



**Caritas
Zambia**

Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG)

For Free and Fair Elections

CCMG Verification Statement on the Accuracy of the Results of the 2016 Presidential Election

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CHRISTIAN CHURCHES MONITORING GROUP (CCMG)

The Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) is an alliance of four faith based organisations formed to help promote credible elections through non-partisan citizen monitoring. The CCMG partner organisations are: Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ); Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ); Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflections (JCTR); and Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB), formerly the Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC), through Caritas Zambia. CCMG was founded ahead of the 20th January 2015 presidential by-election. CCMG is strictly non-partisan. We support no political party or candidate.

CCMG'S PARALLEL VOTE TABULATION (PVT)

As part of its overall monitoring effort, CCMG conducted a parallel vote tabulation (PVT) for the 2016 presidential election. PVT is the most sophisticated citizen observation methodology. It employs statistics and information and communication technologies (ICTs) with monitors deployed to a representative sample of polling streams and polling stations reporting in near real time using coded text messages via mobile phones. As a result, PVTs provide the most accurate and timely information on the conduct of voting and counting and are the only methodology that can independently verify if the official results as announced by the electoral commission are accurate. The PVT, therefore, helps to ensure that the official presidential results as announced by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) reflect the ballots cast by voters at polling stations. Citizen observers have used PVTs to promote credible elections across Africa, including in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, and Nigeria. PVT is not new to Zambia. PVTs have been conducted in Zambia for previous presidential elections in 1991, 2008, 2011, and 2015.

For the 2016 presidential election, CCMG's PVT deployed, trained and accredited monitors to a representative random sample of 1,404 polling streams located at 1,001 polling stations at which 863,218 voters were registered. CCMG's sampled PVT polling stations and polling streams are located in every province, every district and every constituency of the country. To ensure CCMG's PVT sample is truly representative, the percentage of sampled polling stations and streams in each

province, district, and constituency closely matches the percentage of all polling stations in each province, district, and constituency. For example, Copperbelt province has 13.6% of all polling stations and 14.8% of all polling streams in the country while 13.5% of PVT sampled polling stations and 14.4% of sampled polling streams are in Copperbelt province. Thus the composition of the PVT sampled polling stations and polling streams closely matches the distribution of all polling stations and polling streams in the country (see attached Table 2).

COMPARISON OF CCMG'S PVT ESTIMATES AND THE ECZ'S OFFICIAL RESULTS FOR THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

CCMG has received, verified and analysed monitoring reports from 99% of its PVT Monitors from 1,395 polling streams at 997 polling stations. These monitors arrived at their assigned polling streams and polling stations at 5:30 hours and remained there throughout voting and counting until the results for the presidential elections for the entire polling station were announced and posted. However, in some instances delays resulted in the counting process being completed at the constituency tally centre with CCMG's PVT Monitors still present. This was a departure from normal ECZ procedures.

As part of the PVT, monitors reported the official results as announced by the election officials for sampled polling stations via coded text message using their mobile phones. CCMG's PVT Monitors did not ask anyone for whom they had voted nor did CCMG's PVT Monitors count the ballot papers themselves. What CCMG's PVT Monitors did was monitor the entire process from the opening of the polling station, through voting and counting to ensure that the results announced by the election officials were the product of a credible process and that the ballot papers were counted correctly.

CCMG's PVT estimates are consistent with the ECZ's official results for the 2016 presidential election giving confidence that the results announced by the ECZ at Mulungushi Conference Centre in Lusaka accurately reflect the ballots cast by voters at the 10,818 polling streams located at 7,700 polling stations.

Table 1 provides a comparison of CCMG's PVT estimates and the ECZ's official presidential results. CCMG's PVT provides an estimation for the percentage of the vote each candidate received as well as the percentage of rejected ballots and turnout. The PVT estimation involves a percentage and a margin of error. If the ECZ official results fall within the PVT's margin of error then the ECZ's official results truly reflect the ballots cast at polling stations. CCMG's PVT has a margin of error for the two leading candidates is 2.5%.

CCMG's PVT Monitors reported that at 98% of polling stations both Patriotic Front (PF) and United Party for National Development (UPND) had party agents present who signed the ECZ's official results form indicating that they agreed with the official results. At only 2% of polling stations did PF or UPND party agents decline to sign the official results form. At 99% of polling stations all party agents present were given a copy of the official results for the presidential election and the official results for the presidential election were posted for the public to see (though in some instances the posting occurred at constituency tallying centres as this was where the counting process was completed).

Table 1: Comparison of CCMG PVT Estimates with the Official ECZ Presidential Results				
Candidate and Party	ECZ Official Result	CCMG PVT Estimate	CCMG PVT Margin of Error	Match
Andyford Mayele BANDA (PAC)	0.4%	0.4%	+/-0.1%	✓
Saviour CHISHIMBA (UPP)	0.2%	0.2%	+/-0.2%	✓
Hakainde HICHILEMA (UPND)	47.6%	47.8%	+/-2.5%	✓
Wynter KABIMBA (Rainbow)	0.3%	0.2%	+/-0.1%	✓
Tilyenji Chanda KAUNDA (UNIP)	0.2%	0.2%	+/-0.1%	✓
Edgar Chagwa LUNGU (PF)	50.4%	50.2%	+/-2.5%	✓
Maxwell MWAMBA (DA)	0.1%	0.1%	+/-0.1%	✓
Edith Zewelani NAWAKWI (FDD)	0.7%	0.6%	+/-0.1%	✓
Peter Chazya SINKAMBA (GREENS)	0.1%	0.1%	+/-0.1%	✓
Reject Ballot Papers		2.5%	+/-0.2%	
Turnout		57.0%	+/-0.9%	

Note: At the time of this statement official ECZ figures for rejected ballot papers and turnout were not available.

Conclusion

Now that the ECZ has declared results for the 2016 presidential elections, CCMG affirms that its PVT estimates for the presidential election are consistent with the ECZ's official results. All stakeholders, particularly political parties, that participated in the election should have confidence in the ECZ's presidential results.

However, the 2016 presidential elections were not without their challenges in the pre-election period. As CCMG has stated in previous statements, there are concerns around: electoral violence; the inability of candidates to freely and fairly campaign; lack of impartiality by the police; unbalanced coverage by state media; gagging of the independent media as seen in the “closure” of *The Post* newspaper; tendering of ballot papers; and claims of registration of ineligible voters. **While these pre-election challenges do not call into question the credibility of the overall process, they represent a step backwards for our country and undermine our political institutions.**

Now that the ECZ has announced the official results of the presidential election, CCMG calls on the winner to be magnanimous in victory and to serve as president for all Zambians, not only those who supported him. To the eight candidates who did not succeed in their electoral bids, we call on them to be peaceful and to remember that they and their political parties have an important role to play as the opposition. If any candidate has any concerns over the conduct of the election, we call on them to resolve these issues peacefully through the proper legal channels. Under the new constitution seven days are now provided for the filing of any objection.

CCMG Verification Statement – 2016 Presidential Elections

The 2016 presidential elections have been highly contested. Competition is good for our democracy. It provides voters with meaningful choices and helps to hold the victors accountable. At the same time, it also polarises our society. Now that the presidential election is over, we need to come together as a nation and realise that there is more that unites us than divides us. CCMG calls on the supporters of all candidates to be peaceful and to reject any possible calls for violence and recognize that we are all Zambians. CCMG also calls on all churches to call for peace and reconciliation following this hard fought election.

CCMG is extremely concerned about the reduced number of women candidates and elected officials at all levels there will be following the 2016 general elections. Women make up more than half of all Zambians and their voices should be heard. Efforts must be redoubled and new approaches taken to address this shortcoming that undermines the representativeness of our democracy.

In closing, the CCMG Steering Committee congratulates the millions of Zambians who went to the polls on election day and voted despite delays in some areas. We appeal to everyone, especially presidential candidates and their supporters, to act responsibly and in the interest of the nation.

God Bless Zambia



Rev. Pukuta Mwnza, EFZ



Rev. Susanne Matale, CCZ



Fr. Cleophas Lungu, ZEC



Fr. Leonard Chiti, JCTR

Table 2: Distribution of All Polling Stations/Polling Streams/Registered Voters and CCMG PVT Sampled Polling Stations/Polling Streams/Registered Voters by Province

Province	All Polling Stations/Polling Streams/Registered Voters						CCMG PVT Sampled Polling Stations/Polling Streams/Registered Voters					
	Polling Stations	Polling Streams	Registered Voters	Percent Polling Stations	Percent Polling Streams	Percent Registered Voters	Polling Stations	Polling Streams	Registered Voters	Percent Polling Stations	Percent Polling Streams	Percent Registered Voters
Central	706	1,002	642,127	9.2%	9.3%	9.6%	93	135	86,510	9.3%	9.6%	10.0%
Copperbelt	1,050	1,606	1,034,548	13.6%	14.8%	15.4%	135	202	124,991	13.5%	14.4%	14.5%
Eastern	893	1,211	775,889	11.6%	11.2%	11.6%	117	163	106,080	11.7%	11.6%	12.3%
Luapula	684	887	510,467	8.9%	8.2%	7.6%	89	115	62,889	8.9%	8.2%	7.3%
Lusaka	648	1,459	1,119,318	8.4%	13.5%	16.7%	84	182	137,451	8.4%	13.0%	15.9%
Muchinga	549	660	349,231	7.1%	6.1%	5.2%	72	92	49,888	7.2%	6.6%	5.8%
Northern	764	961	557,225	9.9%	8.9%	8.3%	99	124	70,737	9.9%	8.8%	8.2%
North-Western	555	718	400,575	7.2%	6.6%	6.0%	72	92	51,558	7.2%	6.6%	6.0%
Southern	966	1,300	810,077	12.5%	12.0%	12.1%	127	173	110,541	12.7%	12.3%	12.8%
Western	885	1,014	498,915	11.5%	9.4%	7.4%	113	126	62,573	11.3%	9.0%	7.2%
Total	7,700	10,818	6,698,372	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1,001	1,404	863,218	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: The ECZ released the final list of polling stations on 31st July 2016. In 2011/2015 the maximum number of registered voters per polling stream was 850, but for the 2016 general election it was increased to 950. This reduced the number of polling streams at sampled polling stations from 1,566 to 1,404.