



CCMG urges the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to rescind its election declaration and re-hold the nomination process for the Kalomo Local Government by-election for Katanda Ward, following violation of Section 83 of the Electoral Process Act No.35 of 2016 by UPND supporters.

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For Immediate Release

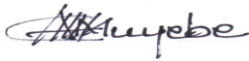
CCMG is urging the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to rescind its decision to declare a winner in the Katanda Ward by-election, based on an unopposed candidate, following violations of the Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016, Section 83. This follows reports received from CCMG' observer of intimidation and harassment of opposition political party candidates' supporters, which resulted in their inability to file in nominations.

CCMG is saddened by the reports of intimidation that characterized the nominations in the Katanda by-election on September 7. It is alleged that UPND supporters harassed and intimidated the Leadership Movement (LM) and Patriotic Front (PF) candidates and their supporters and prevented them from filling their nominations, although the CCMG observer reported that the LM candidate was the first at the venue. It is also alleged that this happened in full view of the Police and the Electoral Commission of Zambia officers, in the case of the PF candidate.

“In a democracy, there must be a level playing field for persons interested in elective office to contest, which includes free ability to file nomination papers. The reports received by CCMG indicate that the LM and PF candidates in the Katanda Ward by-election were not able to exercise this fundamental right and that officials responsible for ensuring the level playing field did nothing to protect that right. Therefore, we call upon the ECZ to rescind its decision to declare a winner for the by-election and re-hold the nomination process,” said Bishop Andrew Mwenda, CCMG Chair.

These acts do not only undermine the electoral process, but expose serious weaknesses in the way that electoral laws and procedures are enforced by Police and ECZ officials present at such nomination processes. CCMG further calls on the ECZ to investigate the conduct of its officials and the Zambia Police to act on the PF's formal complaint against suspected UPND supporters for intimidation and harassment. CCMG reiterates its calls for urgent electoral reform that would see a change in the way that nominations are conducted.

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