



CCMG Statement on the Appointment of Commissioners to the Electoral Commission of Zambia

CCMG calls on the President to enhance the transparency and inclusivity of the appointment of Commissioners

For Immediate Release

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As part of the Christian Churches Monitoring Group's (CCMG) commitment to enhancing the **transparency, accountability** and **inclusivity** of Zambia's electoral processes, CCMG is, together with members of civil society and Zambian citizens, keenly interested in the process of appointing Commissioners to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ). ECZ Commissioners perform key roles in providing oversight in the daily affairs of the Commission and in discussing and deciding on policy related matters. There are currently two open positions on the Commission which, according to the legal framework, are to be appointed by the President, with ratification by the National Assembly.

In support of the ECZ's mission to effectively manage the electoral process to deliver credible elections, and in the interest of advancing the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusivity, CCMG calls on President Hakainde Hichilema to pro-actively adopt the following procedures for filling the vacant Commissioner posts, given that the current legal framework provides the President broad authority in the appointment of Commissioners:

- Short-listing and selection criteria that values **independence and non-partisanship, competence and integrity**, with these criteria provided to stakeholders and the public.
- Open advertising of recruitment for Commissioners to encourage diverse candidates and the provision for the public to nominate candidates. This is similar to practices in South Africa and Namibia.
- A short-listing and selection process that involves key stakeholders and enhances transparency, including public interviews conducted by an independent body, similar to practices in South Africa and Namibia.
- Consideration of gender balance in appointments, reflecting the Constitution's commitment to gender equality.
- Codification of these recommendations in Zambia's legal framework through amendment of the Electoral Commission of Zambia Act and the Electoral Process Act.

We call on government to go beyond implementation of these recommendations for the current vacant positions and amend the Electoral Commission of Zambia Act No. 25 of 2016 (as amended in 2019) to include under Section 5 the listed recommendations in order to promote transparency and inclusivity in the appointment process, and enhance the independence of the ECZ as an institution and strengthen our democracy.

ENDS//



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