

All communications to be addressed to
the Director-General
P. O. Box 33812, LUSAKA
Tel : +260-21-1- 251 327/57
Fax : +260-21-1-251 342
[E-mail : info@hrc.org.zm](mailto:info@hrc.org.zm)



Human Rights Commission

Head Office

5th August, 2026

Press Release
For Immediate Release

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CONDEMNS POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AHEAD OF THE GENERAL ELECTION

The Human Rights Commission strongly condemns the recent incidents of political violence reported in different parts of the country. Such violence threatens the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and undermines the peaceful and credible conduct of the electoral process.

The Human Rights Commission is particularly concerned about reports of violence during political campaign activities, including an incident in Western Province in which a law-enforcement officer was reportedly injured. The Human Rights Commission is also concerned about the reported assault on musician Clifford Dimba, popularly known as General Kanene, during a campaign event in Shibuyunji District.

These reported incidents interfere with fundamental rights and freedoms, including the rights to personal security, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and the right of every eligible citizen to participate freely in public affairs without violence, intimidation or fear. Political violence also undermines the rule of law and threatens the holding of peaceful, free, fair and credible elections.

The Human Rights Commission calls upon the Zambia Police Service to swiftly, thoroughly and professionally investigate all reported incidents of violence. From most of the videos circulating on social media, alleged perpetrators are identifiable. The Zambia Police Service is strongly urged to arrest and prosecute all suspects in accordance with the law, regardless of their political affiliation or status. In the same breath, the Human Rights Commission calls upon all victims of such violence to make formal reports to

the Zambia Police Service to ensure protection and access to appropriate remedies.

The Human Rights Commission is equally concerned about ongoing harassment, intimidation and violence directed at female candidates. Such conduct is reprehensible and violates women's rights to dignity, security, equality and meaningful participation in political and public life. All victims are encouraged to report such incidents and the Zambia Police Service is urged to investigate, and ensure that those responsible are held accountable in accordance with the law.

Lastly, the Human Rights Commission urges everyone, and especially female candidates who experience or witness political violence, harassment or intimidation, to report the incidents promptly to the Zambia Police Service and the Human Rights Commission offices countrywide. Reports may also be made through the Human Rights Commission toll-free line, **8181**, or to any other relevant authority.

About the Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission is an independent National Human Rights Institution established under Article 230 of the Constitution of Zambia and operationalised through the Human Rights Commission Act, No. 4 of 2024. Its mandate includes promoting and protecting human rights, investigating human rights violations and abuses, monitoring the observance of human rights and conducting human rights education. The HRC is also the oversight body under the Access to Information Act, No. 24 of 2023. For more information, visit www.hrc.org.zm.

(Original Signed)

Dr Pamela Towela Sambo

CHAIRPERSON

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION