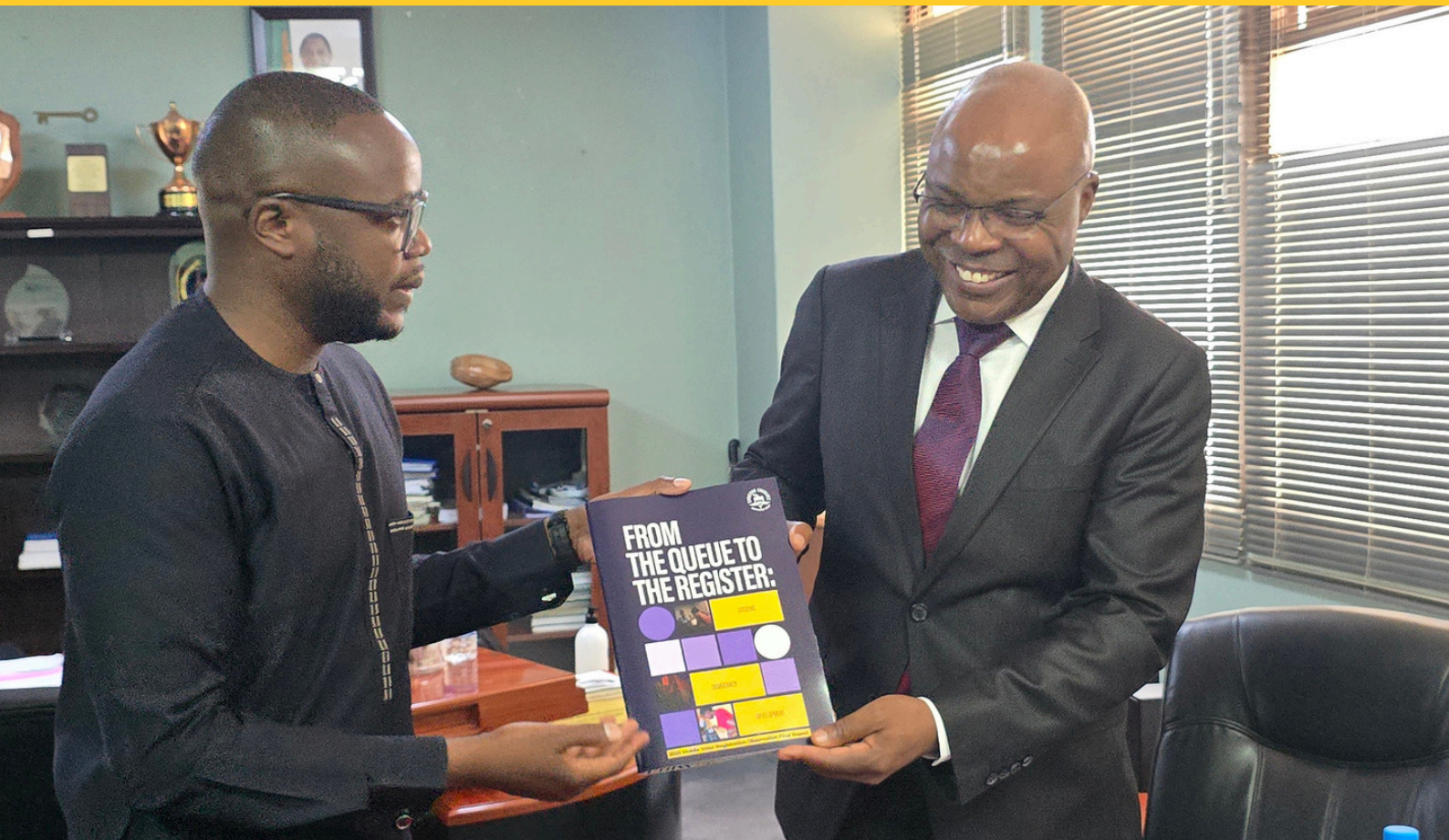




CHRISTIAN CHURCHES MONITORING GROUP

NEWS BULLETIN

First Edition 2026



STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY
THROUGH CITIZEN ELECTION OBSERVATION

TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 2026 edition of the CCMG News Bulletin. As Zambia moves closer to the 2026 General Election, this edition highlights CCMG’s continued commitment to strengthening electoral integrity through citizen election observation, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy. Over the past few months, CCMG has actively deployed observers for local by-elections, delimitation, voter registration observation and inspection.

This bulletin provides key updates on these engagements, alongside important milestones such as the launch of the Voter Registration Observation Report and the Election Recommendation Implementation Tracker (ERIT). We hope these insights not only inform but also encourage active civic participation and collective responsibility in safeguarding credible, peaceful, and inclusive elections.

We sincerely appreciate the continued support of our partners and stakeholders as we work together to strengthen Zambia’s democratic processes.

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Nalishebo Saapi
Communications Officer, CCMG

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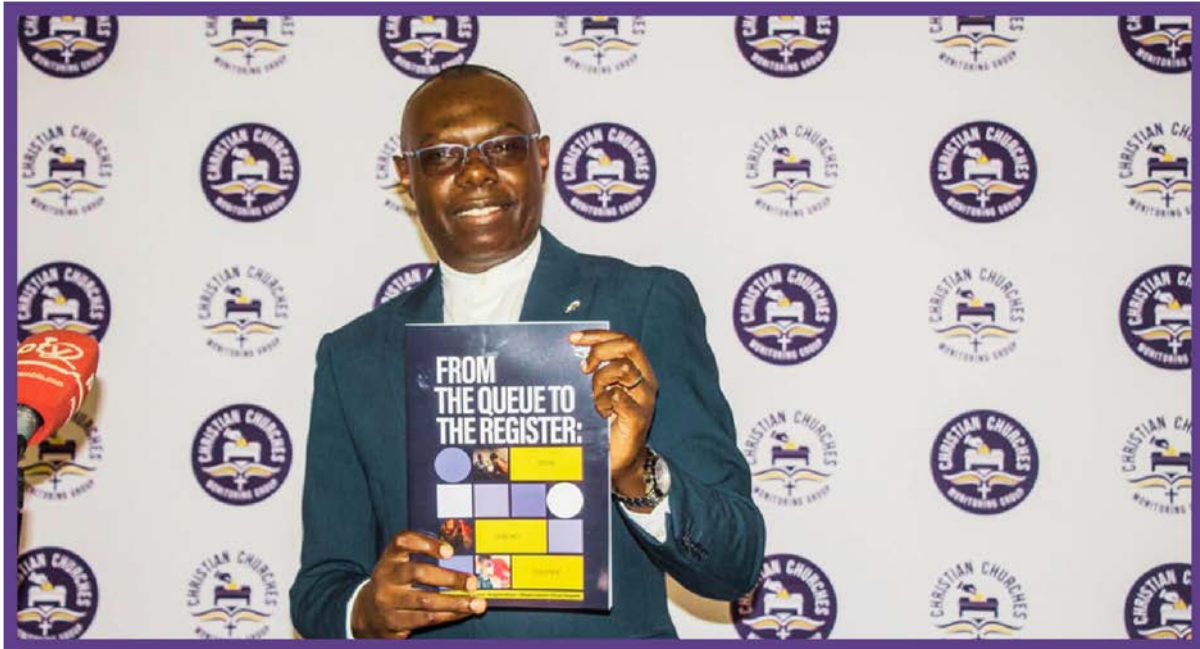
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From the QUEUE TO THE REGISTER! CCMG launches VRO Final Report

CCMG released its final report on the 2025 Mobile Voter Registration Exercise, highlighting both progress and persistent challenges ahead of the 2026 General Election. The full report was officially launched on 30 January during a stakeholder engagement meeting with partners and Civil Society Organizations, and was also presented to key stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ).



Rev. Allan Kasun'gami CCMG Steering Committee Member

The report notes improvements while identifying key gaps such as delayed opening of centres, staffing shortages, limited backup equipment, and barriers to accessibility. Concerns around transparency, including restricted access to registration data in some centres, were also raised.



Left - Peter Mwanangombe, CCMG Program Director, Right - ECZ Chief Electoral Officer Brown Kasaro



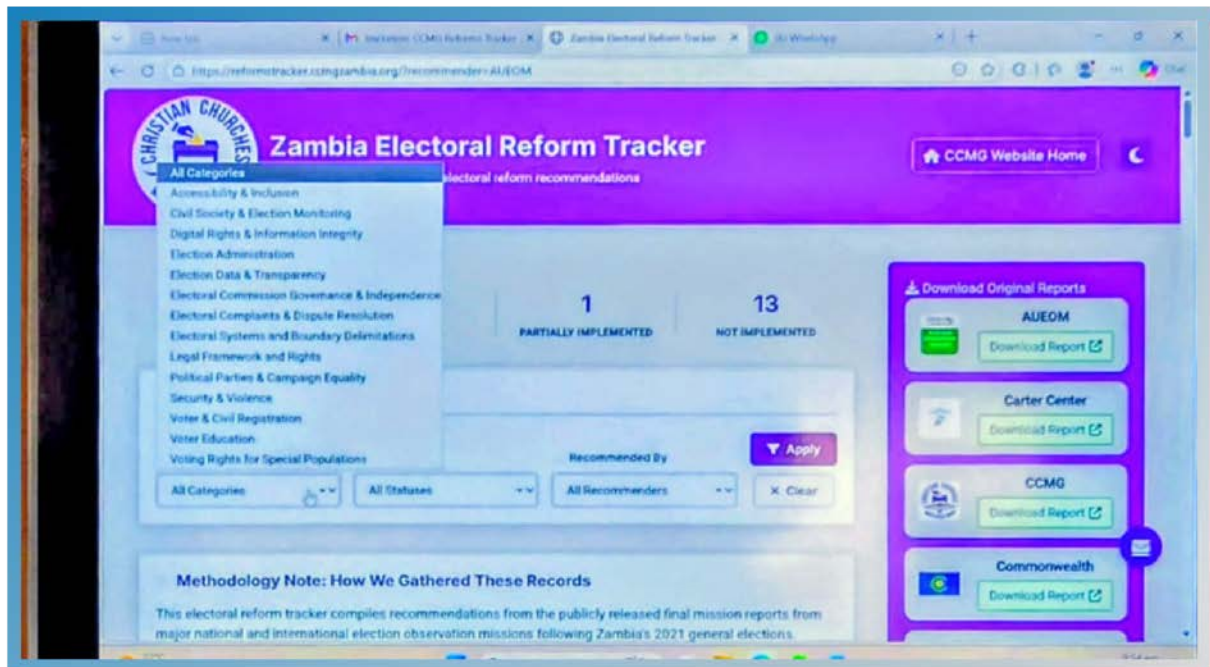
Overall, CCMG concludes that while the process largely adhered to required standards, greater coordination, inclusiveness, and transparency are essential to strengthen public confidence and ensure a more effective electoral process.

Follow this link to access the full report

<http://t.ly/FWA56>

CCMG Luanches the Election Recomendation Implementation tracker

On 3 March 2026, the CCMG officially launched the Election Recommendation Implementation Tracker (ERIT), an innovative web-based platform developed to monitor progress on electoral reform recommendations in Zambia.



The platform serves as a centralized accountability tool, enabling stakeholders to track implementation efforts, identify gaps, and support evidence-based decision making ahead of the 2026 General Election. By strengthening transparency and promoting institutional accountability, ERIT represents a significant step toward more responsive and credible electoral governance.



L-R ; H.E Swedish Ambassador to Zambia, Johan Hallenborg, Middle ; CCMG Program Director Peter Mwanangombe and right, Hillevi Ekberg Swedish Embassy

CCMG appreciates the continued collaboration of its partners, stakeholders, and participants who are contributing to this important initiative.

Follow this link to access the ERIT website <https://ln.run/zaFMd>

CCMG hosts the Electoral Integrity Summit in Lusaka



The Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG), in partnership with the African Election Observers Network (AfEONet), successfully hosted the second Electoral Integrity in Africa Summit in Lusaka from 11–12 November 2025. Held under the theme “*Defending Democracy and Reclaiming Civic Space*,” the summit convened 148 participants from over 50 organizations across Africa and beyond, including representatives from government, civil society, and regional bodies.

The convening created a critical platform to reflect on the state of democracy on the continent, with discussions focusing on shrinking civic space, electoral integrity challenges, and the growing influence of illicit political finance. Participants also explored the opportunities and risks presented by artificial intelligence and digital technologies in electoral processes.

As co-host, CCMG played a central role in advancing dialogue on citizen-led election observation as a key pillar of democratic accountability. The summit reaffirmed the importance of protecting civic actors and strengthening collaboration among observer groups across the continent.

The summit concluded with the adoption of a communique outlining key recommendations, including:

- Strengthening electoral transparency and accountability
- Protecting civic and democratic space
- Enhancing post-election reform mechanisms
- Promoting youth, women, and inclusive participation
- Regulating political finance and addressing illicit financial flows

Leveraging technology responsibly while safeguarding rights

The outcomes of the summit mark a significant step toward reinforcing democratic resilience and advancing African-led solutions to electoral challenges.

CCMG remains committed to promoting credible elections, strengthening citizen participation, and supporting democratic governance across Zambia and the African continent.

Follow the link to access the communique [Here](#)

CCMG CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Awards Staff, Partners and Founding Members

On Wednesday night, 12 November 2025, the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) hosted a special commemorative dinner bringing together staff, partners, and key stakeholders to celebrate a decade of impact, service, and unwavering commitment to strengthening democratic processes in Zambia. The event served as both a celebration and a moment of reflection honouring a ten-year journey defined by integrity, sacrifice, and a shared vision of credible elections and accountable governance.



Left to Right- H.E Bishop Andrew Mwenda and ECZ Chief Electoral Officer, Brown Kasaro

A key highlight of the celebration was the recognition and awarding of staff, Partners, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), and founding members whose contributions have been instrumental to CCMG's success. These acknowledgements underscored the collaborative nature of CCMG's work and the importance of partnerships in sustaining democratic gains.



Left to Right- Bishop Emmanuel Chikoya and Former CARITAS Zambia Director, Eugene Kabilika.



Rev. Suzanne Matala

Among those awarded were former CARITAS Zambia Director Eugene Kabilika; Suzanne Matala, recognized as founding members, the National Democratic Institute and the ECZ who received partnership recognition awards; and long-serving staff members Chishala Nkole Jere and William Kasanda Tumbo, who were recognized for their dedicated service.

CCMG Introduces new Steering Committee

CCMG wishes to inform stakeholders of recent leadership transitions within its Steering Committee, following institutional changes in the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ). The reconstituted Steering Committee is now chaired by Fr. Francis Mukosa, with Fr. James Phiri serving as Spokesperson, alongside Rev. Allan Kasun'gami and Fr. Daniel Mutale as Steering Committee members. These changes are part of CCMG's routine governance processes and are aimed at ensuring continuity in strategic oversight. CCMG extends its sincere appreciation to the outgoing members for their dedicated service and reaffirms that its mandate, programmes, and partnerships remain unchanged as it continues to work collaboratively with stakeholders.

New steering Committee Members



FR. FRANCIS MUKOSA-CHAIRPERSON



FR. DR. DANIEL MUTALE



FR. JAMES PHIRI -SPOKESPERSON



REV. ALLAN KASUN'GAMI

Outgoing Steering Committee Members



BISHOP EMMANUEL CHIKOYA



BISHOP ANDREW MWENDA

Looking ahead and call to action >

CCMG Calls for Peaceful Elections

As Zambia approaches the 2026 General Election, CCMG calls on all stakeholders, citizens, political parties, civil society, and state institutions to play their part in safeguarding a peaceful, credible, and inclusive election. Eligible citizens are encouraged to verify their registration details and actively participate, while political parties and candidates must uphold the Electoral Code of Conduct and reject all forms of violence, misinformation, and intimidation. Together, through collective responsibility and active engagement, we can uphold democratic values and ensure that the 2026 election reflect the true will of the people.



The Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) is a consortium of the Council of Churches in Zambia, Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia and the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops. Established on November 28, 2014, its primary objective was to oversee the presidential elections on January 20, 2015. Since then, CCMG has been actively involved in monitoring the entire electoral process.

