



Appointment of Commissioners to the Electoral Commission of Zambia

CCMG calls for enhanced transparency and inclusivity in the appointment of Commissioners

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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 calls for enhanced transparency, independence and inclusivity in the appointment of Commissioners, and for urgent constitutional reform to decrease the role of the President in the appointment process. There is need for an appointment process which allows for, among other things, a public call for applications for any vacant Commissioner roles with clearly outlined qualifications and selection criteria that entrenches the principles of independence, non-partisanship, competence and integrity, including public interviews and transparent vetting. It is our view that subjecting Commissioners to a transparent recruitment process will not only enhance public confidence in the Electoral Commission of Zambia but also immediately address any concerns from the public on the standing of appointed Commissioners, such as those expressed with the recent appointment of Electoral Commission of Zambia Commissioners.

In Namibia for instance, the Commission consists of five Commissioners appointed by the State President from a list of eight (8) names submitted by a Selection and Interview Committee and approved by the National Assembly. The criteria for requirements for membership of the Commission are determined by Parliament's Standing Committee on Privileges. Thereafter, public advertisements are placed in the government Gazette and in newspapers. A Selection Committee is set-up to select, interview and recommend eight (8) persons for approval by the National Assembly¹ and the interviews with the Section Committee are broadcast on radio/TV. It is from this approved list of eight persons that the President must appoint the five Commissioners. South Africa has a similar practice, whereby Commissioners are appointed from a list of not less than eight names submitted by a panel of experts.²

Therefore, 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 government to undertake with haste the

¹ <https://www.ecfsadc.org/members/namibia-electoral-commission-of-namibia/>

² <https://www.ecfsadc.org/members/south-africa-independent-electoral-commission/>

constitutional and legal reforms necessary to put in place a more transparent and independent recruitment procedure for the appointment of Commissioners, such as the ones used in Namibia and in South Africa, and to codify such a procedure in the legal framework.

ENDS//



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