

Long Term Pre-Election
Observation Report No. 6

AT WHAT COST?

Electoral Violence and Safeguarding
Zambia's Democratic Future Ahead of
the 2026 General Elections



OBSERVATION BRIEF

23 June - 06 July, 2026



**GOOD
GOVERNANCE**



**STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**



**DEMOCRATIC
FUTURE**

I. Introduction

CCMG continued its long-term election observation from 23 June to 06 July 2026 as the campaign period progressed ahead of the 13 August General Elections. During this reporting period, CCMG observed a further deterioration in the electoral environment, marked by an increase in politically-motivated violence, disruption of campaign activities, voter inducement, and other violations of the Electoral Code of conduct. Of particular concern were two (2) deaths that occurred within 24 hours of each other. On 29 June, a United Party for National Development (UPND) supporter died following a violent confrontation between UPND and National Reconciliation Party for Unity and Prosperity (NRPUP) supporters in Kaputa Constituency in Northern Province. Police arrested ten (10) suspects and reported that investigations into the incident continued. On 30 June, the driver of an independent parliamentary candidate in Magoye East Constituency (Southern Province) was found murdered at a campaign camp, with one (1) suspect arrested, and authorities yet to determine whether the killing was politically motivated. In response to the Kaputa incident, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) indefinitely suspended all NRPUP campaign activities in Kaputa Constituency pending further review. These developments represent the first recorded election-related fatalities during the 2026 campaign period and underscore the urgent need for strengthened prevention, accountability, and enforcement measures, as CCMG has repeatedly called for in the past.

CCMG also observed a continued increase in reports of politically motivated violence, harassment, intimidation, destruction of campaign materials, disruptions of campaign activities, and voter inducement. Reports involving the collection of voters' cards and NRC details persisted across three (3) provinces, including Central, Northern, and Southern provinces, while the distribution of money, foodstuffs, and other materials as inducements continued to increase. Despite these concerns, CCMG observed that voter education activities by the ECZ remained consistently high throughout the reporting period. However, civic and voter education activities by civil society organizations and faith-based organizations remained low.

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, integrity, and peaceful conduct of Zambia's 2026 General Elections.

Key Areas of Focus During the Pre-Election Period

During this sixth reporting period, CCMG's Long-Term Observers continued to monitor the application of the legal and regulatory framework governing elections, with particular focus on 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, and the Cyber Crimes Act, among others.

As in the previous observation periods, LTOs reported on key pre-election activities, including the ECZ's election preparations to assess 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 integrity, 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 23 June to 06 July, 2026, and in comparison with findings from the five previous reporting periods covering the period 2 March - 22 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 the continued escalation of politically-motivated violence during the reporting period. CCMG documented ten (10) incidents of politically-motivated violence compared to eight (8) in the previous reporting period, bringing the total number of politically-motivated violent incidents documented to twenty-two (22) during the campaign period and forty-six (46) since the start of CCMG's long-term observation on 2 March, 2026.

Most significantly, this reporting period recorded the first two deaths associated with the 2026 election campaign. Of the ten (10) incidents of politically-motivated violence documented during this reporting period, eight (8) were perpetrated by UPND, one (1) by NRPUP supporters, and one (1) by unidentified individuals. The reported victims comprised NRPUP supporters or candidates (4 incidents), independent candidates or supporters (4 incidents), the Resolute Party (1 incident), and UPND supporters (1 incident). Police intervention was reported in three (3) incidents, resulting in six arrests, although no convictions had been reported.

During this reporting period, CCMG also documented five (5) incidents involving the suspension or disruption of campaign activities, five (5) incidents involving the destruction of campaign materials, three (3) incidents of harassment and intimidation, and one (1) incident of violence against women in elections (VAWE). These recurring violations demonstrate continued weaknesses in compliance with the Electoral Code of Conduct and increasing political and electoral tension as campaigns intensify.

The distribution of money, foodstuffs, branded materials, and other inducements continued its upward trend, increasing from 20% to 24% of observers reporting such incidents. CCMG also documented three (3) incidents involving the collection of voters' cards and NRC details. These practices continue to undermine the integrity of the vote and raise concerns regarding voter manipulation.

CCMG further noted a continued increase in the use of intimidating campaign practices. CCMG's observers reported five (5) incidents involving the destruction of campaign materials compared to four (4) incidents in the previous reporting period. In addition, CCMG documented nine (9) incidents where youth were clad in military-style attire or wore face masks (non-surgical) during political activities, contributing to an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.



2. Voter Education/Information:

CCMG observed that voter education activities conducted by the ECZ remained consistently high during the reporting period, with 71% of observers reporting voter education activities compared to 72% during the previous reporting period.

Targeted voter education remained relatively consistent, with activities directed at youth (31%), women (30%), and persons with disabilities (25%). However, voter education by civil society organisations and faith-based organisations remained limited, with no activities by

CSOs/FBOs reported during this period, while local media participation increased slightly to 13%.

CCMG continues to commend the ECZ for sustaining its nationwide voter education campaign and encourages civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, and the media to complement these efforts, particularly among women, youth, persons with disabilities, and first-time voters. Continued civic and voter education remains essential to improve understanding of electoral processes, strengthen confidence in the electoral system, and discourage electoral malpractice. This is particularly important given recent changes to the electoral legal framework, including the introduction of a mixed-member proportional representation system.

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

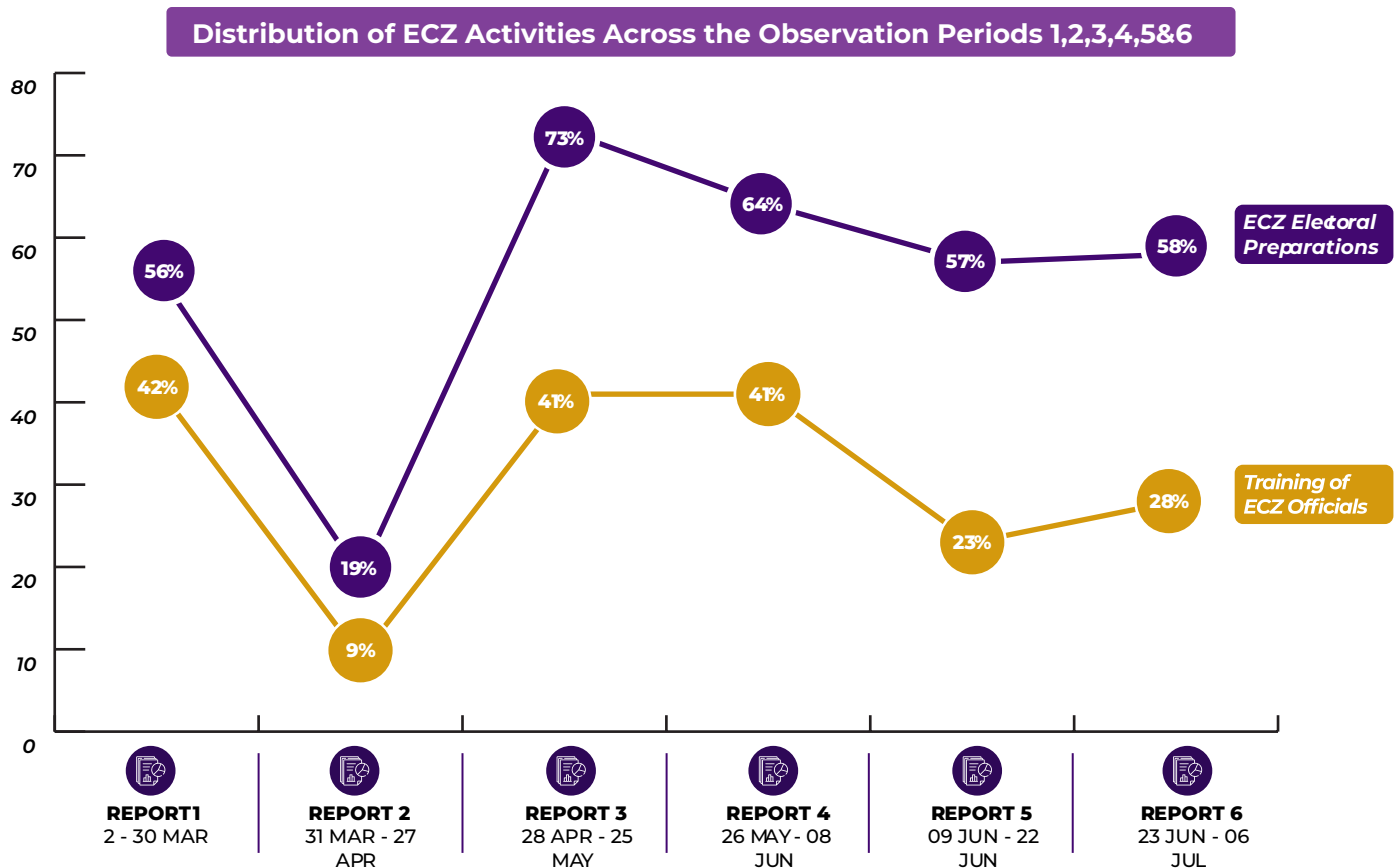
CCMG continued to observe relatively low but persistent levels of political endorsements by traditional leaders during this reporting period. Three percent (3%) of observers reported instances where traditional leaders used their influence to support particular political parties or candidates. This represents a marginal increase from the previous reporting period; such endorsements were reported across eight (8) of the ten (10) provinces, suggesting that the practice remains geographically widespread.

CCMG also remains concerned by reports involving the misuse of public office for partisan purposes. During this reporting period, one (1) observer reported an incident involving a District Commissioner actively campaigning for the ruling party. Public officials are expected to perform their duties impartially, and any misuse of government authority or public resources risks undermining public confidence in the neutrality of state institutions during elections.

III. Detailed Findings

Preparations by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)

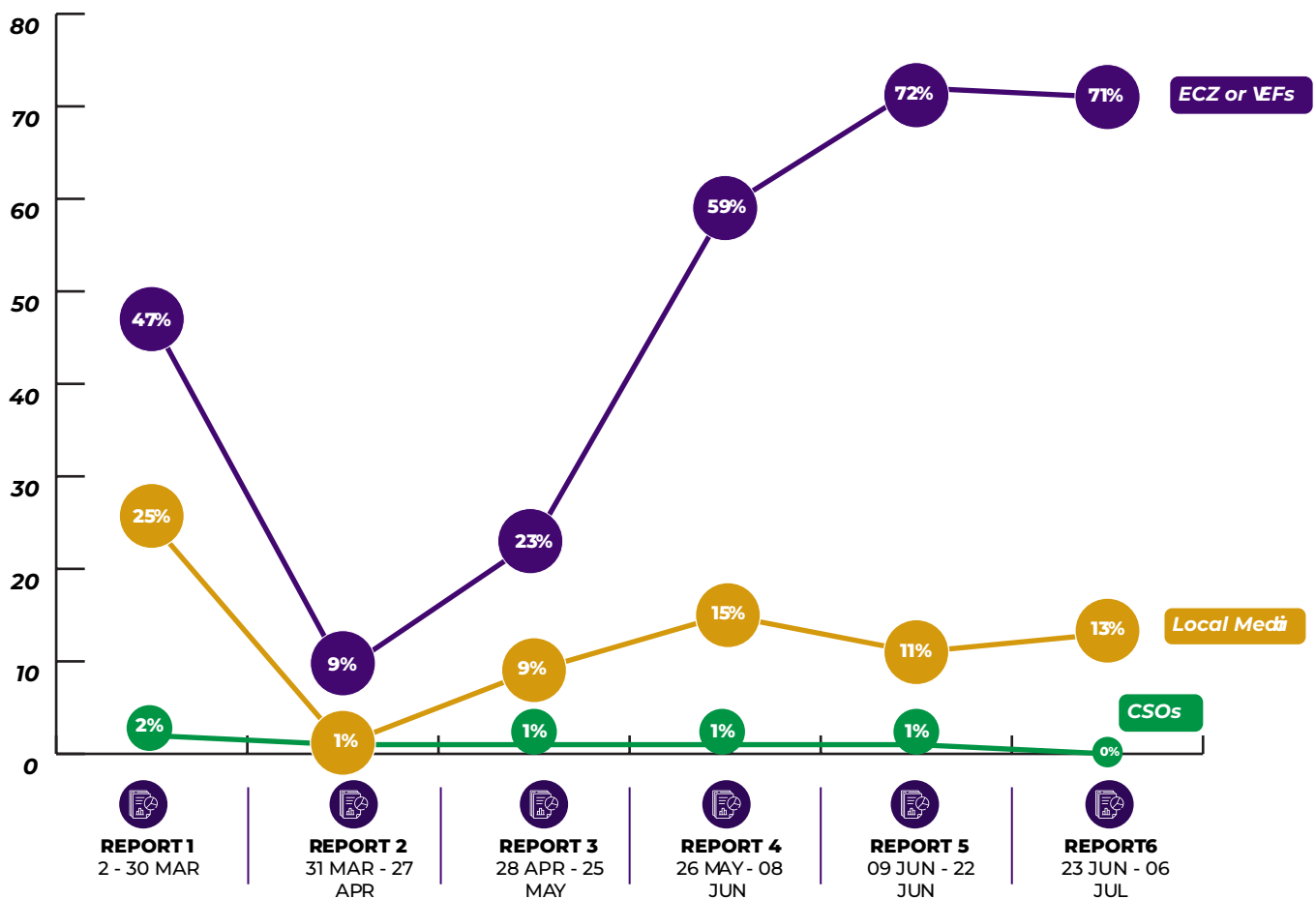
- During this reporting period, 58% of CCMG's observers reported ECZ's preparatory activities towards the general elections. Additionally, 28% of observers reported that there was training of ECZ officials in their constituencies for District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and Returning Officers (ROs).



Voter Education/Information

- Seventy-one percent (71%) of CCMG's observers reported voter education activities by ECZ officials or voter education facilitators (VEFs). Additionally, one (1) observer reported voter education activities conducted by a faith-based organisation (FBOs). This was reported in Chimwemwe Constituency (Copperbelt Province), where the Seventh-day Adventist Church invited the ECZ voter educators during a church service.
- Thirteen percent (13%) of CCMG's observers reported voter education activities conducted by local media. These included:
 - Mkushi Radio and Mumbwa Community Radio in Central Province;

- Kokoliko FM, Mafken Radio, Miracle FM, and Radio Christian Voice in Copperbelt Province;
- Chikaya Community Radio, Kwenje Radio, and Mnkhanya Radio in Eastern Province;
- Mwansabombwe FM and Munsangu Radio in Luapula Province;
- Delight Radio Kwi-Itonta and ISO FM in Muchinga Province;
- Chavuma Radio, Kalumbila Radio, and Mwinilunga Radio in North Western Province;
- Liberty Radio and Luansanse Radio in Northern Province;
- Modern Voice Radio and Radio Chikuni in Southern Province; and
- Lukulu FM and Mwandi Radio in Western Province.

Distribution of Voter Education by Stakeholders Across Observation Period 1, 2,3,4,5&6


- Among those who reported the occurrence of voter education activities, 31% reported that the activities targeted youth, 30% targeted women, and 25% targeted persons with disabilities.

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 reported in eight (8) provinces and were mainly perpetrated by traditional leaders supporting MP candidates.

Province	Constituency	Type of Leader	Party Supported
Central	Chitambo, Nangoma, Mumbwa	Traditional	UPND
Copperbelt	Lufwanyama, Masaiti	Traditional	Independent, UPND
Eastern	Chama North, Chasefu, Kapoche, Lundazi, Milanzi	Traditional	Independent, UPND
Luapula	Chienge, Milenge	Traditional	Independent, UPND
Lusaka	N/A	N/A	N/A
Muchinga	Nakonde	Traditional	NRPUP
North-Western	Kasempa, Solwezi West	Traditional	Independent, UPND
Northern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southern	Shangombo	Traditional	UPND
Western	Shangombo	Traditional	UPND

- Seventy-five percent (75%) of CCMG's observers reported activities conducted by UPND, while sixty-seven percent (67%) reported activities conducted by another party (other than UPND) or an independent candidate. Of the observers who reported UPND party activities, only fourteen (14%) 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 nine percent (9%) reported police providing security during the activities/meetings/rallies for other parties or independent candidates.

- One (1) CCMG observer 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-four percent (24%) of CCMG's observers reporting the distribution of money, foodstuffs, or other items/goods, up from twenty percent (20%) and nineteen percent (19%) during the previous two periods. These instances occurred across the country and were primarily perpetrated by the parliamentary and local government candidates.

Distribution of Handouts and Inducement Across Observation Periods 1,2,3,4,5&6



Province	Constituencies	Goods	Parties Involved	Position
Central	Bwacha, Kabwe Central, Muchinga	Branded party apparel (t-shirts, caps), foodstuffs (salt)	UPND	Councillor, MP
Copperbelt	Chingola, Kalulushi, Kwacha, Luanshya, Lufwanyama, Masaiti, Mpongwe, Ndola Central, Roan, Wusakile	Branded party apparel (t-shirts, chitenges), food stuff (mealie meal, cooking oil), cash	NRPUP, UPND, Independent	MP

Eastern	Chadiza, Chama North, Chama South, Chasefu, Luangeni, Lumezi, Kasenengwa, Kapoche, Malambo, Milanzi	Cash, branded party apparel (t-shirts), non-branded apparel (chitenge), food items (salt, mealie meal)	Independent, UPND	MP
Luapula	Bahati, Bangweulu, Chienge, Luapula, Mwansabombwe, Nchelenge, Pambashe	Branded party apparel (chitenges, t-shirts), cash, pens	Citizen First, Democratic Union, NRPUP, UPND, Independent	MP, Council Chairperson
Lusaka	Kanyama, Matero, Munali, Rufunsa	Branded party regalia (chitenges, t-shirts), food items (mealie meal)	NRPUP, Resolute Party, UPND	MP, Council Chairperson
Muchinga	Chinsali, Isoka, Kanchibiya, Mafinga, Shiwang'andu	Branded party regalia (caps, chitenges, t-shirts), cash	UPND, Tonse Alliance	MP
North - Western	Chavuma, Solwezi Central, Solwezi West	Branded party regalia (chitenges, t-shirts), cash	UPND	MP, President
Northern	Kasama Central	Food items (meat, mealie meal)	UPND	Mayor
Southern	Gweembe, Livingstone, Magiye, Monze Central, Pemba, Siavonga, Sinazongwe	Branded party regalia (chitenges, t-shirts), food items (drinks, buns, meat), Cash	UPND	MP, Councillor
Western	Mitete, Mwandi, Nalikwanda, Nalolo, Nkeyema, Shangombo	Branded party regalia (chitenges, t-shirts), cash, food items	Citizen First, UPND	MP

General Political and Campaign Environment

- Five (5) observers reported incidents where an activity by a political party or candidate in a public space was suspended/stopped. These incidents were reported in Mufulira in Copperbelt Province, Lusaka Central and Munali in Lusaka Province, Kaputa and Chimbamilonga in Northern Province, and Senanga in Western Province, as detailed in the critical incident sections below;
- Two (2) observers reported incidents where parties/independent candidates were prevented from conducting a campaign activity in a public space by the police. These were incidents that occurred in Mufulira (Copperbelt Province) and in Senanga (Western Province);
- One (1) observer reported an incident where a campaign meeting took place in a prohibited place.
 - Itezhi-Itezhi (Southern Province), where a UPND MP candidate conducted an activity at Masanza Primary School during class hours, with the school children attending.
- Ten (10) observers reported the use of vehicles without number plates during political party activities. The issues were all perpetrated by the UPND during campaign rallies.

Province	Constituency	Activity	Party Involved
Central	Mkushi North, Serenje	Campaign rally	UPND
Copperbelt	Masaiti	Campaign rally	UPND
Eastern	Chama North	Campaign meeting	UPND
Lusaka	Kafue, Kanyama, Lusaka Central, Munali	Campaign rally	UPND
Southern	Livingstone, Shangombo	Campaign rally	UPND

- Ten (10) CCMG observers reported incidents of violent physical attacks during a political party activity or event. These incidents were reported in Chiengi (Luapula Province), Lusaka Central (Lusaka Province), Munali (Lusaka Province), Kaputa (Northern Province), and Sesheke (Western Province), as detailed in the critical incident sections below.
- Three (3) CCMG observers reported incidents of intimidation or harassment against a candidate or his/her supporters. These incidents were reported in Chama North (Eastern Province), Chiengi (Luapula Constituency), and Munali (Lusaka Province), as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Three (3) CCMG observers reported cases where voters' card and/or NRC details were collected during campaigns, as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Seven (7) CCMG observers reported instances in which youth were ferried from one constituency to another for political purposes. Six (6) of these cases were perpetrated by the UPND and one (1) by the NRPUP. These were reported in:
 - In Mkushi North (Central Province), several youths were ferried from neighboring constituencies during a campaign activity led by the head of state;
 - In Serenje (Central Province), youth were ferried from Nkundila during a campaign meeting led by the head of state;
 - In Milanzi (Eastern Province), youth were ferried from the constituency to Mkaika constituency for an NRPUP campaign activity;
 - In Kasempa (North-Western), youth were ferried from the constituency to Solwezi for the UPND presidential campaign rally;
 - In Manyinga (North-Western), youth were ferried from the constituency to Kabompo Constituency for a UPND presidential campaign meeting led by the head of state;
 - In Mitete (Western Province), youth were ferried to Mitete Central for a UPND rally; and,
 - In Nalikwanda (Western Province), youth were ferried from the constituency to Mongu for a UPND meeting.
- Three percent (3%) of CCMG's observers reported instances of youth dressed in military (combat) attire or wearing masks. These incidents were reported in five provinces, with UPND and NRPUP reported as the alleged perpetrators.

Province	Constituency	Dress Type	Party Affiliation	Activity
Central	Kabwe Central, Serenje	Military wear (ninja/ turtle, boots)	UPND	Campaign
Copperbelt	Bwana Mkubwa, Kwacha	Ninja face masks	NRPUP	Campaign
Lusaka	Kanyama, Munali	Ninja face masks	UPND	Campaign
North Western	Solwezi Central	Camouflage trousers, military-like masks	UPND	Campaign
Western	Mitete, Nalikwanda	Face masks, military-combat attire	UPND	Campaign

- Two (2) CCMG observers reported the use of state vehicles for political party/candidate campaign activities. These issues were reported in Mkushi North and Serenje in Central Province during UPND campaign activities.
- Two (2) CCMG observers reported the use of CDF grants as an inducement to support a political party or candidate.
 - In Roan (Copperbelt), the immediate past MP, contesting to retain the same position, issued CDF grants to beneficiaries, where he continued his campaign with more promises to support his re-election bid;
 - In Bwana Mkubwa (Copperbelt Province), the social cash transfer programme was implemented during the UPND campaign rally.
- Five (5) CCMG observers reported destruction of campaign materials as indicated in the table below:

Province	Constituency	Alleged Perpetrator	Alleged Victim	Material Destroyed
Copperbelt	Masaiti	UPND	Tonse Alliance	Campaign posters
Copperbelt	Roan	Unknown	UPND	Campaign posters
Lusaka	Chongwe	UPND	Independent	Campaign poster
North-Western	Chavuma	Independent	UPND	Campaign posters
Northern	Kaputa	Tonse Alliance	UPND	Campaign posters, radio systems

Critical Incidents:

In this reporting period, CCMG documented twenty-four (24) critical incidents, including ten (10) incidents of politically motivated violence or attacks; five (5) incidents of shutdown or disruption of a political party event/meeting in a public place; three (3) incidents of harassment/ intimidation/threats to candidates or party supporters; three (3) incidents of buying/collecting voters' card or NRC numbers (not taking cards); and three (3) incidents of destruction of political party materials or property. These included one (1) incident of VAWE.

Politically-Motivated Violence or Attack, Incitement to Public Disorder (10 incidents)

- On 25 June, CCMG's observer in Katete Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that supporters travelling to attend an NRPUP campaign rally were blocked by suspected UPND cadres, resulting in violent clashes. One individual sustained injuries to the head from a panga attack and was admitted to St. Francis Hospital. There was no report of police involvement.
- On 25 June, CCMG's observer in Monze Central Constituency (Southern Province) reported that an NRPUP parliamentary candidate was attacked by suspected UPND cadres while travelling to a campaign rally. The incident resulted in damage to the candidate's vehicle and campaign materials. No police action was reported.
- On 26 June, CCMG's observer in Munali Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that an independent candidate for ward councillor for Chainda Ward was assaulted by UPND cadres, allegedly sponsored by the UPND parliamentary candidate, during campaign activities. Members of the public intervened to stop the violence, while the perpetrators fled. No police involvement was reported.
- On 26 June, CCMG's observer in Mporokoso Constituency (Northern Province) reported that suspected UPND cadres attacked a lodge owned by the NRPUP presidential candidate, damaging windows and other property. Security guards who attempted to intervene were assaulted. There was no report of police involvement.
- On 29 June, CCMG's observer in Kaputa Constituency (Northern Province) reported that a confrontation between NRPUP and UPND supporters escalated into violence, resulting in the fatal stabbing of a UPND cadre. UPND campaign materials were destroyed during the incident. Police issued an official statement on the commencement of investigations on the incident.

- On 30 June, CCMG's observer in Magoye East Constituency (Southern Province) reported that unidentified masked men attacked the residence and campaign camp of an independent parliamentary candidate. During the attack, the candidate's driver sustained a fatal wound to the neck. Police visited the scene and launched investigations, with one suspect arrested as investigations have continued.
- On 1 July, CCMG's observer in Gwembe Constituency (Southern Province) reported a violent altercation where members of the UPND presidential campaign team were attacked by supporters of an independent parliamentary candidate while collecting voters' card details from residents of Makuyu Ward. The attackers also stoned a campaign vehicle. Police arrested the independent MP candidate and three other individuals, who were later released after four days in police custody.
- On 2 July, CCMG's observer in Mazabuka Central Constituency (Southern Province) reported that SDA church members travelling in a truck provided by an independent candidate for member of parliament were attacked by UPND cadres, who reportedly mistook them for the candidate's supporters. One mobile phone was taken while another was damaged in the process. No police intervention was reported.
- On 4 July, CCMG's observer in Lusaka Central Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that individuals clad in UPND regalia attacked a campaign roadshow of the Resolute Party parliamentary candidate (female), throwing stones at the candidate and her supporters. Several members of the candidate's campaign team were injured, and one campaign vehicle was damaged. There was no report of police involvement. This constitutes an incident of VAWE.
- On 6 July, CCMG's observer in Shangombo Constituency (Western Province) reported an incident at Natukoma Market where a confrontation between supporters of the UPND and an independent parliamentary candidate escalated into violence, resulting in injury to a UPND supporter who was stabbed in the forehead. One perpetrator was arrested, and another remained at large.

Shutdown or Disruption of a Political Party Event/Meeting in a Public Place (5 incidents)

- On 27 June, CCMG's observer in Senanga Constituency (Western Province) reported that the Citizens First party held an event at its party office in Imatongo Ward, where the party president was expected to officially open the office and meet with party officials and supporters. Zambia Police officers disrupted the event, as it lacked the required police authorization and was not in line with the official campaign timetable, with the party not scheduled to campaign in the province on that date.

- On 27 June, CCMG's observer in Munali Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that an independent candidate for ward councillor for Chainda Ward was forced to suspend a campaign engagement in the Harvest area after the event was disrupted by individuals allegedly affiliated with the UPND. The individuals attacked and verbally abused the candidate and his campaign team. This is also detailed under the section above.
- On 28 June, CCMG's observer in Sesheke East Constituency (Western Province) reported that a meeting organized by the UPND Council Chairperson in Katima Likanda Village was disrupted by UPND cadres aligned with the party's aspiring parliamentary candidate for the constituency, who objected to the meeting taking place, and the meeting did not proceed.
- On 3 July, CCMG's observer in Chimbamilonga Constituency (Northern Province) reported an incident where a CF candidate for member of parliament was prevented from conducting a campaign activity in Munwa Ward, as the candidate was not scheduled to campaign in the area.
- On 4 July, CCMG's observer in Lusaka Central Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported an incident where UPND members attacked and disrupted a campaign event (roadshow) by the Resolute Party in Town Centre, as reported above.

Harassment, Intimidation, Threats to Party Supporters or Candidates (3 incidents)

- On 28 June, CCMG's observer in Chiengwe Constituency (Luapula Province) reported that UPND members conducting campaign activities around Mukunta Market were harassed and intimidated by supporters of the Tonse Alliance. During the confrontation, Tonse Alliance supporters reportedly confiscated and destroyed UPND campaign equipment, including speakers and microphones, and instructed UPND members to stop campaigning in the area. There was no police involvement reported.
- On 30 June, CCMG's observer in Chinsali Constituency (Muchinga Province) reported that UPND cadres blocked the convoy of the NRPUP presidential candidate and his entourage on their way to a campaign event, following a courtesy visit to Chief Nkula. Police intervened, cleared the road, and facilitated the convoy's passage to the campaign venue. Another group of cadres reportedly remained at Chinsali New Market to discourage people from attending the NRPUP campaign event.
- On 3 July, CCMG's observer in Chongwe East Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that during a UPND roadshow, UPND members placed campaign posters on private property without the owner's consent. After the property owner removed the posters, the UPND members had him arrested by the police, and he was later released after an Inspector of

police determined that the detention was unwarranted.

Buying/Collecting of Voters' Cards or NRC Numbers (Not Taking Cards) (3 incidents)

- On 23 June, CCMG's observer in Nangoma Constituency (Central Province) reported that two UPND members were collecting names, NRC numbers, and voters' card details from residents during a door-to-door campaign. Residents were reportedly informed that those providing their details would receive priority consideration for future empowerment programmes and campaign materials.
- On 30 June, CCMG's observer in Mbala Constituency (Northern Province) reported that a member of a parliamentary candidate's campaign team was collecting NRC and voters' card details from residents in Kazimolo Ward and promised monetary rewards to individuals who would support the candidate.
- On 1 July, CCMG's observer in Gwembe Constituency (Southern Province) reported that members of the UPND presidential campaign team were collecting voters' card details in Makuyu Ward when they were attacked by supporters of an independent parliamentary candidate. The attackers reportedly stoned a campaign vehicle. Police arrested the independent MP candidate and three other individuals, who were later released after four days in police custody.

Destruction of Political Party Materials or Property (5 incidents)

- On 25 June, CCMG's observer in Masaiti Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that suspected UPND supporters removed campaign posters belonging to the Tonse Alliance in Shimibanga Ward.
- On 26 June, CCMG's observer in Roan Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that campaign posters belonging to an independent candidate for ward councillor in Milyashi Ward were torn down and damaged by unknown people.
- On 29 June, CCMG's observer in Kaputa Constituency (Northern Province) reported that UPND campaign materials, including a public address system and other equipment used during campaigns, were damaged by members of the Tonse Alliance.
- On 3 July, CCMG's observer in Chavuma Constituency (North-Western Province) reported that campaign posters belonging to the UPND parliamentary candidate were removed and damaged by supporters of an independent parliamentary candidate.
- On 6 July, CCMG's observer in Chongwe West Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that UPND members destroyed a campaign billboard belonging to an independent parliamentary candidate.

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

- The ECZ should strengthen enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct by promptly and transparently investigating and sanctioning all political parties, candidates, and supporters found to have violated electoral laws and regulations, irrespective of political affiliation. Furthermore, the ECZ should provide updates on the number of incidents reported through the ECZ's early warning and reporting systems and any action taken through the Conflict Management Committees.
- The ECZ should closely monitor and take decisive action against incidents involving voter inducement, the collection of voters' card and NRC details, and the misuse of public resources for partisan political purposes. Particularly, the ECZ should enforce Paragraph 1(2) the Electoral Process Act which requires that public officers should not engage in any partisan political activities.
- The ECZ should issue clear guidance prohibiting campaign activities in prohibited places such as schools during learning hours and ensure equal application of campaign regulations across all political actors. Additionally, ECZ should enforce Paragraph 3 (1) (d) of the Electoral Process Act.

Political Parties

- All political parties and candidates should publicly commit themselves to peaceful campaigns and strictly adhere to the Electoral Code of Conduct.
- In line with Article 60 (3) (b) CCMG reiterates its call for political party leaders to take responsibility for the conduct of their members and supporters by condemning violence, harassment, intimidation, and acts of electoral malpractice whenever they occur.
- CCMG urges political parties to refrain from transporting and mobilising masked youths or individuals dressed in military-style attire during political activities, as these practices contribute to fear, intimidation, and heightened political tensions.



Zambia Police Service

- CCMG urges Zambia Police officers to adhere to Paragraph 6 of the Electoral Process Act, which requires that Police officers refrain from disrupting any campaign, rally, or meeting that is legally convened by a political party.
- The Police should urgently conclude investigations into all election-related fatalities and violent incidents recorded during the campaign period and ensure that perpetrators are arrested and prosecuted without fear or favour.
- The Zambia Police Service should ensure that the Public Order Act and other relevant laws are applied consistently and impartially to guarantee equal enjoyment of fundamental freedoms, including freedoms of assembly, association, and political participation.

Anti-Corruption Commission

- While CCMG notes that the ACC launched a toll-free line (5980) to report electoral-related corruption, the ACC should intensify investigations into allegations involving voter inducement, abuse of public resources, and the use of government programmes and benefits for partisan political purposes.
- CCMG urges the ACC to provide regular public updates on investigations relating to electoral corruption offences to strengthen public confidence and deter future violations. The ACC should work closely with the ECZ and other law enforcement agencies to strengthen the detection, reporting and prosecution of electoral corruption offences during the campaign period.

Civil Society Organisations

- Civil society organisations and faith-based organisations should intensify civic and voter education efforts to complement the ECZ's nationwide voter education programme, particularly in underserved and vulnerable communities.
- Civil society organisations and faith-based organisations should continue stakeholder engagements and dialogue to promote peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives at the community level.

Traditional and Religious Leaders

- CCMG urges traditional leaders to strictly uphold their constitutional and customary obligation to remain politically neutral and refrain from publicly endorsing or campaigning for any political party or candidate during the electoral period.
- Traditional leaders should ensure that public gatherings within their chiefdoms are open and accessible to all political actors on equal terms, and should not use their authority to influence their subjects' political choices.
- The House of Chiefs, working with relevant institutions, should develop and enforce a Code of Conduct for traditional leaders during elections and establish mechanisms for addressing allegations of partisan conduct in a transparent and timely manner. Traditional leaders should strictly uphold their constitutional and customary obligation to remain politically neutral and refrain from publicly endorsing or campaigning for any political party or candidate during the electoral period.

Conclusion

CCMG's findings from this reporting period reveal a pre-election environment that is becoming increasingly contested. The escalation in politically motivated violence, including the first election-related fatalities recorded, continued voter inducement, intimidation, destruction of campaign materials, and disruptions of lawful political activities present serious threats to the conduct of peaceful, credible, and inclusive elections.

These developments arise at a critical stage as Zambia approaches Election Day. Although the ECZ has made commendable progress in voter education and election preparations, protecting electoral integrity remains a shared responsibility requiring active commitment from all stakeholders. Political leaders must show restraint and leadership, government institutions must carry out their mandates impartially and effectively, and citizens must reject violence and all forms of electoral malpractice.

CCMG is deeply concerned by the rising frequency and severity of political violence. Electoral competition must never justify intimidation, exclusion, or the loss of life; no political office is worth the life of any Zambian citizen. CCMG therefore urges all political parties, candidates, government institutions, civil society organisations, traditional and religious leaders, and citizens to recommit to peaceful coexistence, tolerance, accountability, and respect for the rule of law. The remaining weeks before the polls offer an opportunity to reverse the troubling trends identified in this report and protect Zambia's democratic gains.

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 email to info@ccmgzambia.org.





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