



THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES MONITORING GROUP EXPECTATIONS OF THE CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

PRESS RELEASE

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(For Immediate Release)

As the Electoral Commission of Zambia implements Continuous Registration of Voters (CRV), we have many expectations for transparency and accountability in that process that we hope the ECZ will be able to meet especially given a number of issues raised in the 2020 mobile voter registration exercise. Among our key expectations are:

1. ***Accreditation of Monitors and Access to Registration Centres:*** Following a civil society organisation's (CSO) briefing held in February by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), stakeholders were assured of accreditation to monitor registration of voters. The purpose of monitoring such important electoral processes is to enhance transparency and accountability as well as citizen confidence in the process. It is our expectation that while the Commission has up to now not given a clear position and direction on accreditation of monitors to monitor the continuous registration of voters' process, the ECZ will quickly normalize their processes and facilitate for the accreditation of voter registration monitors for this process.
2. ***Provision of Desegregated Data:*** CCMG expects the ECZ to provide desegregated data on the voter registration process as they have done in the past. CCMG expects timely release of registration updates as this could inform stakeholder's involvement in the process as it relates to voter education.
3. ***Access to Registration Centres by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs):*** According to the Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD) mobile voter registration report, a number of registration centres were inaccessible by PWDs in a number of ways, that is, size of the door to the registration room and lack of accessibility rumps. CCMG therefore

Fr. Alex Muyebe
CCMG Spokesperson
0976735208

Peter Mwanangombe
CCMG Programme Manager
0977545592



expects that ECZ has addressed these challenges in order to increase inclusivity in the voter registration process.

4. ***Voter Registration Information and Mobilization:*** It is CCMG's expectation that there will be sufficient voter registration education targeting youths, women and persons with disabilities, and that this will be done by various stakeholders including civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, political parties in addition to the ECZ's voter education programme. This information/education should focus not only on mobilizing eligible voters to register, but also provide key information on offences and penalties to avoid citizens engaging in illegal activities.

In addition, CCMG renews its call to codify the rights of accredited monitors and observers in the legal framework for elections, so that the ability of citizen monitors to observe critical processes related to Zambia's elections, such as the continuous voter registration exercise is guaranteed as a way of increasing transparency and accountability in the electoral process.

In conclusion we would like to encourage eligible citizens to turn out in numbers and register as voters. We also encourage those who may have relocated, to update their registration details as well as those whose cards are lost, damaged or defaced to take this opportunity to replace their cards. CCMG will continue to play its active role in monitoring electoral processes including the continuous registration of voters and provide information through statements and its social media platforms. ENDS//

Fr. Alex Muyeba, JCTR
CCMG -Steering Committee

Fr. Emmanuel Chikoya, CCZ
CCMG – Steering Committee Chair

Fr. Francis Mukosa, ZCCB
CCMG – Steering Committee Member

Bishop Andrew Mwenda, EFZ
CCMG-Steering Committee Member

Fr. Alex Muyebe
CCMG Spokesperson
0976735208

Peter Mwanangombe
CCMG Programme Manager
0977545592