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Human Rights Commission

21st November, 2025
Press Release
For Immediate Release

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CONDEMNS THE HARASSMENT OF PATRIOTIC FRONT ACTING PRESIDENT, MR. GIVEN LUBINDA

The Human Rights Commission is deeply concerned about the emerging acts of political violence, and strongly condemns the recent harassment of the Patriotic Front Acting President, Mr. Given Lubinda, in Kabwe, Central Province.

The harassment and dragging of Mr. Lubinda by some unruly youths is dehumanizing, degrading and a violation of his right to security of the person and privacy. Yet again, the Commission is calling upon the Zambia Police Service to immediately arrest the masterminds and perpetrators of this violence, some of whom are visibly identifiable in the viral video showing the incident.

The Commission is further alarmed by the growing pattern of political hooliganism and violence in recent days, including the stoning of the Presidential team in Chingola, the assault of individuals and destruction of property at the Patriotic Front Secretariat in Lusaka, and now, the harassment of Mr. Lubinda.

The Zambia Police Service must get to the root of this worrying violence and decisively enforce the law without fear or favour. This is the only way to end this emerging cycle of politically motivated violence and lawlessness. The Commission reiterates that violence is a crime that undermines public order, safety and peace, and contributes to the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Commission is also calling upon all leaders of political parties to take practical internal measures, such as disciplining or expelling their members involved in political violence. This will help the creation of a conducive environment for coexistence, tolerance and respect for human rights and freedoms.

Political party cadres should never be allowed to usurp the powers of law enforcement agencies such as the Police. Doing so is a recipe for anarchy and widespread violations of human rights.

There is an urgent need to send a strong message that political violence should never be used as a political strategy in a democracy such as Zambia. This can only be achieved through effective and impartial enforcement of the law against all perpetrators. No one must be silenced and prevented from enjoying their participative rights in the country on account of violence or threats of violence.

(Original Signed)
Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo
CHAIRPERSON