



Zambia Elections Information Centre

ZEIC

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ZEIC WEEKLY REPORT

6th June 2016 TO 11th June 2016



Report by
Zambia Elections Information Centre

INTRODUCTION

With the complexities that come with holding tripartite elections, it has become essential to find viable means of improving the quality of elections and facilitating for real time corrective action to challenges as they occur before, during and after elections. The aim of the Zambia Elections Information Centre is improve the quality of elections through sharing information at various stages of elections with key stakeholders with the hope of resolving the challenges. The Election Information Centre is, a project anchored on ICT where trained election observers and citizens share information and views on elections. In 2016 ZEIC will monitor the following components of the election cycle;

1. Media
2. Campaign Financing
3. Citizen's views
4. Election observation

This report presents the second of a weekly round-up of reports that we will be sharing with our listeners, which vividly highlight what is happening across the country as the election period unfolds. The report provides information obtained through careful and detailed analysis of reports sent in by credible election observers and citizens from across Zambia. As part of ensuring that our discussions are not only informative but interactive, we will have experts and representation from key stakeholders in the election process, feature on our shows and share their views on the information at hand. We would like to categorically state that as a platform, we are non-partisan and we will not share unverified information.

The Zambia Elections Information Centre Project and would henceforth, like to share with the listeners what has come in thus far from the citizens regarding elections. Our listeners should be rest assured that these reports are assessed by a team of qualified analysts who work round the clock to ensure that we remain credible and factual as a platform. Every week, our platform will generate reports accompanied by numbers and aggregated data to provide a descriptive picture of what is happening country wide. The following emerged as key on our platforms this past week

KEY ISSUES OF THE WEEK

- Women Participation
- Asset Declaration
- Adoption Process
- Referendum on Bill of Rights

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Candidate selection as well as presidential nomination having since been completed, the small number of women on these lists was highlighted by the Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL) as they shared some statistics on observations made. Political parties adopting women to contest in elections between 2011 and the upcoming 2016 election, compared at 138 and 87 women, respectively.

The reduction in number saddened the organization. ZNWL also gave information on their findings that indeed the process of adoption is not so transparent in some political parties, where some adoptions were stated to have been done in secrecy and at the very last minute, leaving many aspiring women in the dark.

Some women disclosed to the lobby that some adoption committees at various levels were soliciting for bribes in order to have adoptions secured, opening questions of corrupt practices within political parties and also how the will of people on the ground is not always reflective in some cases, not only for potential women candidates, but men as well.

Social media users who engaged with the ZEIC Twitter page sited the environment being less than ideal due to constant brutal character assassination and sexist remarks targeted at women in politics.

ASSET DECLARATION

The requisite that presidential candidates declare their assets during nomination has often not gone without controversy. This election saw social media users debating amongst themselves the amount of wealth that individuals vying for

political office declared, how it was acquired and if the amounts were stated honestly?

A social media poll run on ZEIC's Twitter account within 24 hours of having been opened saw over 70% of votes falling under the option that not all assets were declared by the presidential candidates.

President Edgar Lungu was at the centre of attention as individuals on some of our platforms did the "math" on how possible it was for him move from K10.9m to K 23m. Most highlighted that he has since almost doubled in wealth in the months of having been in presidential office. Online users gave various reasons for possible increase. Others argued it out as to why it was not possible by calculating president's monthly salary and possible allowances.

The question of exactly how much the president earns as well as other allowances he is entitled to that justify the increase were aired.

Hakaide Hichelma of UPND, whose status as a known business did not receive as much debate over his asset declaration. Most opinions around this rode on the fact that he is a successful business man and his asset declaration seemed reasonable. With K73.1 m worth of assets declared, roughly K10m above his 2015 declared amount.

Interestingly, smaller parties did not stir up any debate in this regard.

Other opinions stated how candidates who had in the past served in political office could be seen to have assets above those who had not.

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ADOPTION PROCESS

Week one report touched on this topic briefly and this week's observation further exposes that internal party processes are not transparent. (Noted above from the ZNWL findings; corrupt practices, secret adoptions and last minute changes playing a part in it.)

REFERENDUM ON BILL OF RIGHTS

Having listened to the general responses around the above mentioned item, ZEIC Edition of the popular radio show, The Hot Seat this week invited representatives from the Grand Coalition sit in to discuss the Bill of Rights Referendum and answer frequently asked questions and give a position on the matter. This sparked good debate on the show that also filtered to other platforms like chat groups where issues of cost saving being a noted possible result of having the referendum exercise run alongside the general election period. While others strongly felt the best exercise of voting on Bill of Rights is from a point of citizens understanding exactly what the exercise is about and aims to achieve being far more cardinal than to simply do it in a hurry although a cost saving venture.

The show received positive feedback on our social media platforms for having heard the people and also put the discussion on a radio show to widen reach. The show gave some answers as well as raised some new questions. Strongly highlighted was the need to separate constitutional making processes from political process.

WEB AND SMS PLATFORMS USAGE

There have been a cumulative xxx SMS reports, xxx web reports to ZEIC platforms as of 11/06/2016

NO.	PLATFORM	SMS REPORT	WE REPORTS
1.	Citizens		
2.	Media		
3.	Observer		
4.	TIZ		

Twitter

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	STATISTICS
1.	Tweet impressions	78,700	13,100 impressions per day

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	STATISTICS
2.	Engagement rate	1.2%	More engagement than 0.6% prior week
3.	Link clicks	51	Avg 9 link clicks per day
4.	Retweets	277	Avg 46 Retweets per day
5.	Likes	175	Avg 29 Likes per day
6.	Replies	159	Avg 27 replies per day

Facebook

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	STATISTICS (Last 30 days)
1.	Page Likes	2,582	Over 1,400 new likes 2400 page visits
2.	Posts	341	460 Likes on posts 192 Comments 92 Shares
3.	Page impressions	46,815 Organic 57,322 Viral impressions	
4.	Videos	1,055	

Instagram

NO.	Item	Details	STATISTICS
1.	Followers	222	Avg of 5 new followers per week
2.	Posts for the week	7	Avg of 1 new post per day
3.	Likes per week	15	Avg of 2 likes per post

WhatsApp

NO.	TOPIC	PERIOD OF REPORT	STATISTICS
1.	Violence cases: it has been noted that during the run up to the elections a number of reports on violence have been recorded.	Second week of May – first week of June 2016	7-9 violence cases reported on a weekly basis around Zambia.
2.	Abuse of office: political public figures abuse office (authority).eg. Usage of government vehicles during campaign.	Third week of May	1-2 reports weekly on abuse of office.
3.	Bill of Rights and Referendum: Citizens of Zambia share concerns on the lack of knowledge and clarity on the BOF and Referendum.	Second week of May – second week of June 2016	Discussed at least 4-5 times weekly all around Zambia.

YouTube

NO.	Item	Details	STATISTICS
1.	Subscribers	2	0% growth in subscribers over period
2.	Videos	4	Total views 21 over three week period

CONCLUSION

The key areas to follow up on are

- How much more comfortable citizens are with the Referendum on Bill of Rights and the actions that have been taken by ECZ to ensure so
- The actions that followed up the alert of violence from our platforms
- The actions that followed up the flagging of abuse of office from our citizen platform

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