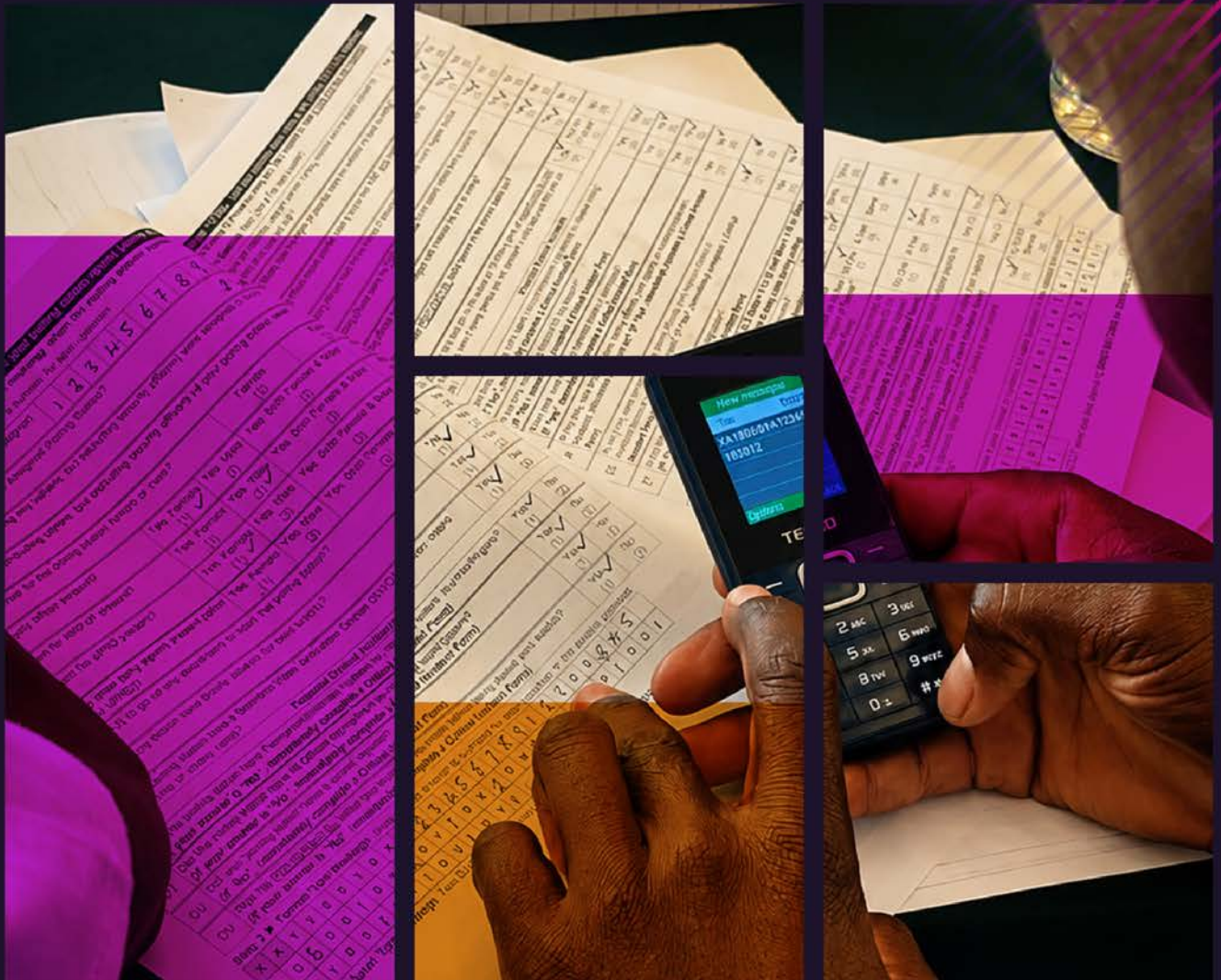




Long Term Pre-Election Observation Report No. 7



ELECTION READINESS AMID RISING POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND WEAK ENFORCEMENT



OBSERVATION BRIEF
07 July - 13 August, 2026



GOOD
GOVERNANCE



STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



DEMOCRATIC
FUTURE

I. Introduction

This seventh Pre-Election Long Term Observation Report reviews the electoral situation at a critical stage in the preparations for the 2026 General Elections. During this period, political parties and candidates intensified their outreach nationwide as election day approached. While the electoral process remained on schedule, the campaign environment deteriorated, marked by increased politically-motivated violence, intimidation, and repeated breaches of the Electoral Code of Conduct.

CCMG is increasingly concerned about rising political tensions and ongoing campaign-related incidents between rival parties nationwide. Observer reports indicated a rise in politically-motivated violence, with continued violations of the Electoral Code of Conduct despite CCMG's repeated calls for restraint. Notably, approximately forty-two percent (42%) of incidents since the campaign began resulted in no police action or intervention. This lack of enforcement risked fostering a culture of impunity, undermining public trust, and increasing the likelihood of further violence as the election approached.

CCMG also noted significant electoral preparations during this period. The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) completed the printing of ballot papers and distributed election materials in phases to provinces, districts, and constituencies. The Commission also trained polling officials across the country, an essential step to ensure efficient management on election day. Additionally, the ECZ held a series of stakeholder meetings to provide updates on preparedness, including sharing the electoral calendar.

At the same time, the Church engaged in several peacebuilding initiatives. The three (3) main Church bodies organized a National Day of Prayer for Peaceful Elections, and launched a Peaceful Campaign Initiative to promote non-violent political participation. Political parties and candidates were asked to publicly commit to peaceful campaigning by signing a Peace and Non-Violent Campaign Pledge. Although twenty-four (24) political parties including thirteen (13) political parties contesting the presidential elections supported and signed the peace pledge, CCMG remains seriously concerned, as incidents of political violence and breaches of the Electoral Code of Conduct were reported just days after the signing. This demonstrates a gap between public commitments and actual behavior. These events underscore the urgent need for all political actors to honor their commitments and for law enforcement to apply the law fairly and consistently.

During the reporting period, several international Election Observation Missions (EOMs) arrived to monitor the 2026 General Elections. Notable missions included the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM), the International Conference on the

Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Southern African Development Community Election Observation Mission (SADC-SEOM), the Election Commissions Forum of SADC (ECF-SADC), the Commonwealth Election Observation Mission, and the African Union/COMESA Election Observation Mission (AU/COMESA EOM). Their presence across various regions enhances the transparency and credibility of the electoral process through independent observation and assessment.

This report presents CCMG's assessment of key electoral developments during the review period. It examines the political and security situation, adherence to the Electoral Code of Conduct, election organization, stakeholder preparedness, and other factors influencing the credibility, inclusiveness, and peaceful conduct of Zambia's 2026 General Elections. The findings and recommendations are intended to support stakeholders in promoting a peaceful, transparent, and credible electoral process..

Key Areas of Focus During the Pre-Election Period

During this seventh 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

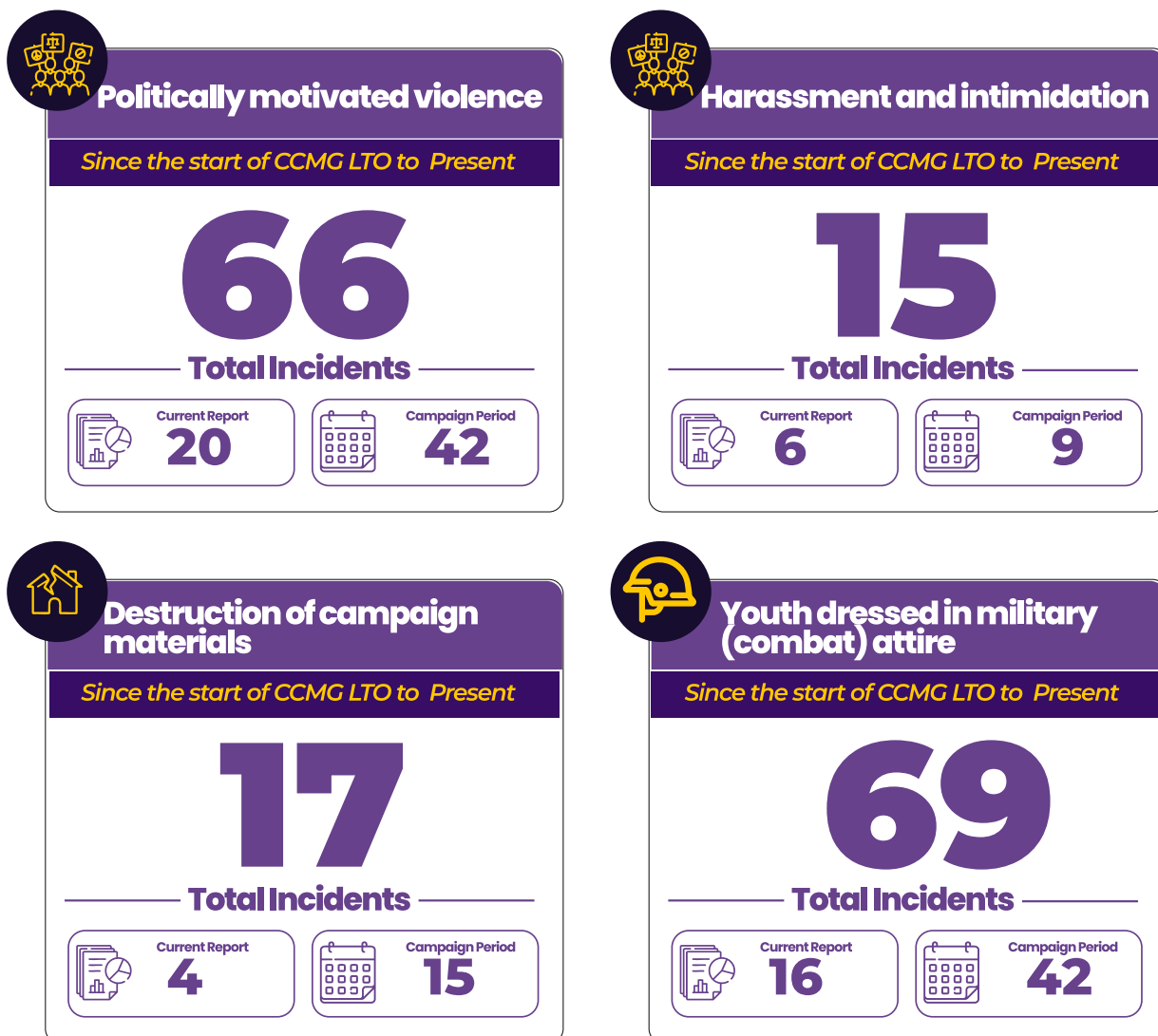
Based on reports from CCMG's observers across all constituencies, districts, and provinces covering the period 7 July to 13 August, 2026, and in comparison with findings from the six previous reporting periods covering the period 2 March - 6 July, 2026, CCMG observed the following key trends and developments (detailed below under III. Detailed Findings):

1. ***Electoral Code of Conduct Violations and Other Offences:***

CCMG noted that, as reported in the earlier Report 6, the violent incidents rose sharply from ten (10) to twenty (20) in this reporting period as election day approached. This brought the total of the incidents reported to sixty-six (66) since the launch of the CCMG's long-term observation on 2 March 2026, and forty-two (42) since the beginning of the campaign period.

Of the twenty (20) incidents of politically-motivated violence, most were recorded in Southern Province with seven (7) incidents, and Eastern Province with four (4) incidents. Eighteen (18) incidents were perpetrated by the United Party for National Development (UPND), with two (2) perpetrated by masked men of unknown political affiliation. National Reconciliation Party for Unity and Prosperity (NRPUP) members were victims in ten (10) of the incidents, while independent candidates were victims in nine (9) of the incidents, and in one (1) incident, UPND prevented all other parties from participating in ballot reception. Police intervention was reported in eleven (11) incidents with several arrests, while no convictions were made. Several injuries were also reported.

Additionally, observers documented six (6) incidents involving harassment and intimidation during political activities, four (4) instances of destruction of campaign materials, especially campaign posters, sixteen (16) incidents where youth were dressed in military-like (combat) attire during party activities, and five (5) incidents where a meeting was stopped or suspended. These violations demonstrated continued weaknesses in compliance with the Electoral Code of Conduct and increasing political and electoral tension as campaigns intensified.



The distribution of handouts as an inducement to support a particular party or candidate recorded a decline for the first time since the start of LTO reporting, with only twenty-one percent (21%) reporting handouts compared to Report 6 where twenty-four percent (24%) reported handouts. These incidents were recorded across the country, with the parliamentary and local government candidates named as main perpetrators. Observers also reported two (2) incidents of collection of NRC or Voters' cards, with one (1) incident where physical cards were collected.

2. Voter Education/Information:

During this reporting period, CCMG noted that the conduct of the voter education activities by the ECZ/VEFs declined to sixty-five percent (65%) from seventy-one percent (71%) reported in Report 6. Voter education activities by local media remained at thirteen percent (13%), similar to Report 6, and voter education activities by civil society organizations/faith based organizations slightly increased to two percent (2%). Targeting of voter education towards special interest groups remained relatively low at thirty-one percent (31%) towards

youth, twenty-nine percent (29%) towards women, and twenty-six percent (26%) towards persons with disabilities.

CCMG continues to call on these stakeholders to increase voter education engagements for this and future electoral activities to enhance the participation of citizens in these processes from an informed position.

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

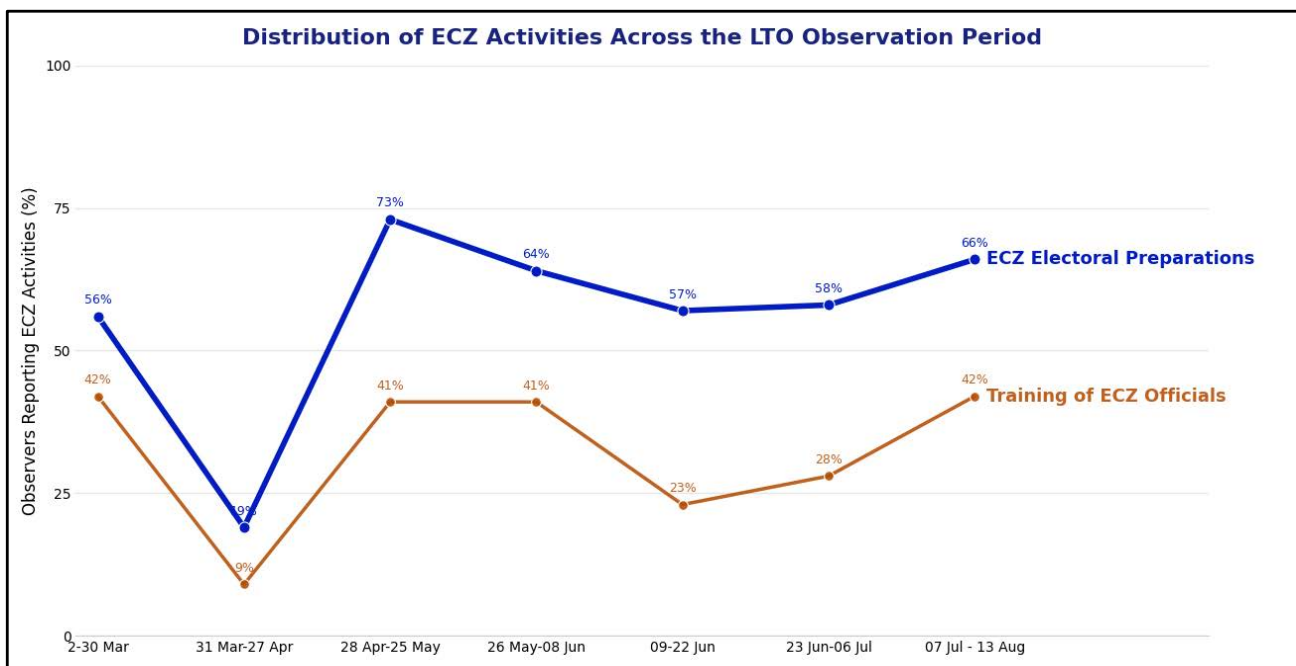
CCMG continued to observe relatively low but persistent levels of political endorsements by traditional leaders during this reporting period. Two percent (2%) of observers reported instances where traditional or religious leaders used their influence to support particular political parties or candidates. This represents a marginal decrease from Report 6, where three percent (3%) of the observers reported these instances.

These endorsements were reported across eight (8) of the ten (10) provinces, suggesting that the practice remains geographically widespread. Most of these endorsements supported the UPND, with a few supporting NRPUP and one for an independent candidate. CCMG notes that these incidents continue to create an unfair advantage for some candidates and calls on the Electoral Commission of Zambia to ensure an even political environment for all candidates and parties.

III. Detailed Findings

Preparations by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)

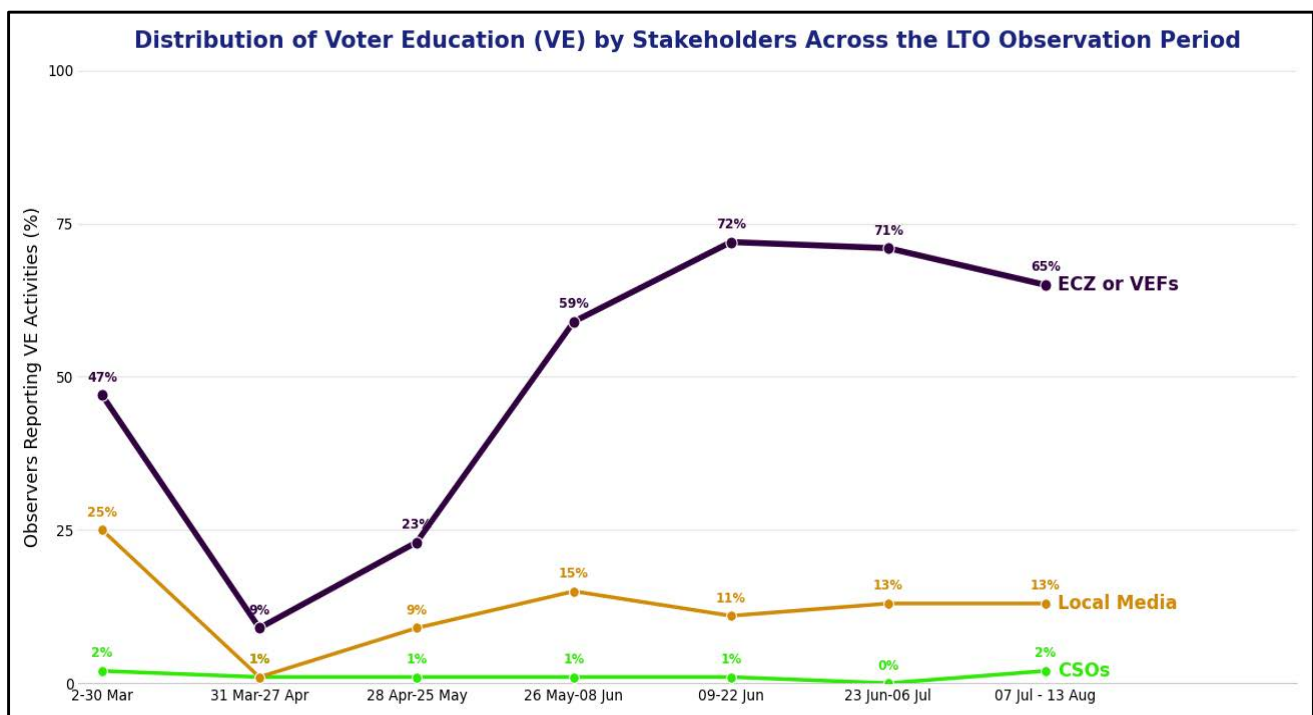
- During this reporting period, on average, 66% of CCMG's observers observed ECZ preparations for the general elections, and 42% of observers reported training of ECZ officials for District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and Returning Officers (ROs). Both of these activities peaked as election day approached, and further included recruitment, training, and deployment of election day polling officials.



Voter Education/Information

- Sixty-five percent (65%) of CCMG's observers reported voter education activities by ECZ officials or voter education facilitators (VEFs). Additionally, two percent (2%) of observers reported voter education activities conducted by faith-based organisations (FBOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs). These included a Centre for Zero Waste meeting on violence against women in politics, held in Serenje (Central Province), Voice of Influence Zambia and Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Ndola Central (Copperbelt Province), Foundation for Democratic Progress in Chama North (Eastern Province), and Youth Development Organization in Choma Central (Southern Province).
- Thirteen percent (13%) of CCMG's observers reported voter education activities conducted by local media. Examples include:
 - Blue Sky Radio and Mumbwa Community Radio in Central Province;

- Platinum Radio in Copperbelt Province;
 - Kwenje Community Radio and Kanele FM in Eastern Province;
 - Radio Luapula and Mwansabombwe Radio in Luapula Province;
 - Lilayi Radio and Lumen TV in Lusaka Province;
 - Radio Delight and Chete FM in Muchinga Province;
 - Chavuma Radio and Kasempa Radio in North-Western Province;
 - Luasanse Radio and Liberty Radio in Northern Province;
 - Choma Maanu Radio Station and Radio Maria in Southern Province; and
 - Mwandi FM in Western Province.
- Among those who reported the occurrence of voter education activities, 31% reported that the activities targeted youth, 29% targeted women, and 26% targeted persons with disabilities.



Political Parties, Traditional and Religious Leaders, and Civil Servants

- Two percent (2%) 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.

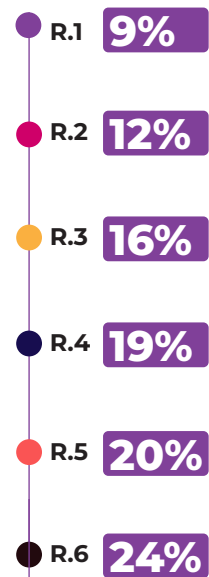
Province	Constituency	Type of Leader	Party Supported
Central	Lufubu, Mumbwa, Mwembezhi, Nangoma	Traditional	UPND
Copperbelt	Lufwanyama	Religious	UPND
Eastern	Chama Central, Chama South, Nyimba	Traditional	UPND, Independent
Luapula	Luapula, Mansa Central, Milenge	Traditional	NRPUP, UPND
Lusaka	N/A	N/A	N/A
Muchinga	Chinsali, Kanchibiya, Nakonde	Traditional, Religious	UPND
North-Western	Chavuma, Zambezi East	Traditional	UPND, Independent
Northern	Mbala	Traditional	UPND
Southern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Western	Shangombo	Traditional	UPND

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of CCMG's observers reported activities conducted by UPND, while seventy percent (70%) reported activities conducted by another party (other than UPND) or an independent candidate.
 - Of the observers who reported UPND party activities, twenty-five percent (25%) 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, eleven percent (11%) reported police providing security during the activities/meetings/rallies for other parties or independent candidates.
- One (1) CCMG observer reported instances in which non-elected government officials (i.e., civil servants) attended political party events. This incident was reported in Chasefu constituency (Eastern Province) where the District Commissioner for Chasefu openly campaigned for the re-election of the Head of State, during an agricultural meeting.

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 declined, with twenty-one percent (21%) of the observers reporting the distribution of money, foodstuffs, or other items/goods. These instances occurred across the country and were primarily perpetrated by the parliamentary and local government candidates.

Distribution of Handouts and Inducement Across the LTO Observation Period



Province	Constituencies	Goods	Parties Involved	Position
Central	Mkushi North, Muchinga, Mumbwa, Nangoma, Serenje	Party branded apparel (T-shirts, chitenges), cash, wheelchairs, Soap	NRPUP, UPND	MP
Copperbelt	Chingola, Lufwanyama, Kalulushi, Kamfinsa, Kankoyo, Masaiti, Ndola Central, Nkana, Wusakile	Cash, food items (mealie meal, chicken)	NRPUP, UPND	MP
Eastern	Chadiza East, Chama North, Chama South, Chasefu, Chipata Central, Luangeni, Lundazi, Kasenenhwa, Milanzi, Mkaika, Msanzala, Malambo, Nyimba, Kaumbwe, Kapoche	Party branded apparel (T-shirts, caps), non-branded apparel (chitenges), food items (salt)	N R P U P , SP, UPND, Independent	MP, Council Chairperson, Councillor

General Political and Campaign Environment

- Three (3) observers reported incidents where an activity by a political party or candidate in a public space was suspended or stopped. These incidents were reported in Chimwemwe (Copperbelt Province), Mandevu Constituency (Copperbelt Province), and in Sesheke (Western Province), as detailed in the critical incident sections below.
- Three (3) observers reported incidents where political campaigns took place in places

Luapula	Chiengi, Chipili, Luapula, Milenge, Mwansabombwe, Mwense, Nchelenge, Pambashe	Cash, food items, Football jerseys, party branded apparel (T-shirts, caps), fuel	NRPUP, UPND	MP
Lusaka	Kanyama, Matero, Munali, Rufunsa	Party branded apparel (T-shirts, Chitenge), food items (mealie meal)	U P N D , Independent	MP
Muchinga	Chinsali, Mfuwe, Shiwang'andu	Party branded apparel (T-shirts, Chitenge)	UPND	MP
North Western	Chavuma, Solwezi West	Cash, Party branded apparel (Chitenge)	Independent	MP, Council Chairperson
Northern	Mporokoso	Cash, food items (sugar, salt)	UPND	MP, Councillor
Southern	Gweembe, Kalomo Central, Livingstone, Magoye, Mbabala, Monze East, Monze Central, Siavonga	Cash, party branded apparel (t-shirts, caps), food items (buns, drinks, raw beef)	U P N D , Independent	MP
Western	Nalolo, Nkeyema	Cash, foodstuff, party branded apparel (t-shirts)	UPND	MP

considered prohibited:

- Chasefu Constituency (Eastern Province): a UPND MP candidate used the school grounds for campaigns and later used the classrooms to distribute party-branded materials.
- Chinsali Central Constituency (Muchinga Province): a UPND MP candidate held a campaign rally at Choshu Primary School while classes were in progress.
- Mwandu Constituency (Western Province): a UPND MP candidate conducted campaigns during class hours.
- Twenty-two (22) 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	Serenje	Campaign	UPND
Copperbelt	Nkana	Campaign	UPND
Eastern	Chama North, Chama Central	Campaign	UPND
Luapula	Bahati, Chienge, Kawambwa, Nchelenge	Campaign	UPND
Lusaka	Chawama, Kafue, Kanyama, Mandevu, Munali	Campaign	UPND
Muchinga	N/A	N/A	N/A
North-Western	Zambwezi West	Campaign	UPND
Northern	Lupososhi, Mporokoso	Campaign	UPND
Southern	Kalomo Central, Livingstone	Campaign	UPND
Western	Nalolo, Nkeyema, Senanga, Shangombo	Campaign	UPND

- Twenty (20) observers reported incidents of violent physical attacks during a political party activity or event. These incidents were reported in six (6) provinces, as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Three (3) observers reported incidents of intimidation or harassment against a candidate or his/her supporters. These incidents were reported in Chasefu South (Eastern Province), and in Kafue and Kabwata Constituencies (both in Lusaka Province), as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Two (2) observers reported cases where voters' cards and/or NRC details were collected during campaigns. Additionally, one (1) observer reported an incident in which UPND cadres forcibly collected physical voters' cards, as detailed in the critical incidents section below.
- Seventeen (17) observers reported instances in which youth were ferried from one constituency to another for political purposes. Fifteen (15) of these cases were perpetrated by the UPND and two (2) by the NRPUP. These were reported in:

Province	Constituency	Party/ Candidate	Narration
Central	Nangoma	UPND	Youth ferried from Nangoma to Mumbwa for campaigns
Central	Muchinga	NRPUP	Ferried from Kundalila to Lukusashi for campaigns
Copperbelt	Kwacha	UPND	Ferried from other constituencies to Kwacha for campaigns
Copperbelt	Bwana Mkubwa	UPND	Ferried from other constituencies to Bwana Mkubwa for campaigns
Eastern	Chipata Central	UPND	Ferried from other constituencies to Chipata Central for Presidential campaigns
Eastern	Chadiza East	UPND	Ferried from Chadiza West to Chadiza East for presidential campaigns
Eastern	Milanzi	UPND	Ferried from Milanzi to Mkaika for presidential campaigns
Eastern	Mkaika	UPND	Ferried from Mkaika to Sinda constituencies for presidential campaigns
Luapula	Luapula	UPND	Ferried from Luapula to Lunga for campaigns
Luapula	Bahati	NRPUP	Ferried from Mansa East and West constituencies to Bahati for a rally
Luapula	Mambilima	NRPUP	Ferried from Mwense to Mambilima for a rally
Luapula	Bangweulu	NRPUP	Ferried from Mansa to Samfya for presidential campaigns
North-Western	Kasempa	UPND	Ferried from Kasempa to Mufwashi for a UPND rally
Northern	Kaputa	UPND	Youth ferried from Kundabwika to Kaputa for a rally
Southern	Choma Central	UPND	Ferried from Choma South, Mbabala to Choma Central for a rally
Western	Mitete	UPND	Ferried from Lukulu to Mitete for an MP rally
Western	Nalikwanda	UPND	Ferried from Nalikwanda to Mongu for a presidential rally

- Four percent (4%) of the observers reported instances of youth dressed in military (combat) attire or wearing masks. These incidents were reported in nine (9) provinces, with UPND, NRPUP, and independent candidates reported as the alleged perpetrators.

Province	Constituency	Dress Type	Party Affiliation	Activity
Central	Kabwe Central, Serenje, Shibuyunji	Combat attire, Ninja Masks, Boots	UPND	Rally
Copperbelt	Bwana Mkubwa, Kwacha	Combat attire	UPND	Rally
Eastern	Chasefu South, Mkaika	Ninja masks	UPND	Rally
Luapula	Bahati, Mansa Central	Military-like attire, face masks	NRUP	Rally
Lusaka	Kafue, Kanyama	Military-like attire (boots, clothing)	NRUP, UPND	Rally
Muchinga	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North-Western	Kasempa	Masks, boots	UPND, Independent	Rally
Northern	Kaputa	Masks	UPND	Rally
Southern	Chirundu	Military-like attire	Independent	Rally
Western	Mitete, Nalikulanda	Masks	UPND	Rally

- Eight (8) observers reported the use of state vehicles for political party/candidate campaign activities. These issues were reported in Mpongwe (Copperbelt Province), Bwana Mkubwa (Copperbelt Province), Chadiza (Eastern Province), Mkaika (Eastern Province), Luapula (Luapula Province), Bahati (Luapula Province), Kasempa (North-Western Province), and Lupososhi (Northern Province) during UPND campaign activities.
- Four (4) observers reported the use of CDF and other government programs as an inducement to support a political party or candidate.
 - In Nangoma (Central Province), UPND members and the CWACS gathered community members at Nangoma Primary School grounds for a cleaning exercise. During the exercise, the UPND members also campaigned for themselves;
 - In Chasefu North (Eastern Province), where the District Commissioner actively campaigned for UPND candidates, claiming the delimitation of constituencies was done to ensure the areas received more CDF in the event that the Head of State was re-elected;
 - In Chinsali (Muchinga Province), the District Commissioner actively campaigned for the UPND candidates during a Social Cash Transfer payments event. The beneficiaries including persons aged 65 years and above, and persons with disabilities also received mobile phones;

- In Mporokoso (Northern Province), there was active campaigning for the UPND candidates during a cash-for-work program.
- Four (4) CCMG observers reported destruction of campaign materials as indicated in the table below:

Province	Constituency	Alleged Perpetrator	Alleged Victim	Material Destroyed
Copperbelt	Kamfinsa	UPND	Other parties	Campaign posters
Lusaka	Chongwe West	Unknown	UPND	Campaign posters
Lusaka	Kanyama	Independent	Independent, Citizen First	Campaign posters
North-Western	Chavuma	Independent	UPND	Campaign posters

Critical Incidents:

In this reporting period, CCMG documented thirty-six (36) critical incidents, including twenty (20) 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; two (2) incidents of buying/collecting voters' card or NRC numbers (not taking cards); one (1) incident of collecting voters' cards (taking physical cards); four (4) incidents of destruction of political party materials or property; and one (1) incident where a party member or supporter used inflammatory, defamatory or vulgar language.

Politically-Motivated Violence or Attack, Incitement to Public Disorder (20 incidents)

Central Province (2 incidents)

- On 11 July, CCMG's observer in Muchinga Constituency (Central Province) reported that suspected UPND supporters assaulted an NRPUP parliamentary candidate during a scheduled campaign activity in Chimishi Area of Chibale Ward. Several people reportedly sustained injuries while fleeing the scene. A Mitsubishi Pajero vehicle was left at the scene after its keys were reportedly taken by one of the suspected perpetrators. The matter was reported to the Zambia Police Service; however, no arrests were reported.
- On 29 July, CCMG's observer in Mwembeshi Constituency (Central Province) reported that a joint campaign rally organised by independent parliamentary candidates in Nampeya Ward was disrupted by UPND cadres. The group, some of whom were armed and wearing party regalia, ninja masks, and military-style boots, attacked attendees, resulting in several injuries, including serious injuries to musician General Kanene, and damaged a campaign vehicle. The incident was reported to the police. No arrests were reported. However, the police launched investigations.

Copperbelt Province (3 incidents)

- On 23 July, CCMG's observer in Ndola Central Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that suspected UPND supporters disrupted an NRPUP campaign rally at Twapia Grounds by throwing stones and blocking buses transporting supporters before the arrival of the NRPUP presidential candidate and his running mate. A school pupil sustained injuries after being struck by a stone. Zambia Police officers dispersed the crowd using tear gas, restored order, and escorted the candidates to the venue, after which the rally proceeded without further incident. No arrests were reported.
- On 24 July, CCMG's observer in Nkana Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that suspected UPND cadres damaged several vehicles belonging to the NRPUP campaign

team at Shelbourne Hotel, where the NRPUP presidential candidate and his running mate were accommodated. The police were alerted but responded after the perpetrators had fled the scene. No injuries or arrests were reported.

- On 8 August, a CCMG observer in Kalulushi Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that suspected UPND cadres armed with firearms disrupted an orientation meeting for NRPUP/Tonse Alliance agents at Immatac Academy in Kalulushi. A confrontation reportedly broke out after party agents attempted to defend themselves by throwing stones at the attackers, who then allegedly fired several rounds of live ammunition to disperse the gathering. The incident resulted in multiple injuries and property damage. There was no police action reported at the time of reporting.

Eastern Province (4 incidents)

- On 8 July, CCMG's observer in Petauke Central Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that a driver for the NRPUP parliamentary candidate was attacked while refuelling a campaign vehicle at a Rubis filling station by UPND cadres driving a UPND-branded Toyota Hilux. The driver escaped and drove back to the campaign centre, where he was reportedly pursued by the group. The same individuals also assaulted a security guard and damaged a parked vehicle, smashing its windows. The driver and the security guard sustained injuries and were taken to Kalindawalo General Hospital for treatment. The police visited the scene of the incident and took a statement from the victims; however, no arrests were reported.
- On 9 July, CCMG's observer in Chama North (Eastern Province) reported an incident of violence where UPND cadres physically attacked and injured a member of the NRPUP campaign team at Mutenguleni Lodge, and damaged personal items including a mobile phone. There was no police involvement reported.
- On 24 July, CCMG's observer in Sinda Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that a campaign meeting organised by NRPUP in Kamphamule Village was disrupted by suspected UPND supporters, with the ensuing confrontation escalating into violence. Supporters from both parties stoned each other. The observer reported that the NRPUP parliamentary candidate later proceeded to Mujunze Village, where he was followed by the same group, resulting in further tension. The village headmen intervened and advised the NRPUP candidate to leave the area to preserve peace. No police intervention was reported.
- On 2 August, CCMG's observer in Chama North Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that clashes occurred between UPND and NRPUP supporters in Chief Chibale's area. The confrontation reportedly resulted in damage to several houses, including a guest house

belonging to the UPND Nkhankha Ward Youth Chairperson. Zambia Police intervened to stop the violence and arrested several NRPUP supporters.

North-Western Province (1 incident)

- On 15 July, CCMG's observer in Manyinga Constituency (North-Western Province) reported an incident between supporters of an independent parliamentary candidate and a UPND parliamentary candidate at Manyinga Town Council during the recording of a ZNBC-hosted parliamentary debate. Supporters of the UPND attacked the independent candidate's entourage upon arrival, resulting in injuries to one supporter, who was taken to hospital for treatment. The following day, the same group vandalised the independent candidate's office by smashing windows with stones. The incident was reported to the Zambia Police Service, with no arrests reported. The observer further reported that Senior Chief Chifukusele later convened a meeting between the two candidates, resulting in a reconciliation following the Chief's mediation.

Southern Province (7 incidents)

- On 10 July, CCMG's observer in Choma Central Constituency (Southern Province) reported that an independent parliamentary candidate was attacked by suspected UPND supporters while conducting a scheduled campaign activity at Makalanguzu Market in Siamacheche Ward. UPND supporters who were participating in a party roadshow disrupted the campaign activity and allegedly assaulted supporters of the independent candidate, resulting in injuries to five (5) supporters. Local traders intervened to restore calm, and the independent candidate subsequently reported the matter to the police. No arrests were reported.
- On 19 July, CCMG's observer in Chirundu Constituency (Southern Province) reported that suspected UPND supporters disrupted a campaign rally held by an independent parliamentary candidate at Chibaketi Grounds. The group allegedly intended to attack the candidate, who was escorted away by supporters. Zambia Police officers deployed to the scene, de-escalated the situation, and instructed the aggressors to leave. Following police intervention, the independent candidate resumed campaign activities, including a roadshow. The observer further reported that the same group followed the roadshow, disrupted the campaign, and attacked members of the independent candidate's team near Zambeef Stores. One supporter from each group sustained injuries and was taken to hospital for treatment. Zambia Police dispersed the crowd and restored order. No arrests were reported.
- On 28 July, CCMG's observer in Monze Central Constituency (Southern Province) reported that an independent parliamentary candidate's scheduled campaign meeting in

Katimba Ward was disrupted by a group of masked individuals. The disruption escalated into physical attacks on attendees and damage to campaign vehicles belonging to the candidate and his entourage. No injuries or police intervention were reported.

- On 30 July, CCMG's observer in Namwala East Constituency (Southern Province) reported that the independent parliamentary candidate and his campaign team were attacked by unidentified individuals while returning from campaign activities in Namusonde Ward. The assailants, who were armed and travelling in unregistered vehicles, blocked the convoy, damaged campaign vehicles, and injured several members of the campaign team before fleeing. Zambia Police officers arrived approximately three (3) hours later and recorded statements from the victims. No arrests were reported.
- On 2 August, CCMG's observer in Livingstone Constituency (Southern Province) reported that an independent mayoral candidate and his campaign team were attacked by suspected UPND cadres during a campaign activity at Sakson Ground in Freedom Ward. The incident occurred while the candidate and his team were taking a break when a group of individuals approached and stoned them. The mayoral candidate was reportedly punched in the face, while a member of his team sustained a cut to the head. Police were alerted and deployed to the scene, but the attackers had fled upon their arrival. No arrests were reported.
- On 4 August, CCMG's observer in Livingstone Constituency (Southern Province) reported that UPND cadres attacked party agents and prevented representatives of other political parties from witnessing the arrival of ballot papers. There were no reports of injuries or police involvement.
- On 12 August, CCMG's observer in Mazabuka Central Constituency (Southern Province) reported that supporters of the UPND and supporters of an independent parliamentary candidate clashed during campaign roadshows in the Central Business District. Supporters of the UPND parliamentary candidate attempted to prevent the independent candidate's campaign team from conducting its roadshow, with the ensuing altercation escalating to violence. The violence occurred within the market area, causing traders and members of the public to flee for safety. Zambia Police officers intervened and restored order. No injuries or arrests were reported.

Western Province (3 incidents)

- On 14 July, CCMG's observer in Mangango Constituency (Western Province) reported a violent confrontation between UPND supporters and an independent parliamentary candidate in the Kafwasonyi area. The incident reportedly escalated into physical violence, resulting in several people sustaining injuries. No arrests were reported.

- On 4 August, CCMG's observer in Luampa Constituency (Western Province) reported that UPND cadres blocked the road and attacked the NRPUP presidential candidate and his entourage in the presence of Zambia Police officers. Gunshots were fired during the incident. The observer was unable to ascertain the number of injuries. No arrests were reported.
- On 5 August, CCMG's observer in Kalabo Constituency (Western Province) reported that Zambia Police officers, together with suspected UPND cadres, disrupted an NRPUP campaign rally and dispersed attendees using tear gas. The NRPUP presidential candidate reportedly sustained injuries before being rescued by his security and party officials. A police officer is also reported to have been injured during the incident. No arrests were reported.

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

- On 12 July, CCMG's observer in Senanga Constituency (Western Province) reported that the Zambia Police Service disrupted a Citizens First party meeting held at the party office because the party had failed to notify the police of the meeting. The Police further indicated that the Citizens First President, who was expected to chair the meeting, was not scheduled to conduct campaign activities in Western Province on that date per the ECZ campaign timetable.
- On 14 July, CCMG's observer in Sesheke Constituency (Western Province) reported that a campaign activity by an independent parliamentary candidate was disrupted by suspected UPND supporters, and that the UPND supporters objected to all other parties conducting activities in the area. The observer further reported that the same group had previously disrupted a campaign activity conducted by the UPND mayoral candidate for unknown reasons.
- On 16 July, CCMG's observer in Munali Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that a campaign roadshow in the Kalingalinga area involving the NRPUP presidential candidate was disrupted after reports of gunshots caused panic among supporters and residents. Zambia Police responded by firing tear gas to disperse the crowd. The NRPUP candidate reportedly maintained that the campaign activity was peaceful and conducted in accordance with the ECZ campaign timetable, alleging that the police unnecessarily used tear gas to disrupt the event and intimidate his supporters. However, the police stated that the action was taken to restore public order following concerns about the conduct of the event.

- On 21 July, CCMG's observer in Chimwemwe Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported the disruption of an NRPUP meeting by UPND supporters for unknown reasons. The ensuing confrontation escalated to violence, resulting in injury to an NRPUP supporter who was taken to Kitwe Central Hospital and reportedly died two days later. There was no report of police involvement or arrests.
- On 5 August, CCMG's observer in Mongu Constituency (Western Province) reported that Zambia Police officers disrupted a scheduled NRPUP campaign rally by dispersing attendees with tear gas. Police further detained three musicians, one comedian, and thirteen other members of the campaign and media teams. The observer reported that the individuals were charged with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace and remained in police custody at the time of reporting.

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

- On 8 July, CCMG's observer in Kafue Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that an independent candidate for Council Chairperson in Kafue District received an online threat during the election campaign period. The candidate reported the matter to the ECZ and the Zambia Police as a case of intimidation and a potential act of electoral violence, requesting an urgent investigation to safeguard candidates, campaign teams, and the public. The ECZ acknowledged receipt of the complaint and scheduled a meeting involving the concerned parties for 10 July. No resolution was reported.
- On 8 July, CCMG's observer in Chasefu South Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that an independent parliamentary candidate and eleven (11) members of his campaign team were harassed and intimidated by a known UPND cadre while the team was erecting campaign posters at Bwandila Market in the Emusa area. The UPND cadre attempted to prevent them from doing so, claiming that the posters had been placed too close to those of the UPND presidential candidate. No police involvement was reported.
- On 16 July, CCMG's observer in Kabwata Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that individuals dressed in UPND regalia forced entry into the campaign office of the NRPUP parliamentary candidate for Kabwata Constituency. The individuals reportedly damaged property, including breaking house windows and the office's front door. The incident was reported to the police, who responded hours later. The candidate expressed concern over the police response, further alleging that officers who were present during the incident did not intervene. No arrests were reported.

Buying/Collecting of Voters' Card or NRC Numbers (Not Taking Physical Cards) (2 incidents)

- On 10 July, CCMG's observer in Chama North Constituency (Eastern Province) reported that a UPND member collected NRC and voters' card details from residents of Makeni A Compound. The residents were promised UPND-branded chitenges and t-shirts for sharing their NRC and voters' card details.
- On 23 July, CCMG's observer in Chilanga Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that five (5) UPND supporters, comprising three women and two men, held a meeting with residents of Masongoti Village during which they requested community members to provide their NRC numbers. Approximately ten (10) residents provided their NRC details, and were promised UPND regalia in return.

Buying/Collecting of Voters' Cards or NRCs (Taking Physical Cards) (1 incident)

- On 19 July, CCMG's observer in Siavonga Constituency (Southern Province) reported that a broadcast on Radio Kariba FM alleged that, on 17 and 18 July, a known group of UPND cadres moved door-to-door in Kanyebele, Kaleya, Mitcho, and Manchanvwa communities purchasing voters' cards for K2,000. The UPND cadres allegedly threatened to remove individuals who refused to surrender their voters' cards from the Social Cash Transfer programme. The observer further reported that supporters of an independent candidate claimed to have witnessed the alleged buying of voters' cards and subsequently reported the matter to the ECZ.

Destruction of Political Party Materials or Property (4 incidents)

- On 9 July, CCMG's observer in Chavuma Constituency (North-Western Province) reported that supporters of an independent MP candidate ripped and defaced campaign posters for the UPND MP candidate, claiming that he was unwanted in the constituency. No police or ECZ action was reported.
- On 11 July, CCMG's observer in Chongwe West Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that police apprehended an individual of unknown political affiliation for destroying campaign posters of the Republican President. The individual reportedly informed the police that an aspiring independent parliamentary candidate had instructed him to destroy campaign posters in retaliation for the destruction of the candidate's campaign billboards, an allegation the candidate denied.
- On 12 July, CCMG's observer in Kanyama Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that an independent MP candidate alleged that his posters were defaced by supporters of a female MP independent candidate. No police action was reported. Later, the same MP candidate had his posters also destroyed by the Citizens First MP candidate on 20 July.

- On 20 July, CCMG's observer in Kamfinsa Constituency (Copperbelt Province) reported that UPND cadres destroyed campaign posters for other parties in the constituency. Additionally, the UPND cadres prevented any other parties or candidates from placing their posters on walls near the Fire Brigade, the Councillor's Office, Ndeke Market and along Robert Junction, claiming all these areas were reserved for UPND posters. No police action was reported.

Party Member or Supporter using Inflammatory/Defamatory/Vulgar/Offensive/Insulting Language (1 incident)

- On 24 July, CCMG's observer in Chawama Constituency (Lusaka Province) reported that a meeting conducted by the NRPUP parliamentary candidate with his supporters at a private property was disrupted by UPND supporters dressed in party regalia. The UPND supporters used inflammatory, insulting, and threatening language. The observer reported that a few police officers were initially present; however, additional officers later arrived and restored order.

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

- CCMG reiterates its call for the ECZ to 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. The ECZ should use its early warning and reporting systems to inform this process and document any actions taken through the Conflict Management Committees.
- In keeping with Paragraph 3(2) of the Electoral Process Act, the ECZ should closely monitor campaign activities and take decisive action against incidents involving voter inducement, the collection of voters' cards and NRC details, and the misuse of public resources for partisan political purposes. Particularly, the ECZ should enforce Paragraph 1(2) of the Electoral Process Act, which requires that public officers should not engage in any partisan political activities.

Political Parties

- All political parties and candidates should publicly commit themselves to peaceful campaigns and strictly adhere to the Electoral Code of Conduct.
- 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.
- 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.

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 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

- CCMG urges the ACC to enforce section 35 of the Anti-Corruption Act by monitoring campaign activities in order to effectively investigate and prosecute offences of bribery prescribed under section 81 of the Electoral Process Act, and 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.

Conclusion

CCMG underscores that the true credibility of the 2026 General Elections depends not just on timely preparations, but on unwavering respect for the rules. The ECZ has taken important steps by printing and distributing ballot papers, training officials, and engaging with stakeholders. Yet, the worsening campaign atmosphere casts a shadow over the integrity and peace of the elections. Alarming incidents ranging from politically-motivated violence and intimidation to voter inducement, illegal collection of voters' cards and NRC details, destruction of campaign materials, misuse of public resources, and the appearance of masked or military-style youths are happening far too often to be dismissed. Even more troubling, police have failed to respond to nearly half of reported incidents since the campaign began.

CCMG calls on the ECZ, Zambia Police Service, political parties, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and all relevant bodies to move beyond empty promises and warnings, and to take bold, tangible steps to enforce regulations and ensure accountability. The days leading up to and during Election Day will be a defining moment for Zambia's democracy. Political parties and candidates must own their supporters' actions and show a true commitment to peaceful elections. Law enforcement must uphold the law fairly and impartially. The ECZ should make full use of its conflict-management and early-warning systems to act swiftly and transparently when violations occur. Citizens, civil society, and traditional and religious leaders all have a vital role in championing peaceful, inclusive, and credible participation.

CCMG reminds all stakeholders that keeping the peace during elections requires restraint, just enforcement, accountability, and respect for every voter and participant. No political party is above the law, no candidate should escape accountability, and every violation deserves investigation. Ultimately, the 2026 elections will be judged not only by who wins, but by whether the process inspires public trust and upholds the spirit of democracy.

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 info@ccmgzambia.org.



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