns on the lack of knowledge and clarity on the BOF and Referendum.	Second week of May – second week of June 2016	Discussed at least 4-5 times weekly all around Zambia.

YouTube

NO.	ITEM	DETAILS	STATISTICS
1.	Subscribers	2	0% growth in subscribers over period
2.	Videos	4	Total views 21 over three week period