



CCMG Calls for Peaceful Campaigns, Professional Conduct of Law Enforcement Agents and Strict Adherence to the Electoral Code of Conduct Ahead of the Serenje and Chililabombwe 20 April 2023 Ward By-Elections

12 April 2023

For Immediate Release

As campaigns continue in Serenje and Chililabombwe districts ahead of the 20 April 2023 ward by-elections, CCMG would like to strongly condemn the violence in Serenje district in Muchinda ward. On 8th April 2023 our Long Term Observer in Muchinda ward reported having heard of two incidents of violence. In the first incidence, UPND supporters allegedly attacked the Socialist Party President Dr. Fred M'membe and his party supporters at a campaign rally in Mulilima village in Muchinda. At the same time, CCMG is greatly concerned with the use of a firearm by Dr. Fred M'membe in public and the alleged assault of UPND members.

“We are deeply concerned with the violence reported by our LTOs in Serenje in which UPND supporters caused damage to Socialist Party material and vehicles and we condemn the occurrence; equally, we are dismayed by the use of a firearm by Dr. M'membe and the consequent reported assault of UPND supporters”.

In another related incident, our monitor reported that on 9th April 2023 UPND supporters stormed and attacked the Socialist Party constituency office in Mulilima Village in Muchinda ward where they made away with campaign materials belonging to the Socialist Party.

CCMG calls on the Electoral Commission of Zambia to enforce the Electoral Code of Conduct without fear by invoking provisions of the law against any candidate or political party whose actions threaten peaceful and credible elections. Equally, the Zambia Police have a duty to provide security, maintain law and order and enforce the law. Our expectations of the Zambia Police therefore are that they perform their duties diligently without fear or favor and that they investigate all acts of violation of the Electoral Code of Conduct without discrimination.

“We call on the police to prosecute those involved in violence to the full extent of the law, and we call on the ECZ to invoke provisions of the Electoral Code of Conduct against the two parties who clearly violated the Code’s provisions in the Electoral Process Act.”

CCMG would like to encourage the media to continue providing equal access and coverage to all political parties and contesting candidates. Media is not only a key stakeholder in the electoral process but a key carrier of political messages. CCMG urges the media to unreservedly and impartially play its key role of providing space for all the political parties and candidates to

interact with electorates in order to allow entrenchment of democratic governance through the electoral process in our country.

CCMG calls on all stakeholders to support peaceful campaigns and calls on voters not to engage in any electoral malpractice including sale or offering to sell their voter's cards and or NRCs ahead of the 20 April 2023 ward by-elections.

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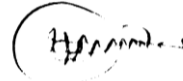
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