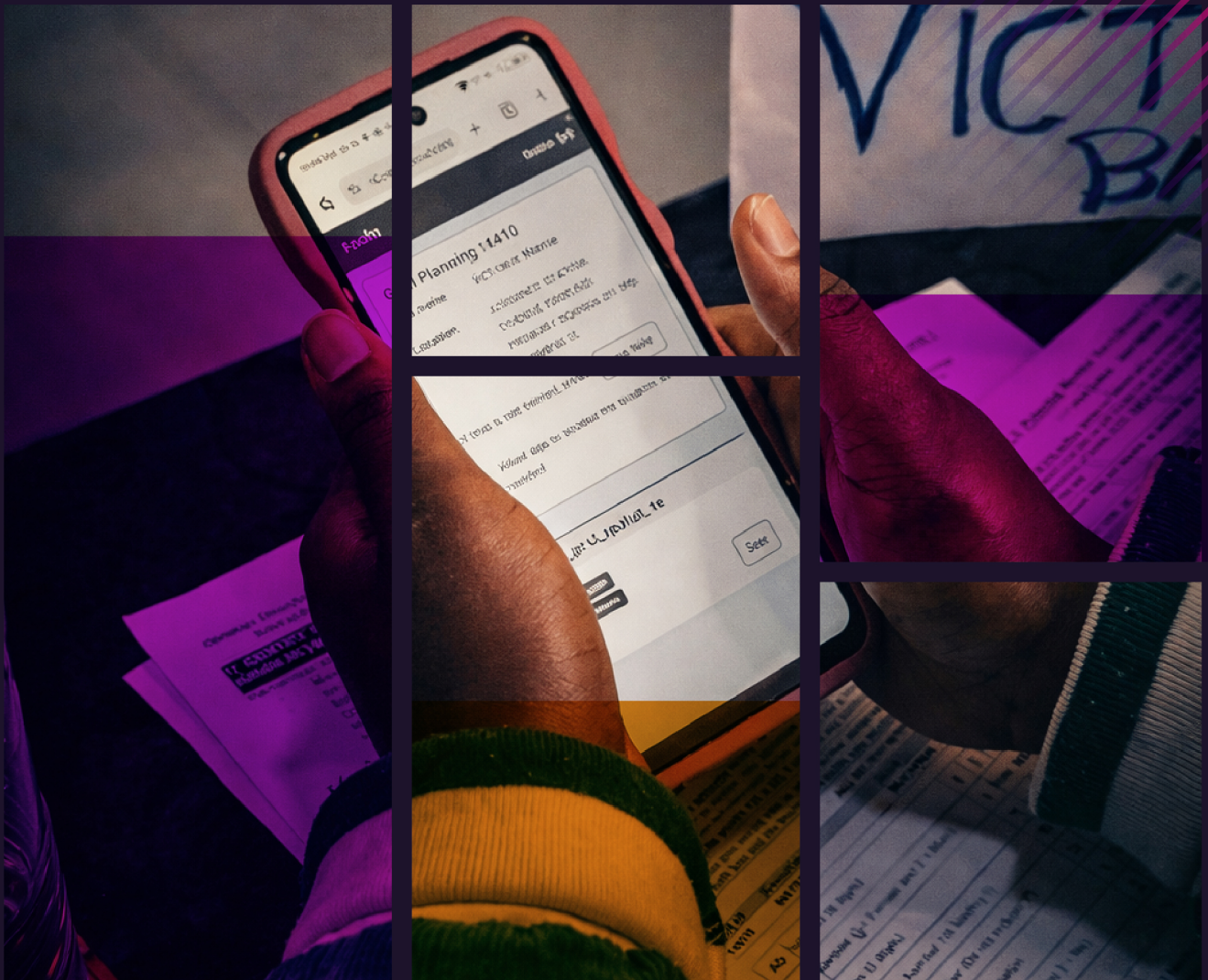




## Long Term Pre-Election Observation Report No. 1



# An Early Assessment of The Electoral Environment Ahead of the 2026 General Elections

**Observation Brief**

2-30 March, 2026

## Introduction

The Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) plays a critical role in promoting credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in Zambia through systematic, non-partisan citizen observation. As a faith-based coalition, CCMG helps strengthen democratic governance by providing independent, evidence-based assessments of the electoral environment and fostering accountability among key electoral stakeholders.

Long-Term Observation (LTO) of the pre-election period is essential for evaluating the integrity of the electoral process. Elections are complex events that unfold within a wider legal, political, and social framework. LTO is the systematic and continuous monitoring of the electoral environment before election day, focusing on legal frameworks, electoral administration, political conduct, voter participation, and security conditions to assess the overall integrity, inclusiveness, and credibility of the electoral process. CCMG will use the LTO methodology to help identify early warning signs such as political intimidation, misuse of public resources, or unequal campaign conditions, and use LTO to make data-based recommendations and conduct engagements with stakeholders. Moreover, LTO enhances transparency and builds public confidence by demonstrating that the entire electoral process is being independently scrutinised, not just the events on election day. Through ongoing observation, CCMG will analyse patterns and trends instead of relying on isolated incidents. This approach provides a more accurate and credible understanding of the electoral environment.

Against this backdrop, CCMG recruited, trained, and deployed 330 long-term observers to effectively observe the general political and electoral environment leading up to the 13 August 2026 general election. This observation will systematically gather factual and verifiable information on the general political environment, conduct of political parties, independent candidates, and other stakeholders, as well as early signs of conflict and politically-motivated violence, including violence against women in elections (VAWE). LTOs use standardized data collection tools to gather information and report on a biweekly basis, and later weekly, as the election draws near. These tools are designed to ensure consistency in reporting and to enable the aggregation and analysis of data across all constituencies, districts, and provinces in the country. CCMG's observers were also trained to report any critical incidents they witness or hear of immediately.

The findings and recommendations presented in this report, covering the period 2–30 March 2026, are organised along these thematic areas. They provide a detailed perspective of the pre-election environment at an early but critical stage of the electoral process and highlight key developments, risks, and implications for the

credibility, inclusiveness, and peaceful conduct of the 2026 General Elections.

### **Key Areas of Focus During the Pre-Election Period**

In the pre-election period, CCMG's monitors collect data on the adequacy and impartial application of key aspects of the legal framework, such as the Constitution, the Electoral Process Act, the Electoral Code of Conduct, the Public Order Act, and the Cyber Security Act. These assessments are conducted in accordance with international standards established by the United Nations and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, as well as regional frameworks from the African Union and the Southern African Development Community. CCMG's monitors also report on electoral administration and preparedness, which includes voter registration, delimitation, logistics, and staff training carried out by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), the Zambia Police, and other stakeholders. Additional areas of focus include voter education and inclusion, the political environment and campaign conduct, the role of security agencies, and compliance with electoral laws. Observers monitor for inducements, intimidation, and other malpractices that may compromise the fairness and credibility of the process.

### **Capturing Foundational Pre-Election Processes**

As part of CCMG's commitment to monitoring the electoral process, CCMG monitored the voter registration exercise, the voter register inspection exercise, and boundary delimitation. CCMG has also conducted monitoring of selected by-elections. CCMG's reports and statements on these exercises can be found on our website. These processes shape the electoral playing field well before voting takes place: delimitation determines constituency boundaries and, if conducted unfairly, can structurally bias electoral outcomes, and voter registration defines who is eligible to participate and whether the voter roll is inclusive, accurate, and credible. By monitoring these activities over time, LTO provides insights into whether representation is equitable and whether all eligible citizens have a fair opportunity to vote. This thorough perspective allows observers to evaluate not only the technical conduct of the election but also the underlying conditions influencing participation and representation.

### **Integrating LTO with Process and Results Verification for Transparency (PRVT)**

When combined with Process and Results Verification for Transparency (PRVT), LTO enables a comprehensive evaluation of electoral outcomes. While PRVT provides timely, statistically grounded verification of whether votes were properly cast,

counted, and tabulated, LTO determines whether the conditions leading up to those votes were transparent, accountable, inclusive, and credible. The experience of CCMG in the 2021 General Elections highlighted the benefits of this combined approach. During the 2026 electoral cycle, CCMG will similarly conduct both pre-election LTO and an election day PRVT.

## Key Highlights and Trends

Based on reports from CCMG's observers across all constituencies, districts, and provinces covering the period 2-30 March 2026, CCMG found the following (detailed below under III. Detailed Findings):

- 1. Electoral Code of Conduct Violations and Other Offences:** One percent (1%) of CCMG observers reported incidents of politically motivated violence, with four (4) incidents recorded in Eastern Province, largely linked to Youth Day celebrations, and one (1) incident of VAWE in Lusaka Province. These incidents involved clashes between supporters of the United Party for National Development (UPND) and the Patriotic Front (PF), including physical assaults and stone-throwing. Eight percent (8%) of CCMG observers reported the distribution of money, foodstuffs, and other goods, including cash, mealie meal, chitenges, and farming inputs, by political actors as inducements for electoral support. There were no reported instances of the use of state vehicles for campaign purposes. However, three (3) incidents involving the use of vehicles without number plates for political activities were reported in Copperbelt and Lusaka Provinces. No cases of confiscation or destruction of NRCs or voter cards were reported. However, 1% of CCMG observers reported the collection of NRC or voter card details, with six (6) related critical incidents documented, often linked to promises of financial or material benefits.
- 2. Campaigning Outside of the Campaign Period and Other Practices to be Condemned:** Campaign activities outside the official period were reported by 11% of CCMG observers for UPND and 4% for other political parties or candidates. Isolated cases of inflammatory, defamatory, or insulting language were reported by three (3) observers, including gender-based verbal attacks against a female candidate, a form of VAWE. Additionally, 2% of observers reported the use of military-style attire and regalia by political party supporters, particularly during Youth Day celebrations
- 3. Endorsements by Traditional or Religious Leaders and Government Employees:** Two percent (2%) of CCMG observers reported instances of traditional leaders endorsing political parties or candidates across multiple provinces. Additionally, 1% of observers reported cases involving civil servants or government officials using their influence to support political actors, including district

commissioners actively campaigning. There were also isolated reports of civil servants attending political party events, raising concerns about adherence to public service neutrality.

**4. Voter Education/Information:** During this period, voter education activities were primarily driven by the ECZ, with 47% of CCMG observers reporting voter education/information activities by the ECZ. In contrast, only 2% of observers reported voter education initiatives by civil society and faith-based organizations, indicating limited engagement from non-state actors. Media institutions played a complementary role, with 25% of observers reporting voter education through radio platforms. Targeted voter education for specific groups was moderate, with 28% focusing on youth, 27% on women, and 23% on persons with disabilities. These efforts appeared to have intensified during the voter registration inspection period.

## Detailed Findings

### Preparations by the ECZ

- During this reporting period, 56% of CCMG observers reported preparations for electoral activities by ECZ, which included the physical inspection of the voters' register. Additionally, 42% of CCMG observers reported the training of ECZ officials in their constituencies.



**56%**

*of CCMG observers reported preparations for electoral activities by ECZ, which included the physical inspection of the voters' register.*



**42%**

*of CCMG observers reported the training of ECZ officials in their constituencies.*

## Voter Education/Information

- 47% of CCMG observers reported voter education activities by ECZ officials or voter education facilitators (VEFs).
- 2% of CCMG observers reported voter education activities conducted by civil society organisations (CSOs) or faith-based organisations (FBOs). For example, Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Kabwata (Lusaka Province), Faith Apostles Church in Livingstone (Southern Province), Youth Alive Zambia, and Young Women in Action in Mpika (Muchinga Province), Methodist Church in Kasempa (North-Western Province)
- 25% of CCMG observers reported voter education activities conducted by local media, including Chongwe Radio in Chongwe (Lusaka Province), Iso FM in Isoka (Muchinga Province), Smooth FM in Chipangali (Eastern Province), Radio Kabangabanga in Solwezi Central (North Western Province), Kalumbila Radio in Solwezi West (North Western Province), Lwansanse Radio in Chilubi (Northern Province), Radio Chukuni in Monze (Southern Province), Radio Mazabuka in Mazabuka Central (Southern Province), and Radio Liseli in Nalolo (Western Province).



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*of CCMG observers reported voter education activities by ECZ officials or voter education facilitators (VEFs)*



**2%**

*of CCMG observers reported voter education activities conducted by civil society organisations (CSOs) or faith-based organisations (FBOs).*



**25%**

*of CCMG observers reported voter education activities conducted by local media*

- In addition, CCMG observers attended or heard of voter education activities targeting special interest groups, with 28% reporting voter education targeting youth, 27% reporting voter education targeting women, and 23% reporting voter education targeting persons with disabilities.

## Political Parties, Traditional and Religious Leaders, and Civil Servants

- 11% of CCMG observers reported campaigning outside the official campaign period by the United Party for National Development (UPND), 4% by another party/candidate (not UPND). These instances were prevalent in all the provinces.
- 2% of CCMG observers reported instances of traditional or religious leaders using their influence to support a particular party or candidate.

Province	Constituency(s)	Type	The party being supported
Central	Lufubu, Kapiri Mposhi	Traditional Leader	UPND, independent
Eastern	Chasefu, Luangeni, Lumezi	Traditional Leader	UPND, independent
Muchinga	Nakonde	Traditional Leader	PF
North-Western	Kasempa, Zambezi East, Zambezi West	Traditional Leader	UPND
Northern	Lupososhi	Traditional Leader	UPND
Western	Nalikwanda	Traditional Leader	UPND

- 21% of CCMG observers reported activities conducted by UPND, and 7% witnessed or heard of activities conducted by another party (other than UPND) or an independent candidate. Only 4% of CCMG observers, who reported that there were UPND party activities, reported that police provided security during the party activities/meetings/rallies, while 82% reported there were no activities or meetings. Additionally, only 1% of CCMG observers who reported activities by other political parties (not UPND) or independent candidates reported police providing security during the activities/meetings/rallies for other parties or independent candidates, with 86% reporting no activities or meetings.
- 1% CCMG observers witnessed or heard of instances of non-elected government officials (i.e., civil servants) and/or government employees using their influence to support a particular party or candidate. These incidents included:
  - In Chama North Constituency (Eastern Province), the district commissioner was actively campaigning for UPND during the Youth Day celebrations
  - In Kapoche Constituency (Eastern Province) - a district commissioner, who is also vying for the MP position under the UPND party, has been soliciting support for his bid and the party in general.

- In Mporokoso Constituency (Northern Province), civil servants have been attending and openly campaigning for the UPND party.
- In Nkeyema Constituency (Western Province) reported that the sitting MP (UPND) conducted a meeting where two civil servants openly campaigned for him.
- Three CCMG observers witnessed or heard of non-elected government officials (i.e., civil servants) and/or government employees attending political party events. These included Chipata Central (Eastern Province), Mporokoso Constituency (Northern Province), and Nkeyema Constituency (Western Province).

### The General Environment

- No CCMG observer reported any incident of political party activity/meeting in a public space, suspended or stopped. Additionally, there were no reports of a political party having its permission revoked by the police for an activity/meeting in a public space during the period covered by this report.

### Electoral Code of Conduct Violations and Other Offenses

- Four CCMG observers reported violent physical attacks during a political party activity or event. These cases were reported in Eastern Province as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Eight percent (8%) of CCMG observers reported the distribution of money, foodstuffs, or other items/goods as an inducement to support a political party or candidate. CCMG notes that its observers' reports indicate that these practices are widespread across the country, except for Central and Southern Provinces, as detailed in the table below:



**8%**

*of CCMG observers reported the distribution of money, foodstuffs, or other items/goods as an inducement to support a political party or candidate.*

Province	Constituencies	Goods	Parties Involved
Central	N/A	N/A	N/A
Copperbelt	Lufwanyama, Milanzi, Mpongwe, Nchanga, Roan	Market boxes, cash, chitenges, food stuff (meat, mealie meal, soya, salt)	UPND, Independent
Eastern	Chama North, Chasefu, Chipangali, Chipata Central, Kasenengwa, Lumezi, Mkaika, Msanzala, Vubwi	Borehole pipes, branded t-shirts, cash, food stuff (salt), mattresses	UPND, Independent
Luapula	Luapula, Mambilima, Mwense	Branded party regalia (t-shirts, chitenges), cash	UPND, Independent
Lusaka	Chongwe, Kanyama, Munali	Food items (sugar, cooking oil, mealie meal bags), washing powder, mattresses, wheelchairs, branded party regalia (t-shirts, chitenges, bike reflectors)	UPND, Independent
Muchinga	Isoka, Kanchibiya, Mfuwe, Nakonde, Shinwang'andu	Cash, non-branded chitenges, party-branded regalia	PF, UPND
Northern	Lupososhi, Mporokoso, Senga Hill	Cash, branded party regalia	District Coordinator, UPND
North - Western	Kabompo, Kasempa, Mufuwe, Solwezi East, Solwezi Central, Solwezi West	Cash, branded party regalia (T-shirts, chitenges)	UPND, Tonse Alliance, Independent
Southern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Western	Nalikwanda, Mwandi, Shangombo, Sikongo	Clothes, cash, branded party regalia (caps, t-shirts), food stuff (mealie meal)	PF, UPND

- Three CCMG observers reported use of language which was considered inflammatory, defamatory, or insulting, or which constitutes incitement to public disorder, insurrection, hate, violence, or war; these were reported in Chama North (Eastern Province), Feira (Lusaka Province), and Munali (Lusaka Province). All these incidents were perpetrated

by UPND members/supporters and are detailed below under Critical Incidents.

- One percent (1%) of CCMG observers witnessed or heard of buying or collecting NRC or voter card numbers (collecting details only and not the physical cards) as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Two percent (2%) of CCMG observers witnessed or heard of instances of youth dressed in military (combat) attire or wearing masks (not surgical masks). These included the following incidents:
  - In Solwezi Central (North Western Province), UPND youths were clad in combat boots, t-shirts, and masks during a rally by the Head of State during the Youth Day celebrations.
  - UPND-affiliated youth were reported in Kanyama (Lusaka Province) wearing masks, barrets, and boots. Similarly, youth in Mandevu (Lusaka Province) wore combat attire, and berets were reported moving around the constituency.
  - In Lufwanyama (Copperbelt Province), UPND supporters clad in combat attire, branded in UPND colors, were reported to have provided security during a party event at Mibenge, Chapula, and Shombe Grounds.
- Three CCMG observers reported the use of vehicles without number plates for political activities by UPND cadres. These incidents were reported in Chimwemwe (Copperbelt Province), Masaiti (Copperbelt Province, and Kanyama (Lusaka Province).
- Three CCMG observers reported instances of youth being ferried from an area outside their constituencies. In Zambezi West (Northern Province), the Socialist Party ferried youths from Zambwezi East into the constituency for Youth Day celebrations.
- One percent (1%) of CCMG observers reported instances of distribution of cash for work, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) loans, social cash transfers, and FISP as an inducement to support a political party or candidate.
  - In Shiwang'andu (Muchinga Province), community members were encouraged to support the ruling party, UPND, during a cash for work programme.
  - Similarly, in Mpika Constituency (Muchinga Province), during a cash for work activity, where youths were paid K600 each, attendants were encouraged to vote for the UPND.
  - In Roan (Copperbelt Province), the sitting MP, an independent, has reportedly been facilitating the distribution of CDF loans to his constituents to secure re-election.

- None of CCMG's observers witnessed or heard of any incidents of harassment of voter educators in their constituency; use of threatening, abusive or insulting language against persons with disabilities as voters or party supporters; attacks on journalists or shutdowns of media houses; instances where a party or a candidate used tribal/ethnic/religious/social group/gender pressures to incite violence; any incident where a party supporter or voter was sexually assaulted for political motives; political party/independent candidate prevented from conducting a campaign activity in a public space by the police, including prisons; campaign meetings happening in a prohibited place ; destruction of campaign materials (posters, offices); buying, confiscating, or destroying NRC or voter cards (collecting physical cards); use of state vehicles during campaign activities.

### **Critical Incidents:**

In this reporting period, CCMG received a total of twelve (12) critical incident reports with five (5) incidents of politically motivated violence or attacks, including two incidents of VAWE, three (3) incidents of use of threatening, abusive or insulting language, one (1) incident of arrest on a cyber-related crime, six (6) incidents of buying/collection of voters card or NRC numbers, and one (1) incident of a civil servant attending a political party event, detailed as follows:

#### ***Politically-motivated violence or attack (5 incidents)***

- On 12 March, a CCMG observer in Chama North (Eastern Province) reported a violent incident perpetrated by the PF against UPND. During the Youth Day celebration held at Chama Boarding Secondary School, PF supporters attacked UPND supporters at the venue. The police intervened and arrested 2 PF supporters who had initiated the attack.
- On 12 March, CCMG's observer in Chasefu District (Eastern Province) reported a physical altercation between supporters of the PF and UPND during Youth Day commemorations. No injuries nor police involvement were reported.
- On 12 March, a CCMG observer in Chipata Central (Eastern Province) reported an incident at Kapata Bus Stop associated with preparations for the Youth Day march. Upon arrival, UPND supporters encountered PF supporters, resulting in a confrontation during which stones were thrown. Police intervened and subsequently arrested two PF supporters.
- On 12 March, a CCMG observer in Feira Constituency (Lusaka Province) observed an incident where a woman wearing PF-branded clothing was harassed, verbally abused, and assaulted by men believed to be UPND supporters celebrating Youth

Day. The situation escalated as additional party members arrived, prompting police and soldiers to intervene and restore order. The woman was taken to a hospital, and there were no reports of arrests. This constitutes an incident of VAWE.

- On 12 March, CCMG's observer in Luangwa District (Lusaka Province) witnessed clashes between PF and UPND supporters, which escalated into physical violence in a public area. There were no injuries or police involvement reported.

### ***Use of inflammatory, defamatory, or insulting language (3 incidents)***

- On 12 March, a CCMG observer in Chama North Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported an incident where Tonse Alliance and UPND supporters clashed at the Central Business District during a Youth Day event. The tension de-escalated without police involvement. However, one male individual affiliated with the Tonse Alliance was later arrested.
- On 18 March, a CCMG observer in Nakonde Constituency (Muchinga Province) reported an incident where a man wearing UPND regalia directed inflammatory and offensive language at a male community member, apparently with the intent to provoke and intimidate. A verbal exchange ensued between the two individuals; however, the situation de-escalated without police intervention.
- On 19 March, a CCMG observer in Munali Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported an incident where an aspiring female parliamentary candidate from the UPND was subjected to derogatory remarks at Muzimai Market while seeking support for the forthcoming elections, reportedly based on her gender. This constitutes an incident of VAWE.

### ***Arrests on Cyber Related Crimes (1 instance)***

- On 20 March, a CCMG observer in Lusaka Central (Lusaka Province) reported that a former MP affiliated with Tonse Alliance was arrested on charges related to cybercrimes.

### ***Buying/Collecting of Voters' Card or NRC Numbers or Physical Cards (6 instances)***

- On 5 March, CCMG's observer in Chama District (Eastern Province) reported an incident involving individuals of unknown political affiliation recording voters' card details.

- On 8 and 12 March, CCMG's observer in Chama District (Eastern Province) reported that an aspiring candidate affiliated with the UPND collected voters' card details from individuals and allegedly promised monetary incentives (K300) in exchange for electoral support.
- On 12 March, a CCMG observer in Chama North (Eastern Province) reported an incident where an aspiring MP collected the voters' card details during the distribution of foodstuffs and some unbranded chitenges.
- On 13 March, a CCMG observer in Mpongwe (Copperbelt Province) reported that a UPND aspiring MP candidate collected NRC details during a women's empowerment meeting after handing out cash.
- On 14 March, a CCMG observer in Wusakile (Copperbelt Province) reported that UPND officials in the constituency were collecting NRC and voters' cards details from people while suggesting that the aspiring MP would empower them with cash for business ventures.
- On multiple days in March, the CCMG observer in Chimbamilonga (Northern Province) reported that the Citizens First Party Chairperson had been collecting NRC and Voters' cards details.

### ***Civil Servants Attending Political Party Activities (1 instance)***

- On 8 March, CCMG's observer in Chama District (Eastern Province) reported that the District Commissioner actively participated in political activities in support of the UPND, including mobilizing individuals and encouraging them to vote for the party.

## **Recommendations and Conclusion**

Based on its findings from its observation of the general political and electoral environment in all constituencies, districts, and provinces in this reporting period, CCMG makes the following key recommendations to stakeholders:

### ***Electoral Commission of Zambia***

- **Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement:** The ECZ should strengthen engagement with political parties and key stakeholders to promote a clear and shared understanding of the Electoral Code of Conduct, including the

enforcement provisions outlined in Statutory Instrument No. 35 of 2020 (Electoral Process (Code of Conduct) (Enforcement) (Amendment)). In addition, the ECZ should take decisive action to investigate and address all reported breaches of the Code, including politically motivated violence and violence against women in elections, premature campaigning, the provision of inducements (handouts), and the use of unregistered vehicles for campaign activities, as documented by CCMG observers across the country during this period.

- **Scale Up Civic and Voter Education:** Given the limited engagement by CSOs and FBOs, the ECZ should expand partnerships and intensify voter education efforts, particularly targeting underrepresented groups.

### ***Political Parties***

- **Uphold the Electoral Code of Conduct:** CCMG calls on parties, and particularly party leaders, to uphold the Electoral Code of Conduct and lead by example, and hold their party members accountable for any breaches. CCMG calls on political parties to familiarise themselves with the enforcement mechanisms of the Electoral Code of Conduct through SI 35 of 2020. During this reporting period, CCMG's observers documented the following Code breaches and other offences (details contained in the report below):
  - Politically-motivated violence, use of abusive and insulting language;
  - Campaigning outside of the official campaign period, use of inducements (handouts), destruction of political party materials, collecting of voter registration card details, and use of cars with no number plates for political purposes; and
  - Endorsements of political parties/candidates by traditional and religious leaders, and government employees/civil servants.
- **Other Practices to be Condemned:** CCMG urges all political parties to refrain from the use of military attire, as was documented during this reporting period, particularly around the Youth Day celebrations. This practice has the potential to intimidate voters and escalate tension. CCMG notes that previous efforts by the ECZ, political parties, and other stakeholders to mitigate politically motivated violence have recommended that political parties not use military attire.

### ***Civil Society Organisations***

- **Voter Education/Information:** As observers documented a relatively small amount of voter information/education during this observation period, CSOs should increase efforts in this regard and specifically increase their voter education and information campaigns targeted to the needs of women, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- **Promote Electoral Integrity and Accountability:** CCMG urges CSOs to enhance advocacy efforts to strengthen enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct by the ECZ and other relevant stakeholders to address electoral malpractices such as inducements and the collection of personal voter information, among others, particularly in the lead-up to the campaign period.

### ***Traditional and Religious Leaders and Civil Servants***

- **Maintain Strict Political Neutrality:** CCMG urges traditional leaders and civil servants to not to use their influence to support a political party or candidate, and encourages traditional leaders and civil servants to practice political neutrality as outlined in the Electoral Code of Conduct. CCMG specifically encourages traditional leaders to use their influence to promote peace and unity, and foster a spirit of solidarity among citizens, leading up to the August 13 general elections. CCMG also calls on all civil servants to refrain from attending political party events and to not to use their positions of authority to endorse or campaign for any political party or candidate, in line with the Disciplinary Code and Procedures for Handling Offences in the Public Service.

### ***Zambia Police***

- **Provision of Security and Upholding Peace:** The Police should ensure that they provide security to all political parties equitably and without fear or favor in the management of political activities and meetings, and should not use the Public Order Act to limit political space. CCMG calls on the Police to swiftly investigate all instances of politically-motivated violence, and to coordinate with the Electoral Commission of Zambia and the Anti-Corruption Commission, as appropriate, in investigating any breaches of the Electoral Code of Conduct.

### ***Violence Against Women in Elections***

- CCMG notes with concern the VAWE incidents during this reporting period and encourages victims and bystanders to call the Lifeline/Childline Hotline on 933/116 to report incidents and be referred to resources.

## Conclusion

The findings from CCMG's long-term observation during the period 2-30 March 2026 indicate a generally calm but evolving pre-election environment, characterised by both positive administrative progress and areas of concern that require timely attention. Preparations by the Electoral Commission of Zambia, including voter register inspection and staff training, alongside ongoing voter education efforts, represent important steps toward the delivery of credible elections. However, the limited involvement of non-state actors in voter education highlights a gap that should be addressed to ensure broader citizen awareness and participation.

At the same time, the observation period recorded instances of Electoral Code of Conduct violations, including isolated cases of politically motivated violence, early campaigning, use of inducements, and actions that may undermine political neutrality among key stakeholders. While these incidents remain relatively low in proportion, their presence signals potential risks that, if unaddressed, could escalate as the electoral process advances. CCMG calls on the ECZ and the police to proactively investigate these breaches of the Electoral Code of Conduct and criminal offenses, and for political parties to strengthen internal disciplinary measures.

CCMG emphasizes that the credibility of the 2026 general elections will depend on the collective commitment of all stakeholders to uphold the rule of law, adhere to established electoral guidelines, and promote a peaceful and inclusive environment. Continued vigilance, accountability, and proactive engagement, particularly in enforcing the Electoral Code of Conduct and expanding civic and voter education, will be critical in sustaining public confidence in the electoral process.

CCMG remains committed to providing independent, evidence-based observation and will continue to monitor developments closely, to contribute to a peaceful, transparent, and credible general election on 13 August, 2026.

For more information on the work of CCMG and related reports and statements, please visit the CCMG website at <https://ccmgzambia.org/>. To contact the CCMG secretariat, please send an email to [info@ccmgzambia.org](mailto:info@ccmgzambia.org).

# Overview of CCMG

Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) was launched on 28 November 2014 to monitor the 20th January 2015 presidential elections. Since then, the network has committed itself to monitoring the whole electoral process that led to the 2016 and 2021 general elections and has now committed itself to monitoring the whole electoral process leading to the 2026 general elections. CCMG is a consortium of three members, including the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ), and the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB).

To effectively monitor the electoral process, CCMG formulated an Electoral Process Monitoring Project partnership formed to promote credible elections in the 2015 presidential election, 2016 and 2021 general elections, multiple by-elections, the 2020 and 2025 mass voter registration exercises, boundary delimitation, voter register inspection, and now for the upcoming 2026 general elections through non-partisan citizen monitoring, including an election day Process and Results Verification for Transparency (PRVT) for the presidential election.

CCMG's highest decision-making body is its Steering Committee, which comprises the heads of each of the three partner organisations. Father Francis Mukosa, Secretary General - ZCCB, is the Chairperson of the CCMG Steering Committee, Father James Phiri, General Secretary - CCZ, is the spokesperson of the CCMG Steering Committee, Reverend Allan Kasun'gami, Executive Director - EFZ, is a member of the CCMG Steering Committee, and Father Daniel Mutale, Executive Director - JCTR, is a member of the CCMG Steering Committee. The CCMG Secretariat is hosted at Caritas Zambia at Plot BRT6, Kabulonga Road, Kabulonga, Lusaka.





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 <https://ccmgzambia.org>