



Official Newsletter of the Human Rights Commission-Zambia || April - June 2026

HRC-Z Engages International Bodies to Strengthen Human Rights Ahead of 2026 General Election



- **Balancing Human Rights and Security Concerns**

- **HRC-Z Engages Children on Rights and Responsibilities**

- **Championing Responsible Mining and Human Rights**

- **Advancing Access to Information Compliance**

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Building a sustainable human rights culture together!

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EXECUTIVE NOTE



Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders,

As we conclude the second quarter of 2026, I am pleased to reflect on our collective achievements and share highlights of the Human Rights Commission of Zambia's work from April to June 2026. This has been a period of intensified engagement, strengthened institutional accountability, and strategic preparation as Zambia approaches the August 2026 General Election.

The Commission's unwavering commitment to

promoting and protecting human rights, while upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance, has remained at the centre of our work. I am particularly pleased that these efforts were recognised during the Africa Public Service Day commemoration, where the Commission was honoured as the Second Most Accountable and Transparent Public Institution. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, professionalism and integrity of our Commissioners, management and staff in serving the people of Zambia.

During the quarter, the Commission convened a high-level multi-stakeholder dialogue to address violence against women in elections, strengthened Zambia's contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, and commemorated Africa Freedom Day through visits to correctional facilities to assess the human rights situation of persons deprived of their liberty. We also intensified nationwide stakeholder engagements and public sensitisation across all provinces, working closely with political parties, law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, traditional leaders and the media to promote peaceful, inclusive, and rights-respecting elections.

Recognising that effective human rights protection requires strong institutional capacity, the Commission invested in strengthening the knowledge and skills of its staff through specialised training on election monitoring, the Access to Information Act, and the Early

Warning and Early Response System (EWERS). A significant milestone was also reached on 25th June 2026 with the conclusion of the progressive compliance period under the Access to Information Act. The Commission has now fully assumed its oversight responsibilities under the Act and remains committed to ensuring that public institutions uphold every person's right to access information.

As we enter the next quarter and draw closer to the General Election, the Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting accountability, transparency, the rule of law and respect for human rights. We will continue to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to safeguard democratic principles, prevent human rights violations and ensure that every person can participate freely, safely and equally in the electoral process.

The achievements highlighted in this newsletter reflect the dedication of our staff, the support of our Commissioners and the strong partnerships we continue to build with Government Institutions, Cooperating Partners, Civil Society and the people of Zambia. Together, we remain committed to building a society where human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled for all.

I invite you to read this edition and learn more about the Commission's work during the second quarter of 2026.

Happy reading.

Mbololwa Wamunyima (Ms.)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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HRC-Z Engages International Bodies to Strengthen Human Rights Ahead of 2026 General Election



HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo (2nd from right), with UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Dr. Choloka Beyani (Middle), UN Country Representative, Ms. Beatrice Mutali (2nd from left) and HRC-Z Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (far left) during Dr. Beyani's courtesy call on the Commission at the Head Office in Lusaka.

As Zambia prepares for the 13th August 2026 General Election, the Human Rights Commission of Zambia (HRC-Z) has been engaging with international bodies to promote peaceful, inclusive and credible elections anchored on respect for human rights.

On 30th April 2026, United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Dr. Choloka Beyani, paid a courtesy call on HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo.

Accompanied by UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Beatrice Mutali, Dr. Beyani cautioned that hate speech, misinformation

and disinformation are early warning indicators of potential mass violence and urged Zambia to strengthen measures to combat discrimination and inflammatory rhetoric ahead of the elections.

He also highlighted the growing challenge of irresponsible social media content and the need to promote responsible online engagement.

Ms. Mutali reaffirmed the UN's support for Zambia's peaceful electoral process through initiatives such as the relaunch of the iVerify Zambia fact-checking platform.

Meanwhile, Dr. Towela Sambo thanked the UN system for

designating human rights as one of the five pillars of its work in Zambia and stressed the Commission's commitment to delivering on its constitutional and legislative mandate to promote and protect human rights for all in Zambia.

On 29th May 2026, HRC-Z hosted a delegation from the Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre for Democracy and Good Governance (LMRC), a specialised think tank of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC-GLR), as part of a pre-electoral assessment mission.

The engagement reviewed Zambia's electoral preparedness, human rights monitoring mechanisms and measures

to mitigate election-related risks in support of peaceful, inclusive and credible elections.

The Commission also met the Commonwealth Pre-election Assessment Mission on 18th June 2026.

During the meeting, HRC-Z Vice Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga, emphasised that elections are fundamentally a human rights process and underscored the Commission's commitment to monitoring key rights, including freedoms of expression, assembly, association and participation in public affairs.



HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo poses with UN Under-Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Dr. Choloka Beyani during his courtesy call on the Commission in Lusaka.

She also outlined the Commission's role in monitoring human rights violations and abuses, receiving and investigating election-related complaints and facilitating redress.

And Head of the Commonwealth Pre-election Assessment Mission, Mr. Linford



HRC-Z Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima with a delegation from the Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre for Democracy and Good Governance, during a pre-election environment review at the Headquarters in Lusaka.



Director – Compliance and Legal Services, Mr. Tyson Mudenda (far left), Director – Complaints and Investigations, Mr. Shakespeare Siatakwi (far right), Manager – Compliance and Legal Services, Mr. Chilambe Mpanga (second from left) and Manager – Human Rights Advocacy, Mr. Simon Mulumbi (third from right), on 11th May 2026, met Amnesty International Southern Region and agreed to work together in public interest litigation, human rights and business, and advocacy for the criminalisation of torture in Zambia.

Andrews, commended the Commission for its ongoing human rights and electoral stakeholder engagements and encouraged it to con-

tinue paying particular attention to safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities throughout the electoral process.

HRC Calls for Balancing Human Rights and Security Concerns



Human Rights Commission of Zambia (HRC-Z) Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo, delivers a statement during the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in The Gambia.

As Africa undergoes rapid digital transformation, the Human Rights Commission-Zambia (HRC-Z) has emphasised that technological advancement must go hand in hand with human rights safeguards.

Addressing the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Banjul, The Gambia in May this year, HRC-Z Chairperson Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo urged African States to ensure that digital innovation promotes

human dignity, transparency and sustainable development without compromising fundamental freedoms.

Dr. Sambo observed that while digital technologies continue to transform governance, communication and commerce, they also present new human rights challenges. She stressed the need to strike a careful balance between safeguarding national security and protecting rights such as freedom of expression, access to information and privacy.

Reflecting on Zambia's progress, Dr. Sambo acknowledged the enactment of cybersecurity and cybercrimes legislation but emphasised that their implementation should remain firmly anchored in human rights principles.

She further called on African States to accelerate the development of the African Guidelines on Promoting and Harnessing Data Access as a Tool for Advancing Human Rights and Sustainable Development in the Digital Age to help guide national policies and legal frameworks.

Her address also showcased Zambia's recent human rights milestones, including the abolition of the death penalty, the enactment of the Children's Code Act and the implementation of the Access to Information Act, all of which strengthen the protection of fundamental rights and promote accountability.

Commending the African Commission for adopting progressive regional human rights instruments, Dr. Sambo called for stronger monitoring mechanisms and technical support to help Member States translate commitments into meaningful action.

She concluded by reaffirming the Commission's commitment to working with regional partners to ensure that Africa's digital future is built on a strong foundation of human rights, leaving no one behind.

HRC-Z Awarded Second Place for Most Accountable and Transparent Institution at the 2026 Africa Public Service Day Commemoration

The Human Rights Commission-Zambia (HRC-Z) was awarded second place in the Most Accountable and Transparent Institution category at the 2026 Africa Public Service Day (APSD) commemoration held on 23rd June 2026 at the Piazza, East Park Mall in Lusaka.

The award was officially presented to the Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, who dedicated the recognition to the people of Zambia and reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to serving the public with integrity, independence and excellence.

"We are humbled that the Commission's efforts to uphold the principles of accountability, transparency, integrity and good governance have been recognised," Ms. Wamunyima said.

She said the award is evidence of the dedication and hard work of the Commissioners, Management, and Staff of the Human Rights Commission, who continue to serve the people of Zambia with professionalism, commitment, and integrity.

Ms. Wamunyima further emphasised that the recognition reflects the trust and confidence that members of the public and stakeholders continue to place in the Commission.

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HRC-Z staff explaining the theme interpretation and the overall exhibition to judges during the 2026 Africa Public Service Day exhibitions held at the Piazza, East Park Mall, in Lusaka.



HRC-Z Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (4th from right) poses for a photo with Manager - Public Relations, Ms. Saboi Songiso-Banda (3rd from right), Senior Education and Training Officer Ms. Lucy Munthali (4th from left), and other staff members during the Award presentation to the Director General.



HRC-Z staff after collecting the second place Award for Most Accountable and Transparent Institution during the 2026 Africa Public Service Day Official commemoration on 23rd June 2026.

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HRC-Z participated in the 2026 APSD Exhibition, held from 18th to 23rd June 2026, which culminated in the official commemoration ceremony.

The event was graced by Zambia's Vice President, Mrs. W.K. Mutale Nalumango, who represented the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, as Guest of Honour and was attended by HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo.

The 2026 Africa Public Service Day was commemorated under the theme: "Enhancing Public Sector Institutions and Empowering Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve Universal Water Availability and Safe Sanitation by 2063."



Human Rights Advocacy Officer, Mr. Muloongo Cheelo engages a client at the HRC-Z stand during the 2026 Africa Public Service Day.



Manager - Public Relations, Ms. Saboi Songiso-Banda (left) and Senior Education and Training Officer, Ms. Lucy Munthali (middle) officially hand-over the second place Award for Most Accountable and Transparent Institution won during the 2026 APSD to Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (right).

HRC-Z Strengthens Implementation of ATI Act Following Expiry of Progressive Compliance Period



Staff from the Human Rights Commission-Zambia (HRC), led by Director General Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, together with representatives from the Ministry of Information and Media and the GIZ team, pose for a group photo after completing a training session on the Access to Information Act. The training was supported by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development through the GIZ Enabling Access to Justice, Civil Society Participation and Transparency Programme.

The Human Rights Commission-Zambia (HRC-Z) has intensified its efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Access to Information (ATI) Act following the expiration of the two-year progressive compliance period on 25th June 2026.

The expiry of the deadline marks the commencement of full implementation of the Access to Information Act, No. 24 of 2023. Consequently, all public and private information holders are now required to fully comply with their statutory obligations under the Act, including keeping, organising and maintaining records in a manner that facilitates access to information, proactively disclosing information in their possession, and appointing Information Officers to receive and process requests for information.

The implementation process gained momentum following the issuance of the Commencement Order on 25th June 2025 and the Commission's statement of 8th January 2026, which clarified the commencement of key provisions of the Act and outlined the obligations of information holders. The statement also signalled the Commission's readiness to exercise its oversight and enforcement mandate in accordance with

the law.

Since the enactment of the ATI Act in 2023, the Commission has undertaken several initiatives to support effective implementation of the law. These include issuing Access to Information Guidelines, mapping public and private information holders, and engaging identified institutions across the country to promote compliance with the Act and facilitate the appointment of Information Officers.

The response from information holders has been encouraging, with many institutions appointing Information Officers and formally communicating those appointments to the Commission. This has enabled the Commission to establish a comprehensive database of Information Officers from various public institutions to support implementation and coordination.

As part of strengthening its oversight role under the Act, the Commission has conducted capacity-building programmes for its staff on their responsibilities under the ATI framework. It has also developed minimum standards for compliance and administrative penalties to guide information holders in fulfilling their statutory obligations.

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HRC Director- Education, Training and Advocacy Mr. Mwelwa Muleya addressing HRC Staff during the Capacity Building training session on the Access to Information Act.

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To enhance access to justice under the Act, the Commission has established a dedicated Access to Information Registry at its Headquarters for receiving and processing appeals. In addition, it has secured court infrastructure in Lusaka for the hearing and determination of ATI appeals in provincial centres, significantly improving access to redress mechanisms for members of the public.

The Commission has also rolled out awareness and sensitisation programmes on the ATI Act across all ten provinces, targeting information holders at provincial and district levels. Radio programmes are also being conducted to educate the public and stakeholders on the importance of access to information and the rights and responsibilities created under the Act.

As part of stakeholder engagement, the Commission participated in the Zambia

Records Management Association (ZARMA) Conference in Livingstone, where it highlighted the importance of proper records management in facilitating access to information. The Commission also hosted a ZARMA learning visit at its Head Office in Lusaka.

However, the Commission has noted that while many institutions have taken significant steps towards compliance, some information holders are yet to fully align their internal systems and processes with the requirements of the ATI Act. Following the expiration of the progressive compliance period, all information holders are expected to ensure immediate and full compliance with the provisions of the law.

To support continued implementation, the Commission remains available to provide technical guidance to information holders and has encouraged

stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the ATI Act, its Regulations and the Access to Information Guidelines, which are freely accessible through the Human Rights Commission and National Assembly websites. Stakeholders may also seek assistance through the Commission's toll-free line, 8181.

Going forward, the Commission will, with financial support from the Government and the European Union through GIZ continue to train Information Officers on the minimum standards and their statutory obligations while strengthening monitoring and compliance mechanisms. It will process appeals, conduct inspections where necessary, and fully exercise its oversight and enforcement mandate to safeguard every person's right of access to information and promote greater accountability, transparency and good governance throughout the country.

HRC-Z Champions Responsible Mining and Human Rights

The Human Rights Commission-Zambia (HRC-Z) continues to play an important role in promoting responsible mining as Zambia prepares to implement its National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights.

This was evident when Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, took part in the Sinazongwe Alternative Mining Indaba on 3rd June 2026, where

she called on mining companies to put people and the environment at the heart of their operations.

Ms. Wamunyima said corporate social responsibility should go beyond meeting legal requirements and should make a real difference in improving the lives of communities affected by mining.

Speaking under the theme “From Coal to Community

Development: Balancing Sustainability and Mining in Sinazongwe,” Ms. Wamunyima said mining has the potential to improve people’s lives when it is carried out responsibly. However, she also pointed to challenges that the Commission continues to monitor, including environmental damage, inadequate compensation for displaced families, limited access to clean water and the loss of sources of traditional

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Maamba Energy Chief Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Cyrus Minwalla (Rtd), leads Human Rights Commission of Zambia (HRC-Z) Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, on a tour of the Maamba Energy Limited Mining site on 3 June 2026 following a Business and Human Rights compliance monitoring exercise conducted by the Commission.

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livelihoods.

The Commission's work did not end there. It also took part in the first ever District Alternative Mining Indaba in Zimba District of Southern Province, where discussions focused on protecting communities, encouraging accountability and ensuring local people have a voice in decisions affecting mining activities.

Earlier in May this year, the Commission carried out monitoring visits to quarry and artisanal mining sites in Lusaka Province, identifying areas that need improvement in worker safety, environmental protection and respect for human rights.

These activities come as Zambia concludes the development of its National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Once

implemented, the NAP will provide a national roadmap for ensuring that businesses respect human rights, protect communities and the environment, and provide effective remedies where rights are violated.

For the Commission, the

NAP provides a stronger foundation for working with government, businesses and communities to promote responsible investment and ensure that economic development benefits everyone while respecting human rights.



Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Mr. Justin Kapunda addressing the delegates during the Business and Human Rights Mining Indaba organised by Environmental Africa in Zimba District held on 18th June 2026.



HRC-Z staff members pose for a group photograph with the Kafue Quarry Limited team following a compliance monitoring visit to assess the company's compliance with business and human rights standards in its operations.

HRC-Z Engages Children on Rights and Responsibilities

The Human Rights Commission of Zambia (HRC-Z) has continued its human rights education activities, reaching learners, students and educators across the country with knowledge on human rights, responsibilities and child protection as part of its continued efforts to build a culture of respect

for human rights.

Between April and June 2026, the Commission conducted sensitisation programmes in Luapula, Lusaka, Muchinga and Southern Provinces, engaging more than 1,500 learners and students

in schools, colleges and community institutions.

Across the engagements, HRC-Z emphasised that rights and responsibilities are inseparable, encouraging learners to exercise their rights responsibly by respecting school rules, safeguarding public property and promoting peaceful coexistence.

Participants were educated on the right to education, protection from child marriage, physical, verbal and sexual abuse, parental care and guidance, and the importance of reporting human rights violations.

At Chitamba Secondary School in Mansa, learners openly discussed fears of reporting abuse involving parents and guardians, particularly child marriage, due to concerns about family separation.

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HRC-Z Senior Education and Training Officer, Ms. Lucy B. Munthali engages pupils at Hillcrest Technical Secondary School in Livingstone on rights and responsibilities.



HRC-Z Manager - Human Rights Advocacy, Mr. Simon Mulumbi interacts with students at David Livingstone Teacher's Training College in Livingstone.



Complaints and Investigations Officer, Ms. Nawa Mataa interacting with pupils at Chinsali Girls Secondary School.



Education and Training Officer, Mrs. Precious Kalima emphasising a point during a sensitisation meeting at Twashuka Primary School in Lusaka.



Learners, staff from Avalon School, Avondale pose for a picture with HRC-Z staff during their education tour at Human Rights Commission Head Office in Lusaka.

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The Commission clarified the protections provided under the Children's Code Act and assured learners that all cases are handled with sensitivity and in the best interests of the child.

The engagement also resulted in the establishment of a Human Rights Club to promote continued awareness among learners.

Similar sensitisation sessions were conducted for 354 learners at Twashuka Primary School in Lusaka, 300 learners at Chinsali Girls Secondary School in Muchinga Province, 298 Grade 11 learners at Hillcrest Technical Secondary School in Livingstone, 320 students at David Livingstone College of Education, and 70 children at Mutende Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mansa.

At Hillcrest Technical Secondary School, learners resolved to re-establish the school's Human Rights Club with support from the Commission.

Commission officers also outlined HRC-Z's



HRC-Z Human Rights Advocacy Officer, Mr. Muloongo Cheelo engaging Avalon School learners on the functions of the Education, Training and Advocacy Department, during their education tour at Human Rights House, Lusaka.

constitutional mandate and complaint-handling procedures, encouraging learners to promptly report abuse through trusted adults, the Commission's toll-free line 8181 and other accessible reporting channels.

Interactive question-and-answer sessions provided opportunities for learners to seek guidance on child protection and other human rights issues affecting them.

HRC-Z Strengthens Election Preparedness Through Capacity Building, Technology and Civic Education

The Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) has continued to strengthen its preparedness for the 13th August 2026 General Election through initiatives aimed at improving monitoring and response to human rights violations, and promoting informed citizen participation in the electoral process.

Working with national and international partners, the Commission has invested in building the capacity of key electoral stakeholders, upgrading its Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Case Management System, and conducting public engagements on democratic elections and electoral rights.

In collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Zambia Police Service, and the Electoral Commission of Zambia, HRC-Z facilitated a two-week election security management training for police officers in the Copperbelt Division, held in Ndola from 15th June 2026.

The programme equipped

officers with knowledge and practical skills to manage election security professionally while upholding democratic policing principles and international human rights standards.

The DCAF partnership also supported specialised training for HRC-Z Investigators and Legal Counsels in Lusaka from 22nd to 26th June 2026, enhancing their capacity to conduct independent, impartial, and evidence-based investigations and litigation relating to

excessive use of force, public order incidents, and election-related human rights violations.

Speaking during the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) System Validation Workshop in Chilanga on 29th May 2026, Director General Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima said the Commission had upgraded its EWER Case Management System into a secure and comprehensive platform capable of supporting complaint handling, case tracking, election monitoring, Access

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HRC-Z Complaints and Investigations Officer, Ms. Brenda Chanda, making a presentation during the Elections and Human Rights stakeholder engagement meeting in Choma.

to Information oversight, and data analytics.

She noted that while the system was originally developed for electoral incident monitoring, it has

evolved into a permanent tool that will strengthen the Commission's broader human rights mandate.

Meanwhile, during a Human Rights and Elections

stakeholders' engagement in Choma, HRC-Z Director for Education, Training and Advocacy, Mr. Mweelwa Muleya, urged citizens to carefully scrutinise candidates before casting their votes.

He stressed that free, fair, and credible elections must be conducted without intimidation, violence, corruption, or coercion, and emphasised the importance of protecting fundamental rights throughout the electoral process.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate HRC-Z's holistic approach to promoting peaceful, inclusive, and credible elections by strengthening institutions, enhancing and empowering citizens to participate meaningfully in Zambia's democratic processes.



Manager – Human Rights Advocacy, Mr. Simon Mulumbi engaging Copperbelt Division Police Officers on Election Security Management during a training at Protea Hotel in Ndola.

Director – Education, Training and Advocacy Mr. Mweelwa Muleya (2nd from left) stressing a point during the Human Rights and Elections engagement in Ndola.





Manager – Human Rights Advocacy, Mr. Simon Mulumbi (front – 3rd from right) during the training of Copperbelt Division Police Officers on Election Security Management at Protea Hotel in Ndola.



HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo (front, 2nd from right), Commissioner Panic Malawo Chilufya (front, 1st from right), Director General, Ms Mbololwa Wamunyima (behind Commissioner Chilufya) pose for a picture with Legal Aid Board (LAB) Chairperson, Mr. Lanco Moono Chikuta, (in the middle front row) other Board members and staff from both LAB and HRC-Z on 29th May 2026 at the New Government Complex. This was during a courtesy call by the Commission on LAB where the institutions agreed to strengthen their collaboration in enhancing access to justice.



HRC-Z Vice Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga (5th from Left) and Commonwealth Head of the Pre-election Observer Mission, Mr. Linford Andrews (4th from left) pose for a picture with Commissioner Bishop Emmanuel Yona Chikoya (2nd from right), Commissioner Mrs. Panic Malawo Chilufya (far right), Commissioner Laura Miti (3rd from right), Commissioner Fr. Joe Komakoma (2nd from left), Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (Far left) and other members of the commonwealth team after an pre-election environment assessment meeting at HRC Headquarters in Lusaka.



Director – Research and Planning, Mr. Foster Hamuyube (front, 2nd from right) poses for a picture with Commission staff and staff from the United Nations Development Programme during a review of Zambia's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) State Report and drafting of its own independent shadow report on 20th April 2026 at the Urban Hotel in Lusaka.



Director – Education, Training and Advocacy Mr. Mweelwa Muleya (3rd from right), Director – Human Resource and Administration Mr. Tekana Sichone (4th from left) and the Anti-Corruption Commission members of staff led by the Director Corruption Prevention, Ms. Glenda Mungalaba during the discussion the formation of an Integrity Committee at HRC-Z on 2nd June 2026.



Director – Compliance and Legal Services, Mr. Tyson Mundenda (far left), Director – Complaints and Investigations, Mr. Shakespeare Siatakwi (far right), Manager – Compliance and Legal Services, Mr. Chilambe Mpanga (2nd from left) and Manager – Human Rights Advocacy, Mr. Simon Mulumbi (3rd from right), on 11th May 2026, met Amnesty International Southern Region and agreed to work together in public interest litigation, human rights and business, and advocacy for the criminalisation of torture in Zambia.



HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo, accompanied by Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalumba, Commissioner Panic Malawo Chilufya, Commissioner Laura Mitj, Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, and staff, paid a courtesy call on Ministry of Community Development and Social Services Permanent Secretary, Ms. Angela Kawandami, on 27th May 2026. The two institutions agreed to strengthen collaboration in addressing the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups in Zambia.

HRC-Z Strengthens Oversight of Places of Detention

Monitoring detention and correctional facilities remains one of the Human Rights Commission-Zambia's (HRC-Z) key responsibilities in promoting and protecting the rights of all persons, including those deprived of their liberty.

As part of this mandate, the Commission conducted monitoring visits to Lusaka Central Police Station, Lusaka Central Correctional Facility and the Mwembeshi Remand, Correctional and Maximum Facilities from 20th to 21st May 2026 to assess compliance with national, regional and international human rights standards.

The monitoring team, led by HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo, included Vice-Chairperson Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga, Commissioners Panic Malawo Chilufya, Laura Miti and Fr. Joseph Komakoma, Director General Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, and selected members of staff.

During the visits, the Commission assessed detention conditions, including accommodation, access to clean water, sanitation, food and healthcare. Particular attention was given to the treatment of inmates, mental health services, the welfare of children in detention and access to justice for persons in custody.

The Commission noted the positive efforts being made through special court sittings held within



HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo (centre), Vice-Chairperson Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga (4th from right), Commissioners Ms. Panic Malawo Chilufya (fourth from left) and Ms. Laura Miti (2nd from right), and Director General Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (2nd from left) pose for a group photograph with staff at the Lusaka Central Correctional Facility following an inspection of the facility's conditions and standards.

correctional facilities to improve access to justice. However, concerns remain over prolonged detention, delayed trials and the limited availability of virtual court hearings, all of which contribute to overcrowding and affect the rights of detainees.

The Commission also called for greater investment in mental health services within places of detention, recognising that access to

appropriate care is essential for the rehabilitation and well-being of inmates.

Through regular monitoring visits, the Commission continues to engage relevant authorities to encourage improvements in detention conditions, promote accountability and ensure that the dignity and human rights of every person deprived of liberty are respected and protected.



Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo (5th from right), Vice Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga (5th from left), Commissioners, and HRC-Z Management and Staff pose for a photo at the Lusaka Central Correctional Facility with Staff from the Zambia Correctional Services after inspecting the facility's conditions.

HRC-Z Enhances Protection of the Rights of Marginalised Groups

The Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) has continued to strengthen the protection of the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups through targeted capacity-building programmes that promote non-discrimination, inclusion and equal access to justice.

From 18 to 19 June 2026, the Commission equipped 44 members of staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, ensuring that all human rights complaints are

handled professionally, fairly and with sensitivity.

The training was also attended by nine stakeholders from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, and Civil Society Organisations.

The workshop reinforced the importance of dignity in service delivery and of ensuring that no one is excluded from accessing justice due to stigma or discrimination.

Building on these efforts, the Commission earlier

trained 25 youths from Petauke, Chipata, Lundazi and Chama Districts in Eastern Province from 27 to 28 May 2026 on human rights, complaint reporting mechanisms, and the importance of speaking out against discrimination. The youths were also introduced to the Commission's complaint-handling procedures and available support services.

A total of 69 participants benefited from the two initiatives, which were supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the WeBelong Africa Project.



HRC-Z Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (seated, fourth from left), with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Head of Governance and Gender, Mr. Greg Saili (seated, fourth from left), pictured during a two-day training for investigators and lawyers on the protection of the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, held from 18th to 19th June 2026 at Mika Convention Centre in Chongwe District.

Human Rights Commission

Promoting and Protecting
Your Rights and Freedoms



MISSION

To ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people in Zambia; through advocacy, investigations and appropriate redress of human rights violations, and monitoring of compliance with human rights standards and obligations.



VISION

A society that respects and upholds human rights for all persons in Zambia.



VALUES

HRC pledges to serve its clients with
impartiality
integrity
transparency and
accountability
while upholding virtues of independence in the discharge of its duties

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0954 443 010



Human Rights Commission - Zambia



Human Rights
Commission - Zambia

● **Head Office: Lusaka**
Tel: +260-0211-251327/251357

● **Muchinga Province Office: Chinsali**
Mobile: +260 970 520 358

● **Central Province Office: Kabwe**
Mobile: +260 957 445 833

● **Southern Province Office: Livingstone**
Mobile: +260 975 961 028/ 0764 353 543

● **Copperbelt Province Office: Ndola**
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● **Northern Province Office: Kasama**
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● **Eastern Province Office: Chipata**
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● **North- Western Province Office: Solwezi**
Mobile: +260 764 353 519

● **Luapula Province Office: Mansa**
Mobile: +260 970 520 356/+260 958 122 370

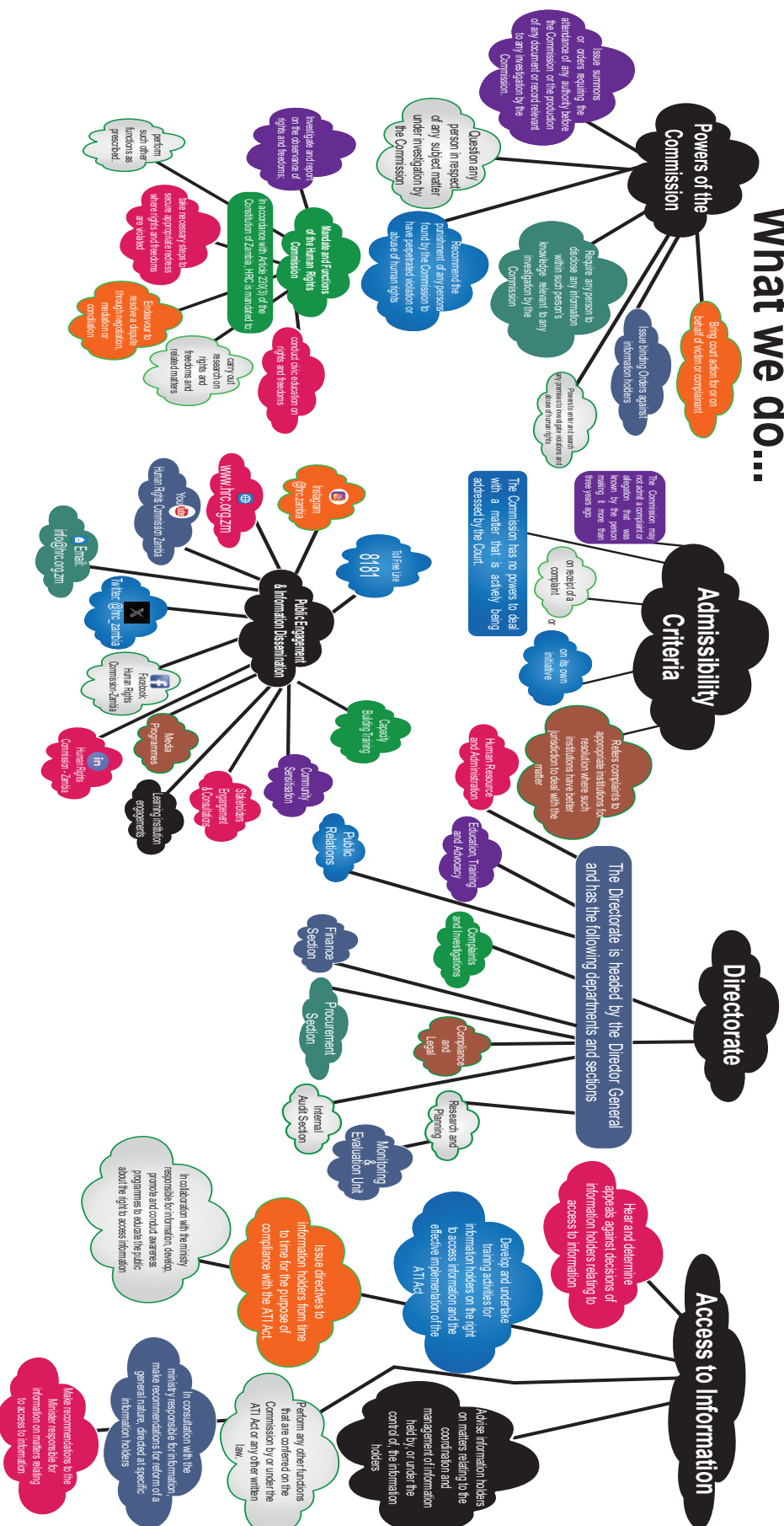
● **Western Province Office: Mongu**
Mobile: +260 958 122 374



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What we do...

- Powers of the Commission**
 - Bring court action for or on behalf of victim or complainant
 - Issue binding Orders against information holders
 - Require any person to disclose any information with such persons knowledge relevant to any investigation by the Commission
 - Issue summons or orders requiring the attendance of any activity before the Commission or the production of any document or record relevant to any investigation by the Commission
 - Question any person in respect of any subject matter under investigation by the Commission
 - Recommend the punishment of any persons found by the Commission to have perpetrated violation or abuse of human rights
 - Investigate and report on the observance of rights and freedoms
 - Monitor and conduct of the Human Rights Commission
 - Conduct civic education on rights and freedoms
 - Carry out research on rights and freedoms and related matters
 - Take necessary steps to secure appropriate relief where rights and freedoms are violated
 - Enactment to resolve a dispute through negotiation, mediation or conciliation
 - perform such other functions as prescribed
- Admissibility Criteria**
 - The Commission may not admit a complaint or allegation that was known by the person making it more than three years ago
 - on receipt of a complaint or on its own initiative
 - Refers complaints to appropriate institutions for resolution where such institutions have better jurisdiction to deal with the matter
 - Rights Resource and Administration
 - Education Training and Advocacy
 - Complaints and Investigations
 - Confidence and Legal
 - Research and Planning
 - Monitoring & Evaluation Unit
 - Internal Audit Section
 - Procurement Section
 - Finance Section
 - Public Relations
 - Capacity Building Training
 - Community Session
 - Seminars, Engagements & Consultations
 - Media Programmes
 - Learning Institution experiences
 - Human Rights Commission Zambia
 - You can reach us at: www.hrc.org.zm
 - Email: info@hrc.org.zm
 - Twitter: @hrc_zambia
 - Facebook: Human Rights Commission Zambia
 - LinkedIn: Human Rights Commission Zambia
- Directorate**
 - The Directorate is headed by the Director General and has the following departments and sections
 - Hear and determine appeals against decisions of information holders relating to access to information
 - Develop and undertake training activities for information holders on the right to access information and the effective implementation of the ATI Act
 - Advise information holders on matters relating to the coordination and management of information held by or under the control of the information holders
 - Perform any other functions that are conferred on the Commission by or under the ATI Act or any other written law
 - In consultation with the ministry responsible for information, develop programmes to educate the public about the right to access information
 - Make recommendations to the Ministry responsible for information on matters relating to access to information
- Access to Information**
 - Issue directives to information holders from time to time for the purpose of compliance with the ATI Act.
 - Issue directives to information holders from time to time for the purpose of compliance with the ATI Act.
- Public Engagement & Information Dissemination**
 - 8181
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 - The Commission may not admit a complaint or allegation that was known by the person making it more than three years ago
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 - Bring court action for or on behalf of victim or complainant
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 - Recommend the punishment of any persons found by the Commission to have perpetrated violation or abuse of human rights
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 - Monitor and conduct of the Human Rights Commission
 - Conduct civic education on rights and freedoms
 - Carry out research on rights and freedoms and related matters
 - Take necessary steps to secure appropriate relief where rights and freedoms are violated
 - Enactment to resolve a dispute through negotiation, mediation or conciliation
 - perform such other functions as prescribed





Human Rights Commission Contact Details:

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Human Rights
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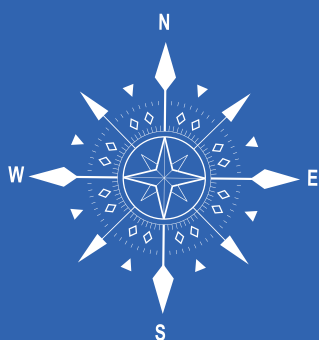


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MAP OF ZAMBIA SHOWING LOCATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - ZAMBIA'S PROVINCIAL OFFICES



CONTACT DETAILS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-ZAMBIA'S PROVINCIAL OFFICES

1 Lusaka Province
Lusaka: +260 251 327 / 251 357

2 Central Province
Kabwe: 0957 445 833

3 Copperbelt Province
Ndola: 0954 170 753

4 Eastern Province
Chipata: 0954 170 748

5 Luapula Province
Mansa: 0958 122 370

6 Muchinga Province
Chinsali: 0958122368

7 Northern-Province
Kasama: 0958122369

8 Northwestern Province
Solwezi: 0958 122 373

9 Southern Province
Livingstone: 0958 122 375

10 Western Province
Mongu: 0958 122 374