



**MISSION REPORT
ON THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
22-25 JANUARY 2015
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Presidential Elections in the Republic of Zambia

This report focuses on the Presidential election held in Republic of Zambia on 20 January and extended to 21 January 2015 due to bad weather.

1. Death of President Michael Sata

President Sata came to power upon his election in 20 September 2011 and passed away on 28 October 2015. President Sata from the Patriotic Front (PF) defeated the incumbent President Rupiah Banda from the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) in Presidential election of 2011.

President Sata formed the Patriotic Front in 2001 after falling out with the Movement for Multiparty Democracy who did not endorse his candidature for leadership of the party. Mr. Sata stood in both the 2001 and 2006 election but did not succeed in either. In 2006, Mr. Sata declared himself the winner before voting was complete leading to civil unrest in the country. Mr. Sata was however successful in the 2011 election which brought him to power.

2. Vice President Guy Scott becomes acting President of Zambia, presidential by-election to be arranged after 90 days

Following the death of President Sata, and in accordance with constitutional provisions Dr. Guy Scott, become the acting president of Zambia until presidential by-elections were arranged in accordance with Article 38(1) of the Constitution of Zambia which states that 'if the office of the President becomes vacant by reason of his death..., an election to the office of the President shall be held in accordance with Article 34 within ninety (90) days from the date of the office becoming vacant.'

Acting president Dr. Scott thus announced 20th January, 2015, between 06:00 and 18:00 hours as the date of the Presidential Election.

Dr. Scott however did not stand in the presidential election claiming he was constitutionally barred from doing so because he was born to Scottish parents.

3.1. Logistical Arrangements for the 20 January polls

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) is responsible for organizing the country's elections i.e. conduct and the supervision of the Zambia's presidential, National Assembly (parliamentary) and Local Government elections. It's responsibilities include delimitation of constituency, ward and polling district boundaries; provision of electoral information and voter education to members of the public and the electorate , the registration of eligible citizens as voters and the update and maintenance of a register of voters; facilitate and establishment of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for the management of electoral disputes and has powers to make regulations deemed pertinent to the electoral process.

The Commission is headed by Chairperson and four other members appointed by the President.

3.2. Voter Eligibility

Zambian citizens in possession of a green National Registration Card, residing in the polling district and at least of the age of 18 years old are eligible to vote.

No new voters were however registered for the 2015 Presidential election and no transferred voters accepted.

4. Candidates contesting the election

Eleven candidates contested the 20 January 2015 election. It should be noted that only one female candidate stood in the Presidential election, Mrs. Edith Nawakwi from the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD).

Winning the leadership position of his party in a much disputed leadership race, Mr Edgar C. Lungu became the presidential candidate for the PatriotFront (PF).

Mr Hakainde Hichilema from the United Party for National Development (UPND), who was also one of the candidates for the 2011 election race and stood for a fourth time a presidential election, was Mr Lungu's closest rival for the January 20 Election.

Other candidates included:

Tilyenji Kaunda (United National Independence Party)
Eric Chanda (Fourth Revolution Party)
Elias Chipimo Jr (National Restoration Party)
Godfrey Miyanda (Heritage Party)
Daniel Pule (Christian Democratic Party)
Ludwig Sondashi (Forum for Democratic Alternatives)
Peter Sinkamba (Green Party of Zambia)

3. Voting Day : Voter turn-out low

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) said it has seen the lowest voter turnout in the country. It is believed that rainy weather affected turnout, which is stood at 32.36 percent. The Electoral Commission noted a total of 5.166.084 people were registered and illegible to vote, however only 1.671.622 votes were cast in the election which took place on 20 and 21 January 2015.

4. Rain interrupts election, voting extended

According to ECZ, bad weather was the contributing factor for the low voter turnout. Bad weather however not only affected voter turnout but also delivery of election material. Chomba Polling Station in Rufunsa District and Mpangwa Polling Station in Kabompo District did not open on 20 January 2015 as the helicopters which were supposed to deliver the materials had not reached the 2 polling stations due to bad weather. Similarly, in the Mafinga constituency in the Northern Province, all 29 polling stations did not open on time as the poll staff waited for the helicopter to deliver election materials.

5. Observers Declare Election Fair

Election observer missions from COMESA, SADC and the African Union were accredited to witness the Presidential by-election.

The African Union Observer Mission, headed by Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe former Vice president of South Africa noted that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) successfully conducted the presidential election within a limited timeframe despite some logistical constraints.

The Southern Africa Development Community, on 22 January 2015, through its statement by Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the 2015 Presidential Election in the Republic of Zambia, remarked that the Presidential election was peaceful, transparent, credible, free, and fair. Thus, reflecting the will of the people of Zambia in accordance with the National Laws and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. The statement

further noted that although incidence of violence had occurred it had not affected the elections.

However both African Union and SADC Election Observer Missions noted that only one female candidate took part in the Presidential by-election and encouraged political parties to put in place measures to ensure female participation. The AUEOM also advised strengthen the legal framework in the provision of independent candidate's, review of the electoral system to provide for president to be elected by absolute majority and enhancing the secrecy of the ballot. Mr. Mothanthé also urged ECZ to remove requirements in which voter card numbers are recorded on the counterfoil of the ballot papers.

Mr. Hichilema however claims that his supporters experienced violence throughout the campaign and that widespread intimidation took place.

6. Delays in counting and Announcements of results

Due to the ongoing voting in some areas delays in the counting process was also experienced. Late arrival of ballot boxes from some of these voting stations caused a delay in counting and thus announcement of results

Mr. Hichilema however alleged that discrepancies in the counting process took place, and demanded the commission verify the results in the presence of officials from his party and the ruling PF.

Zambia's election commission postponed the announcement of partial results from the presidential vote after complaints from the opposition. Polls stayed open Wednesday; a day after the election, and the UPND claimed that announcing results while voting is still underway, would undermine the process.

Electoral Commission of Zambia however resumed announcing partial results on 22 January 2015 and announced final results on 24 January 2015.

However the Electoral Commission of Zambia has strongly denied that any vote rigging took place.

7. Results

The Zambian electoral Commission on 23 January 2015 announced the results in which Mr Lungu won by a 48.3% majority while Mr. Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development received 46.7% of the vote.

H.E. President Edgar. C Lungu was sworn in at a ceremony held at the National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka on 25 January 2015. Dr Salif Sada Sall, AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa represented the Chairperson of the African Union Commission at this occasion, hence this report.

President Lungu will lead Zambia until regularly held General Election take place in September 2016.

8. Acceptance of poll results

Although Mr. Hichilema has publically stated that he feels the election was rigged, he has however appealed for calm from his supporters and has indicated that he would run again in the 2016 General Election.

It is unlikely that wide scale violence will occur in the postelection period, but the situation requires ongoing monitoring in the run up to the 2016 General Election.

It is also hoped that President Lungu will adopt a reconciliatory tone which he has done in his speech at his inauguration.

9. New Cabinet Appointments

President Lungu started the process of forming a new cabinet and has appointed former Home Affairs Minister, Ngosa Simbyakula as Minister of Justice. Mr. Simbyakula's first priority would be to draft a new constitution in line with previous promises made by former President Michael Sata upon his inauguration in 2011.

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