



Long Term Pre-Election
Observation Report No. 5

Quiet, Yet Very Loud:

*Escalating Electoral Violence and Malpractices Amid
Intensifying Campaigns Ahead of the 2026 Polls*



 **OBSERVATION BRIEF**
09 - 22 June, 2026



**GOOD
GOVERNANCE**



**STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**



**DEMOCRATIC
FUTURE**

I. Introduction

As the campaign period progressed, CCMG continued its long-term election observation from 9 to 22 June 2026 ahead of the 13 August General Elections. During the reporting period, CCMG observed that the overall electoral environment remained generally peaceful; however, incidents of politically motivated violence, intimidation, voter inducement, and other violations of the Electoral Code of Conduct persisted across several provinces. Compared to the previous reporting period, CCMG documented an increase in politically motivated violence, with eight incidents involving clashes between supporters of competing political parties and attacks on candidates and their supporters. Several incidents resulted in injuries, damage to property, and disruption of campaign activities.

CCMG also observed a continued increase in electoral malpractices intended to influence voter behaviour. Reports of voter inducement remained on an upward trend, while incidents involving the collection of voters' cards, National Registration Card (NRC) details, or the physical collection of voters' cards continued across multiple provinces. These practices have the potential to undermine public confidence in the secrecy of the vote and the integrity of the electoral process if not addressed promptly by relevant authorities.

Of particular concern during this reporting period were continued incidents of violence against women in elections (VAWE). CCMG documented two incidents involving female parliamentary candidates, including one female candidate who was prevented from conducting lawful campaign activities before the situation escalated into violence, and another who was subjected to harassment and threats during campaign activities. These incidents highlight the persistent gender-specific barriers faced by women participating in electoral processes and underscore the need for greater protection of women candidates throughout the campaign period, including accountability measures for perpetrators.

Despite these concerns, CCMG observed continued improvements in voter education and information activities by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ). The proportion of observers reporting ECZ voter education activities increased further during this reporting period, indicating sustained implementation of the Commission's nationwide voter education campaign.

The findings presented in this report are based on verified reports collected by CCMG's 330 Long-Term Observers (LTOs) deployed across all constituencies, districts, and provinces. The report highlights emerging trends in the political and electoral environment, including electoral administration, campaign conduct, voter education,

compliance with the Electoral Code of Conduct, and incidents that may affect the credibility, inclusiveness, and peaceful conduct of Zambia's 2026 General Elections.

Key Areas of Focus During the Pre-Election Period

During this fifth reporting period, CCMG's Long-Term Observers continued to monitor the application of the legal and regulatory framework governing elections, with particular attention to how these provisions were being implemented during campaigns. This includes assessing the adequacy, consistency, and impartial enforcement of key laws such as the Constitution, the Electoral Process Act and Electoral Code of Conduct, the Public Order Act, the Cyber Security Act, and the Cyber Crimes Act, among others.

During this period, LTOs reported on key pre-election activities, including election preparations by the ECZ to determine preparedness, activities by the Zambia Police, and activities by other key stakeholders. Additional areas of focus included voter education/information and inclusion, and the general political environment. Observers also reported on inducements and other forms of electoral malpractice that may compromise the fairness and credibility of the electoral process.

II. Key Highlights and Trends

Based on reports from CCMG's observers across all constituencies, districts, and provinces covering the period 9 - 22 June, 2026, and in comparison with findings from the four previous reporting periods covering the period 2 March - 8 June, 2026, CCMG observed the following key trends and developments (detailed below under III. Detailed Findings):

1. Electoral Code of Conduct Violations and Other Offences:

CCMG notes with concern an increase in politically motivated violence during the reporting period, documenting eight (8) incidents compared to four (4) during the previous reporting period. These incidents primarily involved clashes between supporters of opposing political parties, attacks on candidates and their supporters, and disruptions of campaign activities. Although the overall electoral environment remained generally peaceful, the increase in violence demonstrates that electoral tensions continue to rise as campaigning intensifies.

CCMG also documented two (2) incidents of VAWE involving female parliamentary candidates. One female candidate was prevented from conducting campaign activities before violence erupted, while another was subjected to harassment and threats by political opponents. These incidents demonstrate that women candidates continue to experience gender-specific intimidation that may discourage their full participation in electoral processes. Further, the absence of any reported action against the alleged perpetrators points to continuing impunity and weak accountability for violence against women in elections, potentially encouraging the recurrence of such violations.

The distribution of money, foodstuffs, branded materials, and other goods as voter inducements continued its gradual upward trend, increasing from 19% to 20% of observers reporting such incidents. Equally concerning were seven (7) incidents involving the collection of voters' cards and NRC details, including two incidents where physical voters' cards were collected. These practices remain widespread across several provinces and undermine confidence in the secrecy and integrity of the vote.

CCMG therefore urges the ECZ, the Zambia Police Service, and other relevant institutions to strengthen enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct by promptly investigating reported violations and applying sanctions consistently, transparently, and impartially.

2. Voter Education/Information:

CCMG documented a further increase in voter education activities conducted by the ECZ, rising from 59% during the previous reporting period to 72% during the current reporting period. This represents the highest level of voter education activity recorded by CCMG since the commencement of long-term observation.

Targeted voter education also continued to improve, with activities directed at youth increasing from 24% to 32%, women from 23% to 31%, and persons with disabilities from 19% to 27%. However, voter education efforts by civil society organisations and faith-based organisations remained limited at 1%, while local media involvement declined slightly to 11%.

CCMG commends the ECZ for sustaining its nationwide voter education campaign and encourages all electoral stakeholders to complement these efforts, particularly among women, youth, persons with disabilities, and first-time voters. Continued public education will be essential to enhance understanding of recent electoral legal reforms and strengthen confidence in the electoral process.

3. Endorsements by Traditional or Religious Leaders and Government Employees:

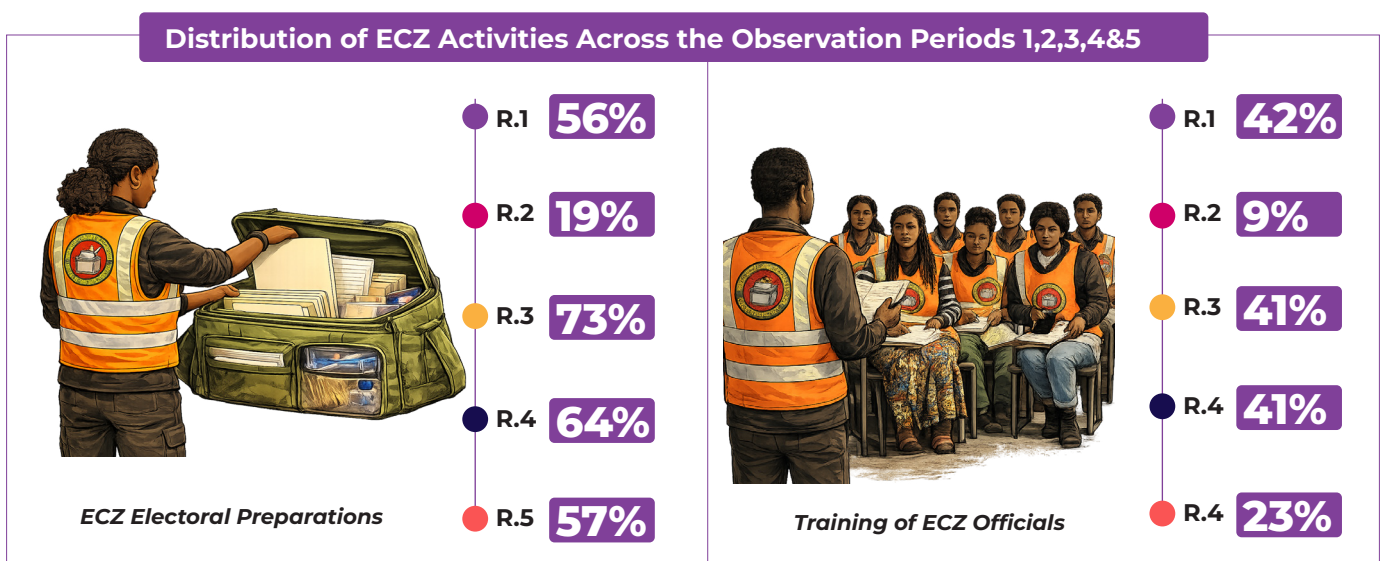
CCMG continued to observe relatively low levels of political endorsements by traditional and religious leaders during this reporting period. Only 3% of observers reported instances where traditional or religious leaders used their influence to support particular political parties or candidates, representing only a slight increase from the previous reporting period.

However, CCMG remains concerned by reports involving the misuse of public office for partisan purposes. During this reporting period, two observers reported instances of civil servants using their positions to support a political party or candidate. Public officials are expected to perform their duties impartially, and any misuse of government authority or resources risks undermining public confidence in the neutrality of state institutions during elections.

III. Detailed Findings

Preparations by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)

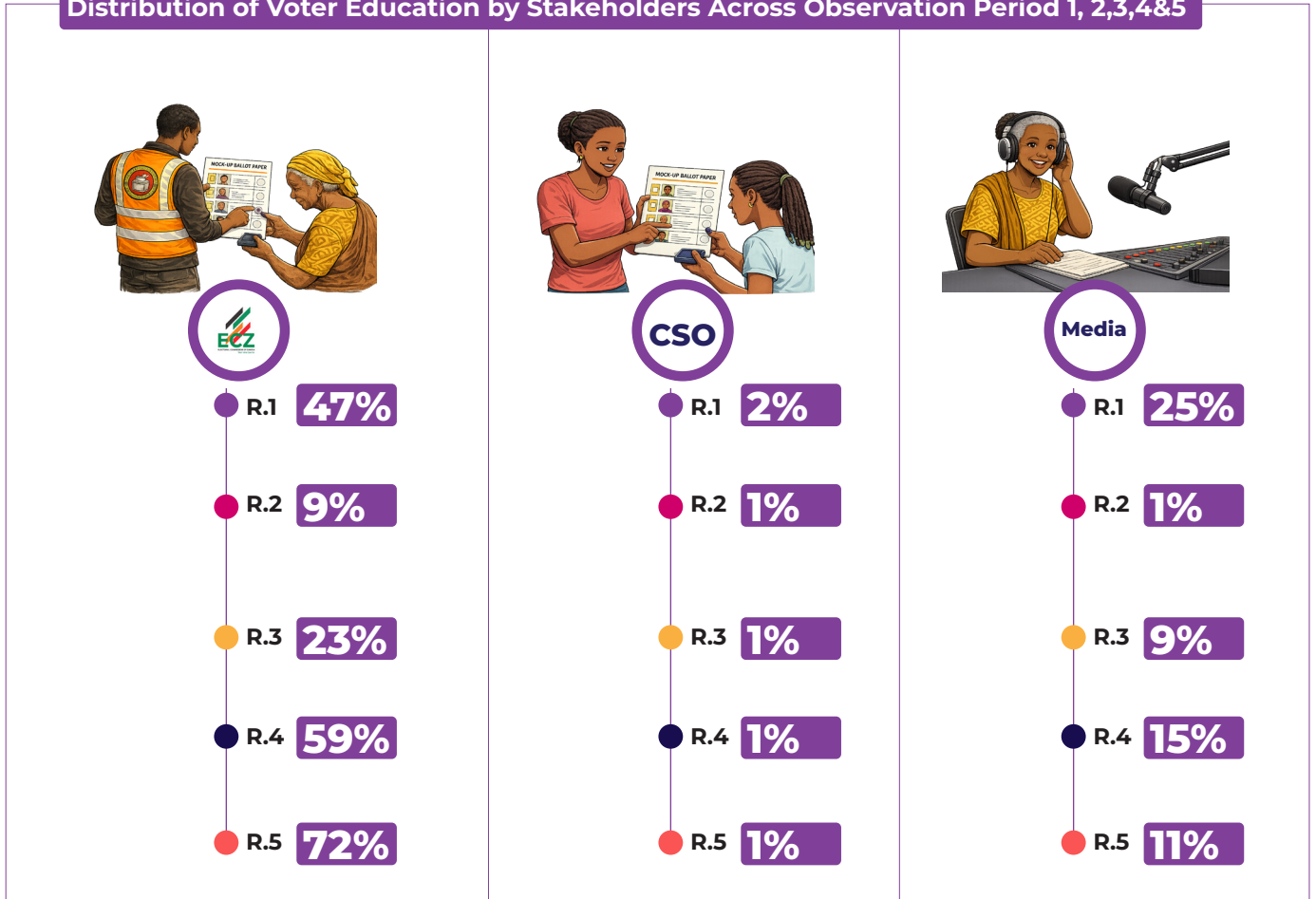
- During this reporting period, 57% of CCMG's observers reported that there were preparations for elections by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ). Additionally, 23% of the observers reported that there was training of ECZ officials in their constituencies for District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and Returning Officers (ROs).



Voter Education/Information

- Seventy-two percent (72%) of CCMG's observers reported voter education activities by ECZ officials or voter education facilitators (VEFs). Additionally, one percent (1%) of CCMG's observers reported voter education activities conducted by civil society organisations (CSOs) or faith-based organisations (FBOs).
- Eleven percent (11%) of CCMG's observers reported voter education activities conducted by local media.
- Among those who reported the occurrence of voter education activities, 32% reported that the activities targeted youth, 31% targeted women, and 27% targeted persons with disabilities.

Distribution of Voter Education by Stakeholders Across Observation Period 1, 2,3,4&5

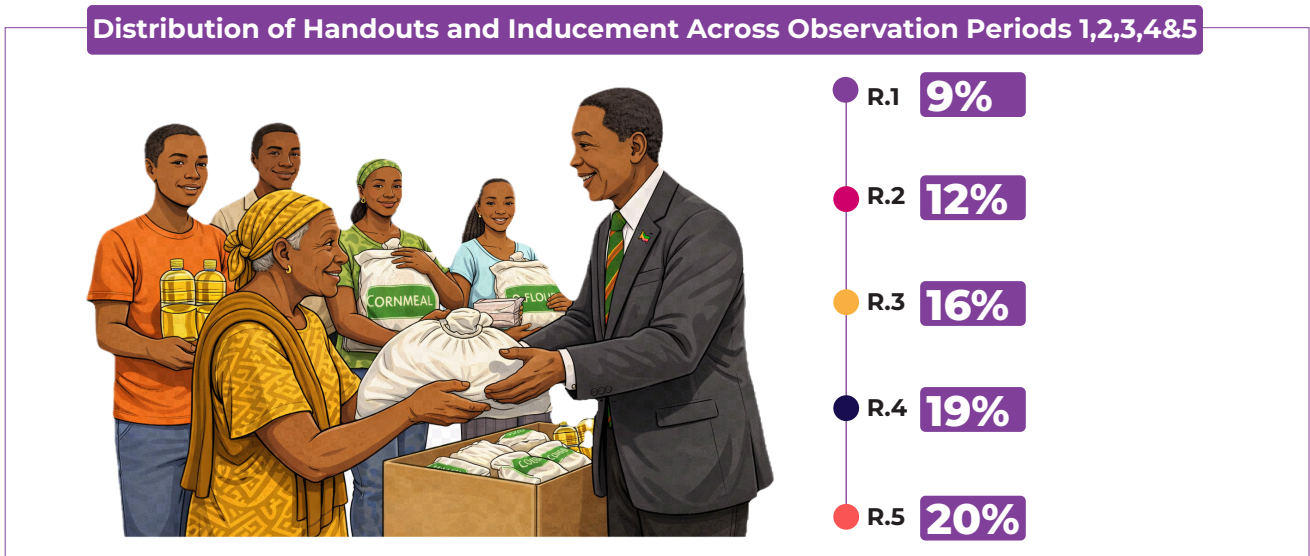


Political Parties, Traditional and Religious Leaders, and Civil Servants

- Three percent (3%) of CCMG’s observers reported instances in which traditional or religious leaders used their influence to support a particular party or candidate. These issues were prevalent in Eastern Province and were mainly perpetrated by traditional leaders supporting MP candidates.
- Seventy percent (70%) of CCMG’s observers reported activities conducted by UPND, and sixty-one (61%) reported activities conducted by another party (other than UPND) or an independent candidate. Of the observers who reported UPND party activities, only eleven (11%) reported that police provided security during the party activities/meetings/rallies. Of those observers who reported activities by other parties (not UPND) or independent candidates, only seven percent (7%) reported police providing security during the activities/meetings/rallies for other parties or independent candidates.
- Two (2) CCMG observers in Chama North Constituency (Eastern Province) reported an instance of non-elected government officials (i.e., civil servants) using their influence to support a particular party or candidate.

The Distribution of Money, Foodstuffs, or Other Items/Goods as an Inducement to Support a Political Party or Candidate

- The distribution of handouts as an inducement to support a party or candidate continued on an upward trend, with twenty percent (20%) of CCMG's observers reporting the distribution of money, foodstuffs, or other items/goods, up from 19% during the previous period. These instances occurred across the country and were primarily perpetrated by candidates for the National Assembly and Local Government elections.



Province	Constituencies	Goods	Parties Involved	Position
Central	Mkushi North, Mumbwa, Nangoma, Muchinga,	Cash, branded apparel, coffin, assorted food items, soap	NRPUP, UPND	Council Chairperson, MP, Ward Councillor
Copperbelt	Bwana Mkubwa, Chingola, Kafulafuta, Kankoyo, Kwacha, Lufwanyama, Masaiti, Mufulira, Nchanga, Ndola Central, Nkana, Roan, Wusakile	Cash, branded apparel, assorted food items	NRPUP, UPND, Independent	Ward Councillor, MP

Eastern	Chadiza, Chama North, Chama South, Chasefu, Chipata Central, Kapoche, Kasenengwa, Kaumbwe, Luangeni, Lumezi, Lundazi, Malambo, Msanzala, Nyimba	Cash, assorted food items, branded apparel, coffin	UPND, NRPUP, Resolute Party, Liberal Democrats Party, Independent	Council Chairperson, Ward Councillor, MP
Luapula	Bahati, Chienge, Chifunabuli, Chipili, Kawambwa, Mansa Central, Milenge, Mwansabombwe, Mwense, Nchelenge, Pambashe	Cash, assorted food items, branded apparel	UPND, NRPUP, ZMP, Citizens First, Resolute Party,	MP
Lusaka	Chongwe, Kanyama, Munali	Cash, food items, branded apparel	UPND, Resolute Party	MP
Muchinga	Chinsali, Isoka, Kanchibiya, Mafinga, Mfuwe, Shiwan'gandu	Cash, branded apparel, coffin	UPND, Citizens First	Ward Councillor, MP
North - Western	Chavuma, Solwezi Central, Solwezi West	Cash, branded apparel	UPND, Independent	Council Chairperson, MP
Northern	Mporokoso	Cement, iron sheets, branded apparel	UPND	MP
Southern	Chirundu, Gwembe, Katombola, Livingstone, Mbabala, Monze Central, Sinazongwe	Cash, assorted food items, branded apparel, fuel	UPND, Independent	Ward Councillor, MP
Western	Mitete, Mwandi, Nalikulwanda, Nalolo	Household items (plates, cups), branded apparel, cash	UPND, Independent	MP

General Political and Campaign Environment

- Two (2) CCMG observers reported incidents where an activity by a political party or candidate in a public space was suspended/stopped. These were reported in Ndola Central (Copperbelt Province) and Chipata Central Constituency (Eastern Province), as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Two (2) CCMG observers reported campaign activities being conducted in a prohibited place. These incidents were reported in:

- Chama North (Eastern Province), where the UPND conducted a campaign meeting at Chinji Primary School while classes were ongoing.
- Lundazi (Eastern Province), where the UPND candidate for member of parliament held a campaign meeting at Vuu Primary School while classes were ongoing.
- Eight (8) CCMG observers reported violent physical attacks during a political party activity or event including one (1) incident of VAWE, as detailed in the critical incidents section.
- Two (2) CCMG observers reported intimidation or harassment against a candidate or his supporters including one (1) incident of VAWE, as detailed in the critical incidents section.
- Two (2) CCMG observers reported incidents of collection of voters' cards (collecting physical cards), as detailed in the critical incidents section.
- Five (5) CCMG observers reported incidents of the collection/buying of voters' cards or NRC details (not taking away the physical cards), as detailed in the critical incidents section.
- One (1) CCMG observer reported the use of threatening and abusive language against a woman candidate, as detailed in the critical incidents section.
- Two percent (2%) of CCMG's observers reported instances of youth dressed in military (combat) attire or wearing masks. These incidents were reported in Central, Copperbelt, Luapula, North-Western, and Western Provinces.

Province	Constituency	Dress Type	Party Affiliation	Activity
Central	Kabwe Central	Military boots, ninja masks	NRPUP	Rally
Copperbelt	Kwacha	Combat-style attire, masks	UPND	Campaign
Copperbelt	Bwana Mkubwa	Ninja masks	UPND	Campaign
Copperbelt	Kafulafuta	Ninja masks	UPND	Campaign
Luapula	Chienge	Ninja masks	UPND	Campaign
North-Western	Solwezi Central	Military boots	UPND	Campaign
North-Western	Kasempa	Military boots and ninja masks	UPND	Campaign
North-Western	Kasempa	Military boots and gloves	UPND	Rally
Western	Nalikwanda	Military combat	UPND	Campaign

- Two percent (2%) of CCMG's observers reported the ferrying of youth from areas outside their constituencies by political parties or their agents.
- Two (2) CCMG observers reported the use of state vehicles for political party/candidate campaign activities in Copperbelt and Lusaka Provinces.
- Four (4) CCMG observers reported destruction of campaign materials as indicated in the table below:

Province	Constituency	Perpetrator	Victim	Material Destroyed
Copperbelt	Roan	Unknown	Independent	Posters
Luapula	Kapoche	UPND	NRPUP	Posters
Muchinga	Chinsali	Unknown	UPND	Posters
Western	Luampa	Unknown	UPND	Flags and posters

- No CCMG observers reported incidents of the use of threatening, abusive, or insulting language against women as voters or party supporters; the use of threatening, abusive, or insulting language against youth as voters or party supporters; or incidents of arming of supporters.

Critical Incidents:

In this reporting period, CCMG documented twenty-one (21) critical incidents, including eight (8) incidents of politically motivated violence or attacks; five (5) incidents of buying/collecting voters' card or NRC numbers (not taking cards); two (2) incidents of buying/collecting voters' cards or NRCs (taking cards); two (2) incidents of harassment/ intimidation/ threats to candidates or party supporters; and two (2) incidents of shutdown of political party events. These included two (2) incidents of VAWE against women candidates.

Politically-Motivated Violence or Attack, Incitement to Public Disorder (8 incidents)

- On 11 June, CCMG's observer in Chinsali Constituency (Muchinga Province) reported an incident of violence where a former UPND cadre, who recently defected to the Tonse Alliance, was attacked by suspected UPND supporters after making a hand gesture that was perceived as a PF symbol. The assailants left the scene when a roadside vendor intervened. The victim later reported the incident to the Conflict Management Committee. There was no report of police involvement.
- On 11 June, CCMG's observer in Luampa West Constituency (Western Province) reported an incident where a confrontation between UPND supporters and supporters of the Socialist Party (SP) escalated into violence after UPND supporters alleged that their party flags and light bulbs at their party office in Mwanawasa Ward were damaged by the SP supporters. No injuries or arrests were reported.
- On 16 June, CCMG's observer in Makeni Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported an incident where a Resolute Party aspiring candidate for member of parliament was prevented from conducting campaign activities in Linda Ward 15 by UPND cadres even though she was meant to be in the area per the approved campaign schedule. The ensuing confrontation escalated into violence, leaving two people injured. The incident was reported to the ECZ. There was no police involvement reported. This constitutes an incident of VAWE.
- On 17 June, CCMG's observer in Chongwe Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported an incident of violence at Chongwe Market where a female marketeer was threatened with removal from her trading site by a female member of the UPND for refusing to accept UPND regalia, with the ensuing confrontation escalating into violence. Bystanders intervened to stop the violence. There were no injuries or arrests reported.
- On 17 June, CCMG's observer in Chinsali Constituency (Muchinga Province) reported an incident of violence at Chinsali New Market where Tonse Alliance supporters clashed with UPND supporters while the Tonse Alliance supporters placed campaign posters at a site with UPND campaign posters. The UPND supporters reportedly assumed that

the Tonse Alliance supporters were removing the UPND posters from the site, with the ensuing confrontation escalating into violence. The police intervened to stop the violence and restore order. There were no injuries reported.

- On 17 June, CCMG's Observer in Shang'ombo Constituency (Western Province) reported an incident where an individual alleged to be a supporter of an independent candidate for member of parliament was apprehended by community members at Natukoma Centre for being in possession of a firearm while at a campaign meeting of the Socialist Party. The incident was reported to the police, with no further followup action reported.
- On 17 June, CCMG's observer in Nkana Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that a UPND candidate for member of parliament, together with his supporters, assaulted three youths believed to be supporters of the Tonse Alliance and NRPUP in Bupe Ward. The observer reported that the incident occurred after the three youths displayed a party symbol associated with the NRPUP as a UPND campaign convoy drove past, leading to a confrontation. The police intervened and transported the three victims to a nearby hospital, where they were admitted for treatment. No arrests were reported.
- On 18 June, CCMG's observer in Monze Central Constituency (Southern Province) reported that suspected UPND supporters disrupted a meeting convened by an independent candidate for member of parliament at Bweengwa Primary School. The suspected UPND supporters assaulted the independent candidate and his supporters, while the candidate's vehicle was stoned and damaged, resulting in injuries to the driver. The police intervened to restore order. No arrests were reported.

Buying/Collecting of Voters' Card or NRC Numbers (Not Taking Cards) (5 incidents)

- On 16 June, CCMG's Observer in Zambezi East Constituency (North-Western Province) reported that the UPND aspiring candidate for member of parliament collected NRC and voters' card details from constituents. The observer reported that while the candidate refuted the allegations on social media, several residents confirmed the collection of their NRC and voters' card details.
- On 18 June, CCMG's observer in Chama Central Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that a UPND aspiring candidate for ward councillor collected NRC and voter's card details from residents of Dungulungu Village of Malaguena Ward.
- On 18 June, CCMG's observer in Chiengwe Constituency (Luapula Province) reported that UPND members collected NRC and voters' card details from constituents at Lambe Primary School grounds.
- On 19 June, CCMG's observer in Chama Central Constituency (Eastern Province) reported

that a UPND official collected NRC and voters' card details from constituents around the Chama District Hospital area, and promised to return with branded apparel for those who provided their details.

- On 19 June, CCMG's observer in Chienge Constituency (Luapula Province) reported that the UPND aspiring candidate for member of parliament asked attendees of a meeting to share their voters' card details.

Buying/Collecting Voters' Cards or NRCs (Taking Cards) (2 incidents)

- On 13 June, CCMG's observer in Chadiza Constituency (Eastern province) reported that a woman went around Mankhwazi village collecting NRCs and voters' cards from residents, reportedly at the instruction of a female independent candidate for member of parliament for Chadiza East Constituency.
- On 16 June, CCMG's observer in Monze Central Constituency (Southern Province) reported that the UPND aspiring candidate for MP recruited 100 supporters during a campaign activity to supposedly join the presidential campaign team and collected NRCs and voters' cards from these individuals while promising that they would receive gifts when the president visits the area.

Harassment, Intimidation, Threats to Party Supporters or Candidates (2 incidents)

- On June 10, CCMG's Observer in Zambezi East Constituency (North-Western Province) reported a clash involving supporters of the UPND candidate for member of parliament and the entourage of an independent candidate for member of parliament in Matushi Ward. The observer reported that the independent candidate had been scheduled to campaign in the area but encountered UPND supporters who were also conducting campaign activities. A confrontation ensued, during which UPND supporters allegedly threw stones at the independent candidates convoy, damaging several vehicle windows. No injuries or arrests were reported. Further, the observer reported that the matter was referred to the ECZ, which convened a meeting on June 12 during which the UPND apologized to the independent candidate and pledged to avoid similar incidents in the future.
- On June 19, CCMG's observer in Petauke Central Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that the Resolute Party candidate for member of parliament was harassed and threatened by suspected NRPUP supporters during an NRPUP rally. The Resolute Party candidate alleged that the perpetrators acted on behalf of a competitor affiliated with the NRPUP. There was no police involvement reported. This constitutes an incident of VAWE.

Shutdown of a Political Party Event (2 incidents)

- On 14 June, CCMG's observer in Ndola Central Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that the Tonse Alliance presidential candidate and his running mate attended a church service at UCZ St. Paul's Church in Chipulukusu Ward. After the service, the two addressed congregants and members of the public outside the church, prompting the police to intervene and direct them to disperse the gathering, stating that it had become a political meeting, for which advance notice to the police was not given. The observer further reported that the two leaders were later denied entry to Fatmols Hotel by police officers and instructed to leave Ndola and the Copperbelt Province due to security arrangements for the Head of State's planned visit. Following discussions with the police, the two opposition leaders left the province.
- On 20 June, CCMG's observer in Chipata Central Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that the Zambia Police cancelled a scheduled campaign meeting/rally of the NRPUP at Mpezeni Grounds. The Zambia Police Service cancelled the rally citing an earlier advisory issued by the ECZ, which announced the suspension of all presidential campaign activities from June 19 to June 22 pending a meeting with political parties to develop a presidential campaign schedule.

IV. Recommendations and Conclusion

Based on CCMG's findings from the 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

- **Strengthen Enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct and Public Accountability:** Violations of the Electoral Code of Conduct continue to occur, including politically motivated violence, voter inducement, collection of voters' card and NRC details, and harassment and intimidation of candidates and their supporters. CCMG continues to urge the ECZ to promptly investigate all reported violations and apply sanctions consistently, transparently, and impartially. The Commission should regularly provide public updates on complaints received, investigations undertaken, and actions taken to strengthen public confidence in the electoral process. Failure to ensure accountability for violations of the Electoral Code of Conduct creates an environment of impunity and could lead to repeated violations.
- **Strengthen Protection of Women Candidates:** CCMG urges the ECZ to work closely with Conflict Management Committees, political parties, and law enforcement agencies to prevent and respond promptly to incidents of VAWE. Complaints involving women candidates should receive timely, victim-centred and sensitive investigation and resolution to ensure women are able to campaign freely and participate in electoral processes without intimidation or violence. CCMG encourages victims and members of the public to report incidents of VAWE to the ECZ, the Lifeline/Childline Hotline at 933/116 where they can also be directed to resources.
- **Enhance Monitoring of Emerging Electoral Malpractices:** CCMG remains concerned by the increasing reports of voter inducement and the collection of voters' card and NRC details by political actors. The ECZ should intensify public awareness campaigns on prohibited electoral practices and work closely with law enforcement agencies to investigate and address these incidents as evidence suggests that they are becoming more widespread.
- **Sustain and Expand Voter Education Efforts:** CCMG commends the ECZ for the significant increase in voter education and information activities following the launch of the 2026 General Election Publicity and Voter Education Campaign. The Commission should sustain this momentum and further expand outreach efforts, particularly in rural and underserved communities, with targeted programming for women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Special emphasis should be placed on explaining recent legal reforms

and voter rights and responsibilities.

- **Promote Consistent Stakeholder Engagement:** CCMG encourages the ECZ to continue engaging political parties, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, media institutions, and security agencies to address emerging electoral challenges and strengthen confidence in the electoral process.

Political Parties

- **Promote Peaceful and Issue-Based Campaigning:** CCMG continues to urge all political parties and candidates to ensure that campaigns are conducted peacefully and in accordance with the Electoral Code of Conduct. Party leaders should actively discourage violence, intimidation, harassment, and the use of inflammatory or insulting language against political opponents, supporters, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.
- **Respect Political Rights and Freedoms:** CCMG continues to call on all political parties and candidates to respect the right of all political actors to campaign freely and participate in the electoral process without interference, intimidation, or obstruction. In particular, political parties should publicly condemn Violence Against Women in Elections, ensure that women candidates and supporters are protected during campaign activities, and take disciplinary action against members responsible for intimidation, harassment, or gender-based abuse. Political parties and candidates should remind their supporters that political competition must take place within the confines of the law and democratic norms.
- **End Voter Inducement and Collection of Voter Information:** CCMG reiterates its call on political parties and candidates to immediately cease the distribution of money, foodstuffs, and other material inducements intended to influence voters. Parties should also refrain from collecting voters' card or NRC details, a practice that may undermine public confidence in the secrecy and integrity of the vote, as noted in previous reporting periods.
Discourage Intimidating Conduct: CCMG notes the continued use of military-style attire by political party and candidate supporters. Political parties should prohibit the use of military-style attire, face masks, and other forms of intimidating regalia during campaign activities, and ensure that members and supporters who engage in misconduct are held accountable.

Zambia Police Service

- **Provide Equal and Impartial Security:** CCMG continues to urge the Zambia Police Service to provide professional, impartial, and adequate security to all political parties, candidates, and citizens participating in campaign activities. Security responses should be guided by

the principles of neutrality, legality, necessity, and proportionality.

- **Investigate and Prosecute Electoral and Criminal Offences:** Given the increase in politically motivated violence observed during this reporting period, CCMG urges the Zambia Police Service to respond promptly to early warning signs of electoral conflict, ensure equal protection for all candidates and supporters, and investigate all incidents of violence, including those involving women candidates, irrespective of political affiliation. Further, the Police should thoroughly investigate all reported incidents of voter intimidation, destruction of campaign materials, voter inducement, and other electoral offences. Individuals responsible for electoral misconduct should be held accountable regardless of political affiliation.
- **Safeguard Freedom of Assembly and Political Participation:** CCMG encourages the Police to ensure that decisions relating to campaign meetings and public gatherings are applied consistently and fairly. Restrictions on campaign activities should be based on clear legal grounds and communicated transparently to all stakeholders.

Anti-Corruption Commission

- **Investigate Electoral Corruption and Vote Buying:** CCMG continues to call on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to swiftly investigate electoral corruption, including incidents of vote buying.

Civil Society Organisations

- **Complement Voter Education and Information Efforts:** CCMG continues to encourage civil society organisations and faith-based organisations to intensify voter education activities, particularly in communities where outreach remains limited. Such efforts should focus on electoral rights, peaceful participation, the secrecy of the vote, and the dangers of electoral malpractice.
- **Promote Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention:** Civil society organisations should strengthen community dialogue initiatives, peace messaging, and early warning mechanisms, particularly in areas experiencing heightened political competition and electoral tensions.
- **Monitor and Raise Awareness on Electoral Malpractice:** CSOs should enhance efforts to document and raise public awareness about voter inducement, the collection of voters' information, violence against women in elections, and other practices that undermine electoral integrity.



Traditional and Religious Leaders

- **Maintain Political Neutrality and Promote Peaceful Participation:** CCMG continues to urge traditional and religious leaders to exercise restraint and refrain from using their positions of influence to support political parties or candidates. Their role should be to foster peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and respect for democratic processes. Traditional and religious leaders should use their influence to encourage non-violence, civic responsibility, and mutual respect among political actors and community members throughout the campaign period.



Conclusion

The findings from this reporting period indicate that although the overall electoral environment remained generally peaceful, political competition became increasingly confrontational as campaigns intensified. Compared with the previous reporting period, CCMG documented an increase in politically motivated violence, including attacks on candidates, supporters, and campaign activities, demonstrating the need for strengthened enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct and more proactive conflict prevention measures.

CCMG remains particularly concerned by the continued rise in voter inducement and persistent reports involving the collection of voters' cards and NRC details, including incidents where physical voters' cards were collected. These practices risk eroding public confidence in the secrecy and credibility of the electoral process if left unchecked.

The reporting period also recorded two incidents of Violence Against Women in Elections involving female parliamentary candidates. These incidents reinforce the need for stronger institutional responses to protect women participating in political processes and to ensure that elections remain inclusive and free from gender-based intimidation and violence.

At the same time, CCMG welcomes the continued expansion of voter education by the Electoral Commission of Zambia, with the highest level of voter education activities observed since the beginning of the electoral cycle. Sustaining these efforts, alongside increased participation by civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, and the media, will be essential in promoting informed electoral participation.

As the campaign period advances, CCMG calls upon all electoral stakeholders to uphold democratic principles, respect political rights and freedoms, reject violence and electoral malpractice, and ensure that all candidates, including women and other vulnerable groups, are able to participate freely and safely. Consistent enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct, strengthened accountability for electoral offences, and sustained civic education will remain critical to safeguarding the credibility, inclusiveness, and integrity of Zambia's 2026 General Elections.

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





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