THE RIGHTS GUARDIAN

ISSUE NO. 7

Official Newsletter of the Human Rights Commission-Zambia || July - September 2026

Judiciary Inducts HRC-Z Commissioners on Access to Information



Inside The Issue

- HRC-Z Calls for Stronger Church, Government Partnership to Advance Child Protection
- HRC-Z Engages Election Observation Missions on Human Rights
- HRC-Z Calls for Enhanced Protection of the Civic Space
- HRC-Z Validates State of Human Rights Report







Building a Sustainable Human Rights Culture Together!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 Executive Note

4 Judiciary Inducts HRC-Z Commissioners on Access to Information

5 HRC-Z Engages Election Observation Missions on Human Rights

6 HRC-Z Calls for Enhanced Protection of the Civic Space

7 HRC-Z Scales Up Human Rights Education in Learning Institutions and Communities

11 HRC-Z Validates State of Human Rights Report

12 Information Holders Validate ATI Minimum Standards for Compliance

13 HRC-Z'sPre-General Election Preps

14 HRC-Z Continues Post-Election Human Rights Monitoring

15 HRC-Z Strengthens Stakeholder Partnerships at National and International levels

16 HRC-Z Takes Human Rights Message to Traditional Ceremonies

17 HRC-Z Intensifies ATI Law Nationwide Sensitisation

19 HRC-Z ATI Law Nationwide Sensitisation in Photos

22 HRC-Z Calls for Stronger Church, Government Partnership to Advance Child Protection

23 HRC-Z, ECES Host Football for Democracy Dialogue Tournament

EXECUTIVE NOTE



Dear colleagues and stakeholders,

The third quarter of 2026 was an active period for the Human Rights Commission-Zambia. Our work focused on monitoring human rights during the 2026 General Election, strengthening oversight of the Access to Information Act, No. 24 of 2023, and expanding public awareness of human rights.

The Commission deployed monitors during the 2026 General Election to observe the process and document reported human rights concerns. We engaged the Commonwealth, SADC and European Union election observation missions on human rights and fundamental freedoms. We also monitored developments at the National Results Centre as results were announced and continue to follow up on alleged violations reported before, during and after election day.

Our oversight of the Access to Information Act gained momentum following the end of the progressive compliance period on 25 June 2026. We engaged information holders and media houses on their obligations, including proactive disclosure, and continued work on minimum standards for compliance. Provincial engagements helped build understanding of the right to access information.

The Commission also conducted human rights education in learning institutions across the country. Further, human rights sensitisation was conducted through community engagements and radio programmes.

We participated in the Football for Democracy Dialogue Tournament with other stakeholders. These activities promoted awareness of rights and responsibilities, as well as ways to report alleged violations and abuses.

Internally, we developed the Business Continuity Policy and the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan to strengthen our ability to maintain essential services during emergencies and other disruptions.

As we enter the final quarter of 2026, we will continue to improve access to the Commission's services and advance the promotion and protection of human rights.

I commend the Commissioners, management and staff for their dedication, and thank our partners and stakeholders for their cooperation and support.

Happy reading.

Mbololwa Wamunyima (Ms.)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief
Mweelwa Muleya

Managing Editors
Simon Mulumbi
Saboi Songiso Banda

Writers
Muloongo Cheelo
Mirriam Chabala

Layout and Design
Oscar Chisenga

Judiciary Inducts HRC-Z Commissioners on Access to Information

Commissioners of the Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) participated in an induction to enhance the implementation of the Commission's oversight mandate under the Access to Information (ATI) Act, No. 24 of 2023.

The induction, which took place at Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere Hotel in Lusaka from 28th to 29th July 2026, was facilitated by Honourable Mrs. Justice Abha Nayar Patel, SC, Supreme Court and Honourable Mrs. Justice Sharon Kaunda Newa, Court of Appeal from the Judiciary and experts from the Ministry of Information and Media.

Speaking during the official opening, HRC-Z Chairperson Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo said the induction would equip Commissioners with practical skills in judicial reasoning, evaluation of evidence, judicial ethics, decision-making, and judgment writing, which are essential in hearing and determining access to information appeals.
"We are honoured and privileged to benefit from the experience of the Honourable Judges from the Judiciary," Dr. Sambo said.
She emphasised that access to information was not merely an administrative process, but a fundamental human right that enabled citizens to participate meaningfully in democratic governance.

The ATI Act designates the Commission as the independent oversight institution mandated to hear and determine appeals against decisions of information holders, monitor implementation of the Act, provide guidance to information holders, and conduct capacity building for both information holders and information requesters.
"It is, therefore, a legitimate expectation that the Commission must exercise its responsibilities with sound legal knowledge, fairness, independence, impartiality, and professionalism," Dr. Sambo added.

The induction followed an institutional capacity assessment conducted earlier in the year with support from GIZ's ENaCT Programme, co-funded by the European Union.



HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo addressing participants during a Commissioner's induction Meeting on ATI at Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere Hotel in Lusaka on 28th July 2026.



Front Roll: *from left Commissioner Panic Mukamaambo Malawo Chilufya, Vice Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga, Honourable Mrs. Justice Abha Nayar Patel, SC, Supreme Court Judge, HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo, Honourable Mrs. Justice Sharon Kaunda Newa, Court of Appeal Judge, Commissioner Bishop Emmanuel Y. Chikoya,* ***Standing behind at the far right:*** *Commissioner Fr. Joseph Komakoma, Commissioners Laura Miti, Commission Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima and other participants and other participants during the Commissioners' Induction on Access to Information Appeals at Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere Hotel in Lusaka on 28 July 2026.*



HRC-Z Engages Election Observation Missions on Human Rights

The Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) engaged local, regional and international election observation missions before and after the 13th August 2026 General Election, with human rights at the centre of the discussions.

The engagements gave the Commission an opportunity to share its assessment of the electoral environment and explain the measures it had put in place to monitor human rights throughout the electoral process.

In June 2026, HRC-Z engaged the Commonwealth Pre-election Assessment Mission on the pre-election environment and the Commission's preparations for human rights monitoring. Discussions covered freedom of expression, association and assembly, participation in public affairs, freedom of movement and the right to security of a person.

The Commission also engaged the Southern African Development Community Electoral Observation Mission (SADC-SEOM), which deployed observers across all ten provinces to monitor the pre-election, election and immediate post-election periods.

Following the elections, HRC-Z continued its engagement with election observation missions. On 24th August, 2026, the Commission hosted the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) for discussions on the elections and the post-election human rights situation.

During the meeting, HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo emphasised that elections should be viewed as a process closely linked to the protection of human rights, rather than simply as a day of voting.

The EU EOM, represented by Deputy Chief Observer, Dr. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, also shared its observations on the electoral process and human rights concerns.

These engagements allowed HRC-Z to share information on reported violations while gaining perspectives from organisations independently monitoring the elections.

The Commission therefore continued monitoring the post-election human rights situation, including reported violations, arrests and detention cases.

HRC-Z Calls for Enhanced Protection of the Civic Space

The Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) urged all stakeholders to safeguard the country's civic space, stressing that an open and inclusive civic environment was essential for citizens to participate meaningfully in national development, influence public policy, and hold public institutions accountable.

During the launch of the 2026 Civic Space and Legal-Policy Environment in Zambia report in Lusaka on 1st July, 2026, HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo, said in her remarks delivered on her behalf by Commissioner Laura Miti that restrictions on the civic space inevitably undermined the enjoyment of human rights.

Dr. Sambo observed that civic space extended beyond an environment for political participation, as it also enabled people to exercise a broad range of human rights, including freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association, access to information, participation in public affairs, freedom of religion or belief, and the protection of human rights defenders.

"Ultimately, protecting civic space in Zambia is a shared responsibility that requires sustained cooperation, mutual respect, and a common commitment to constitutionalism, the rule of law, and human rights," said Dr. Sambo.

Ahead of the August 13th General Election, Dr. Sambo called for tolerance, dialogue, inclusivity, and peaceful participation throughout the electoral process.

She urged public authorities to ensure that the enforcement of laws remained impartial, constitutional, and fully consistent with regional and international human rights obligations.

Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security Permanent Secretary, Mr. Dickson Matembo, described the civic space as a cornerstone of democratic governance, as it enabled citizens to exercise their constitutional rights and participate in public affairs.

Mr. Matembo called upon



Commissioner Laura Mary Miti delivering remarks on behalf of the Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo, during the launch of the 2026 Civic Space and Legal-Policy Environment in Zambia report by Transparency International-Zambia on 1st July 2026 at Protea Hotel by Marriott in Lusaka.

Continued on page 7

From page 6

law enforcement agencies to uphold constitutional rights and respect human dignity as they enforce the law.

"My Ministry is committed to creating an environment where citizens can freely exercise their constitutional rights while maintaining peace, security, and public order," he said.

The Civic Space and Legal-Policy Environment in Zambia report was produced by Transparency International - Zambia with support from Norwegian Church Aid through the Lift Zambia Project.

HRC-Z Scales Up Human Rights Education in Learning, Higher Education Institutions and Communities

The Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) intensified human rights education and public sensitisation during the third quarter of 2026, reaching pupils, students, teachers and lecturers in 16 institutions across Muchinga, Central, Eastern, Lusaka, Luapula and Northern Provinces of Zambia.

The outreach was complemented by community engagements and radio discussion programmes, raising human rights awareness among a wider audience.

The sensitisation efforts prioritised human rights education for young people and the practical application of human rights in schools, institutions of higher learning and local communities.

In Chinsali, the provincial capital of Muchinga Province, 42 nursing and midwifery students at the Chinsali Institute of Applied Sciences, Arts and Technology were reached and sensitised on how they could apply a human rights-based approach in the provision of public health services to combat discrimination and uphold patients' rights.

Additionally, 200 students at Kapasa Makasa University were engaged on human rights and how they could collaborate with the Commission in advancing human rights within the university community. The engagement resulted in the formation of a human rights club at the university for the students' human rights education.

Continued on page 8



Students from Chinsali Institute of applied Sciences Collect IEC materials on rights of the child during a session in Chinsali on 8th September 2026.



Learners from Kalonga Secondary School, Kabwe, Central Province interacting with HRC-Z Public Relations Manager Saboi Songiso Banda

From page 7

In Central Province, engagements at Mkushi College of Applied Sciences, Mulungushi University and Kalonga Secondary School addressed human rights issues affecting young people and how they could play an effective role in reporting violations. At Mkushi College, human rights sensitisation sessions covered patients' rights as well as the need for enhanced protection of health workers' rights.

The engagements in institutions of learning provided opportunities for learners to air their views on emerging concerns, including bullying and corporal punishment, inappropriate relationships between teachers and learners in schools, and the failure by parents to exercise their parental responsibilities.

HRC-Z reached 4,156 young people through school, community and radio engagements across Chipangali, Lumezi and Lundazi Districts in Eastern Province. Six schools were covered, with 1,439 pupils and teachers reached at Lundazi Boarding Secondary School alone.

In Lusaka, 160 learners at Kamulanga Secondary School and 400 at David Kaunda National STEM Secondary School were engaged in discussions on child rights and responsibilities, including the prevention of bullying and other vices in schools. The Commission also sensitised 200 learners at Mumuni Primary School on rejecting bullying and respecting the rights and dignity of others.

Continued on page 9



Pupils at Kalonga Secondary School, Kabwe,Central Province, learn about rights and responsibilities.



Students at Mulungushi University, Kabwe Central Province following the proceedings of a Public Lecture on Human Rights and Development hosted by HRC-Z on 10th September 2026.



Senior Education and Training Officer, Ms. Lucy B. Munthali engages students during an interactive human rights session at Kapasa Makasa University in Chinsali, Muchinga Province.

From page 8

The outreach also covered Mansa College of Education in Luapula Province, where over 220 students and staff were sensitised on the role of educators in fostering a culture of human rights in schools.

At St Stephen International School in Kasama District, HRC-Z, in collaboration with the Zambia Police Service, sensitised pupils on human rights, citizenship and the responsibilities that accompany the enjoyment of rights.

The direct engagements with learners, teachers,lecturers and students as well as the public outreach activities through radio and community meetings contributed to enhanced promotion of human rights and visibility of the Commission.



Education and Training Officer, Ms. Precious Kalima, presenting on children's rights and responsibilities at David Kaunda STEM Secondary School in Lusaka on 24th September 2026.



HRC-Z Director for Complaints and Investigations, Mr. Shakespeare Siatakwi (2nd from left) with colleagues from other countries during the Regional Network of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) Technical Working Group Workshop on Migration and Human Rights held from 8th to 10th July 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop reaffirmed the critical role of NHRIs in safeguarding the rights of migrants, enhancing accountability and strengthening regional cooperation through knowledge sharing, coordinated action and sustained collaboration.



HRC-Z Senior Graphics Designer, Mr. Oscar Chisenga (2nd from left), and Librarian, Mr. Themba Mazyopa (3rd from left) interacted with members of the public, showcasing the Commission's publications, complaint-handling mechanisms and initiatives aimed at promoting environmental justice and protecting the rights of communities affected by mining activities. This was during the 2026 Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI), which took place from 28th to 30th July 2026 in Lusaka, themed "From Policy to Practice: Celebrating Value and Community Resilience in Zambia's Mining Sector."

HRC-Z Validates State of Human Rights Report



HRC-Z Director-General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, speaking during the 2025 State of Human Rights report validation meeting on 7th September 2026 at The Wish Executive Lodge in Kafue.



Director - Research and Planning, Mr. Foster Hamuyube, giving his remarks at the 2025 State of Human Rights Report validation meeting on 7th September 2026 at the Wish Executive Lodge in Kafue.

The Human Rights Commission-Zambia (HRC-Z) moved a step closer to providing an evidence-based assessment of Zambia's human rights situation following the validation of its 2025 State of Human Rights Report.

The report, which examines key developments and challenges in the observance and protection of human rights in the country, was validated during a two-day meeting held in Lusaka from 7th and 8th September 2026. The process began with a survey and report writing exercise in November 2025.

Its development is in line with Section 6(b) and (c) of the Human Rights Commission Act, No. 4 of 2024, which mandates the Commission to conduct research and report on the observance of human rights in the Republic.

Officially opening the validation meeting, HRC-Z Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, said the report provided an important opportunity for the Commission to assess developments in the country's human rights situation and contribute to informed public dialogue, policy development and institutional reform.

The Director-General urged participants to ensure that the final report was accurate, balanced, credible, and met the standards expected of the Commission.

Meanwhile, HRC-Z Director-Research and Planning, Mr. Foster Hamuyube, said the report should be viewed as more than a research document, as it was intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of human rights in Zambia.

Mr. Hamuyube said the report highlighted key human rights issues, including freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression and access to justice, which are essential to democracy and the protection of human dignity.



Director - Complaints and Investigations, Mr. Shakespeare Siatakwi (right), and Manager - Internal Audit, Ms. Ireen Kalunga (Left), following proceedings during the validation meeting.

The 2025 State of Human Rights Report is expected to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2026, with its production supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), with financial support from the European Union.

Information Holders Validate ATI Minimum Standards for Compliance

The Human Rights Commission – Zambia (HRC-Z) took a significant step towards strengthening compliance with the Access to Information (ATI) Act, No. 24 of 2023 following an engagement with information holders to validate the draft ATI Minimum Standards.
The validation meeting, held on 31st August 2026, at Sandy's Creation in Chilanga District, brought together representatives of information holders from public bodies and civil society organisations to review and provide input to facilitate the finalisation of the draft ATI Minimum Standards.

Speaking during the meeting, HRC-Z Director-Education, Training and Advocacy, Mr. Mweelwa Muleya, reminded stakeholders that the ATI Act was already in force and that compliance with its provisions was mandatory.



HRC-Z Director for Education, Training and Advocacy, Mr. Mweelwa Muleya, addressing stakeholders during the validation meeting for ATI Minimum Standards for Compliance at Sandy's Creation in Chilanga on 31st August 2026.

Mr. Muleya stressed that the Minimum Standards must be clear, practical and consistent with the provisions of the Act, particularly as they would provide a framework for enforcing compliance in accordance with Section 41 of the ATI Act.

He explained that the draft Minimum Standards had undergone a rigorous review process involving various stakeholders and noted that the meeting represented the final validation stage before the document proceeds to gazetting and publication. Stakeholders subsequently participated in a detailed review exercise, during which they reviewed the draft provisions and proposed amendments aimed at making the Standards clearer, more practical and easier to implement.

Closing the meeting, HRC-Z Director for Compliance and Legal Services, Mr. Tyson Mudenda, emphasised the importance of stakeholder participation in developing Minimum Standards that are both effective and responsive to the realities of information holders and information seekers.
Mr. Mudenda encouraged stakeholders to continue submitting any outstanding recommendations to the Commission to ensure that the final document adequately reflects their input.

He thanked the participating institutions for their diligence, commitment and contribution towards advancing the implementation of the ATI Act, which he described as critical to the realisation of the right to access information and freedom of expression guaranteed under Zambia's Bill of Rights.



A stakeholder contributing during the validation meeting for ATI Minimum Standards for Compliance at Sandy's Creation in Chilanga on 31st August 2026.

HRC-Z's Pre-General Election Preps



HRC-Z Vice Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga (2nd from right), Commissioner Panic Malawo Chilufya (2nd from left), Commissioner Laura Miti (far right), and Director-General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (far left) at the National Totalling Centre (Mulungushi International Conference Centre) in Lusaka during the announcement of presidential election results.

As Zambia prepared for the 13 August 2026 General Election, the Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) stepped up its monitoring of the human rights situation across the country.

For the Commission, the election was not simply about what would happen on polling day. The period before the elections was equally important because the political environment in the weeks leading up to voting could have a direct impact on people's ability to participate freely and safely. HRC-Z therefore focused its attention on issues such as political violence, freedom of expression and assembly, the right to participate in public affairs, arrests and detention, access to information, and the participation of women, young people and persons with disabilities.

In June 2026, the Commission held a consultative meeting with the Commonwealth Pre-election Assessment Mission in Lusaka. The meeting provided an opportunity for HRC-Z to share its assessment of the pre-election environment and explain how it was preparing to monitor human rights during the electoral period.

The Commission also used its Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) System to keep track of emerging concerns and deployed approximately 175 election monitors to follow developments on the ground, including at polling stations, collation centres, and the national results centre.

As the election drew closer, political violence remained one of the issues of concern. On 10th August 2026, HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo warned that violence could intimidate voters and discourage them from exercising their right to participate in public affairs. She said the Commission was monitoring incidents of violence, conducting investigations and following up on arrests and detentions linked to alleged electoral offences.

The Commission also used media engagements to raise public awareness of human rights and encouraged members of the public to report human rights violations through its toll-free line, 8181, and other established channels.

HRC-Z's pre-election work also involved engagement with a range of stakeholders, including political and electoral actors, law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations and international observation missions.

Through these engagements and its field monitoring, the Commission kept to promote and protect the right of the electorate human rights at the centre of the electoral process without fear, intimidation or discrimination.

HRC-Z Continues Post-Election Human Rights Monitoring

For the Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z), voting on 13th August, 2026 did not mark the end of election-related human rights monitoring.

In the days and weeks after the elections, the Commission continued to receive and follow up on reports of human rights violations, with particular attention to arrests and detention, reported missing persons, due process and access to justice.

This work built on monitoring that had started before polling day. HRC-Z had deployed monitors across the country, supported by the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) mechanism to track developments and encouraged members of the public to report violations through its toll-free line, 8181.

Following the elections, the Commission followed up individual cases and assessed broader human rights concerns emerging from the post-election period.

On 19th August 2026, HRC-Z issued a statement concerning reported missing persons and the need for due process for detainees. The Commission also raised concerns about the involvements of children in divisive political rhetoric and access to justice following the closure of court premises on 24th August 2026.



Manager - Compliance and Legal Services, Mr Chilambe Mpanga, and Manager-Public Relations Mrs. Saboi Songiso Banda, during the monitoring of the 2026 General Election at the National Election Results Centre in Lusaka.



Vice Chairperson, Dr Felicity Kayumba Kalunga (2nd from left), Commissioner Panic Malawo Chilufya (2nd from right), Commissioner Laura Miti (far left) and Director-General, Ms Mbololwa Wamunyima (far right), during an election monitoring exercise at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka.

Detention cases received particular attention. The Commission monitored at least 84 persons arrested or detained in connection with election-related incidents and security operations through visits, inquiries, spot checks and verification of their status and whereabouts.

These included six people arrested in Ng'ombe township, 43 in Roma area in Lusaka, musician Chester and 15 others in Kalabo District in Western Province, Enock Roosevelt Tonga at the National Results Centre, and 18 people charged with treason, among them NRPUP presidential candidate Brian Mundubile and Makebi Zulu. On 3rd September 2026, HRC-Z issued a statement urging prompt due process in all prolonged election-related detention cases.

The Commission's monitoring also covered developments surrounding the announcement and tabulation of results, including the suspension of counting and the need for proactive, timely and transparent disclosure of electoral information. For HRC-Z, the announcement of election results does not close the human rights file. Post-election human rights monitoring and protection remain an integral part of ensuring accountability and access to justice.

The Commission will therefore continue monitoring the post-election human rights environment and following up on reported cases as part of its mandate to protect and promote human rights

HRC-Z Strengthens Stakeholder Partnerships at National and International levels

The Human Rights Commission – Zambia (HRC-Z) is strengthening its engagement with different stakeholders as part of efforts to promote and protect human rights, with Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, leading the Commission's engagements at national and international level.

On 10th July 2026, Ms. Wamunyima undertook a familiarisation visit to Western Province, where she paid courtesy calls on key stakeholders, including the then Zambia Police Service Outgoing Deputy Commissioner for Western Province, Ms. Elizabeth Mutale; Western Province Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mr. Richard Simfukwe Mulwanda; and Zambia Correctional Service Deputy Regional Commanding Officer for the Western Region, Ms. Carren Nachalwe.

The engagements provided an opportunity for the Director General to learn more about the human rights situation in the province and identify areas of collaboration. Discussions with the Zambia Police Service, in particular, focused on the importance of continued cooperation in preventing electoral violence and protecting human rights.

Ms. Wamunyima noted that effective policing and the protection of human rights go hand in hand, adding that dialogue, mutual respect and institutional cooperation are important in addressing human rights concerns.



In Photo: The Human Rights Commission-Zambia Director-General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima (3rd From Right) with the outgoing Zambia Police Service Deputy Commissioner for Western Province, Mrs. Elizabeth Mutale (4th From right), Human Rights Commission-Zambia Director Human Resource and Administration, Mr. Tekana Sichone (4th from left), The Zambia Police Senior Assistant Commissioner For Western Province, Mr. Isaac Chewe (3rd from left) with Officers from the Commission.

The Director General's stakeholder engagement also extended beyond government institutions. On 17th July 2026, the HRC-Z held discussions with the Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to Zambia, His Excellency Mr. Tewfik Mahi, on strengthening cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights. The meeting was attended by HRC-Z Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo and then Acting Director- General Mr. Foster Hamuyube.

The discussions with the Algerian Ambassador focused on sharing experiences, good practices and strengthening cooperation among African human rights institutions. The two sides also explored areas of mutual interest in advancing human dignity, equality, fundamental freedoms and economic, social and cultural rights.

These engagements reflect HRC-Z's approach of working with a broad range of stakeholders, including government institutions, law enforcement agencies, correctional services, diplomatic missions and other partners.



HRC-Z Takes Human Rights Message to Traditional Ceremonies

Traditional ceremonies continue to provide an important platform for the Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) to engage communities and take human rights messages closer to the people.

The Commission has participated in activities surrounding the Vinkhakanimba, Kulamba, Lubinda Ntongo and Mutomboko traditional ceremonies, using the gatherings to sensitise communities about their rights and responsibilities.

The ceremonies brought together large numbers of people from different communities, providing an opportunity for HRC-Z to reach wider communities that may not always have access to formal human rights awareness programmes.

Through exhibitions, community engagements and interactions with members of the public, the Commission shared information on issues affecting everyday life, including children's rights, gender equality, access to justice, freedom from discrimination and the importance of reporting human rights violations.

The engagements also allowed members of the public to raise concerns directly with Commission officers and seek guidance on where and how complaints could be lodged.

For HRC-Z, taking human rights messages to traditional gatherings is about meeting people where they are. These gatherings bring together traditional leaders, families, young people and other members of society, creating an opportunity for conversations on issues that affect communities.

The participation also provided an opportunity for the Commission to work alongside traditional leaders and other stakeholders in promoting respect for human rights.

The Commission will continue to explore traditional and community platforms as part of its outreach work, ensuring that human rights information reaches people beyond formal meetings and workshops.

HRC-Z Intensifies ATI Law Nationwide Sensitisation

The Human Rights Commission - Zambia (HRC-Z) has intensified efforts to promote compliance with the Access to Information (ATI) Act No. 24 of 2023 through capacity-building engagements with information holders and requesters across the country.



Manager-Research and Mechanisms, Mr. Lisbon Chaamwe, and Legal Counsel, Ms. Naomi Chibesakunda, participate in an ATI radio discussion programme on Oblate Radio Liseli in Mongu.

On 22nd September 2026, HRC-Z Director General, Ms. Mbololwa Wamunyima, urged Ministry of Defence (MoD) Public Relations Officers and Planners to deepen their understanding of the ATI law to ensure information requests are handled effectively and in compliance with its provisions.

In her opening remarks delivered on her behalf by Director-Education, Training and Advocacy Mr. Mweelwa Muleya at the opening of a two-day specialised workshop in Chilanga, Ms. Wamunyima emphasised the need to understand both the right of access to information and its lawful limitations.

She noted that the Act provides penalties for withholding information that is not exempt from disclosure and for unauthorised disclosure of exempt information.

MoD Director for Research, Planning and Projects Mrs. Ireen Musonda Habasimbi urged participants to apply the knowledge gained to ensure information requests are processed within the timelines and procedures prescribed by law.

The Commission has con-



Participants during the ATI stakeholders' engagement meeting at La Pantera Lodge in Mongu, Western Province.

ducted similar engagements in several districts to strengthen awareness of the law and promote transparency and accountability.

On 25th August 2026, HRC-Z engaged information holders in Mongu and Kasama, followed by another engagement in Mansa District on 27th August 2026.

In Kasama and Mansa Districts, Manager-Compliance and Legal Services Mr. Chilambe Mpanga stressed the importance of proactive disclosure by public institutions, private institutions that utilise public funds, and other institutions holding information of significant public interest.

In Mongu, Manager-Research and Mechanism Mr. Lisbon Chaamwe, urged information holders to familiarise themselves with the Act and follow established procedures when responding to requests.

Earlier, on 10th August 2026, Ms. Wamunyima reminded information holders and media representatives during a training in Chilanga that the progressive compliance period under the Act had ended on 25th June 2026, making compliance with its provisions imperative.

The Commission also sensitised information holders in Ndola District on 23rd July and collaborated with the Ministry of Information and Media to train heads of government departments at Ndola Council Chambers on the Copperbelt Province.

Other engagements were held in Chinsali and Kabwe Districts on 20th and 22nd July, respectively, covering the Commission's ATI mandate, obligations of information holders, procedures for requesting and processing information, and appeals against decisions of information holders.

In Solwezi District, on 21st July, HRC-Z Manager-Human Rights Advocacy, Mr. Simon Mulumbi underscored the importance of access to information in the enjoyment of other fundamental human rights.

These engagements were conducted with financial support from the European Union through GIZ.







HRC-Z members of Staff led by Manager Research and Mechanisms Mr. Lisbon Chaamwe during the ATI Law Nationwide Sensitisation Radio Programme on oblate Radio Liseli in Mongu, Western Province.

Manager-Compliance and Legal Services, Mr. Chilambe Mpanga, engages representatives of Information holders during an ATI sensitisation meeting at Wamulungwe Lodge in Kasama on 25th August 2026.



HRC-Z ATI Law Nationwide Sensitisation in Photos



Group Photo after the ATI Stakeholders engagement meeting held at Leons Lodge, Choma, Southern Province.



Participants during the ATI stakeholders' engagement meeting at G-Greens Lodge in Solwezi, North-Western Province.



Participants during the ATI stakeholders' engagement meeting at Katachi Lodge in Chinsali Muchinga, Province.



Participants during the ATI stakeholders' engagement meeting at Wamulungwe Lodge in Kasama, Northern Province.



HRC-Z Staff participate in ATI Radio discussion Programme on Radio Mano, Kasama, Northern Province.



HRC-Z Staff participate in ATI discussion Programme on One Love Radio, Mansa, Luapula Province.



Participants during the ATI stakeholders' engagement meeting at Sali Riverside Resort in Mansa, Luapula Province.



Participants during the ATI stakeholders' engagement meeting at the Council Chambers in Ndola, Copperbelt Province.



Various Stakeholders during the ATI Stakeholders engagement meeting held at Fatmols Executive Lodge in Ndola, Copperbelt Province



HRC-Z staff and stakeholders during an engagement meeting on the Access to Information Act at Farmer's Rest Lodge in Kabwe, Central Province on 22nd July 2026.

HRC-Z Calls for Stronger Church, Government Partnership to Advance Child Protection

The Human Rights Commission – Zambia (HRC-Z) called for stronger collaboration between the church and government to enhance child protection, while commending the church for its important role in safeguarding children.

Speaking during a plenary discussion at the **Second Annual Together for Orphans Conference** held on 16th July 2026 at Government Complex, HRC-Z Vice Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Kayumba Kalunga, said the church and the State played complementary roles in promoting children's rights.
She noted that while the church approached child protection from a faith-based perspective, the government was guided by international human rights standards.

Dr. Kalunga observed that issues such as adolescent health education and teenage pregnancy required greater attention in church settings, requiring strengthened collaboration with the State and other stakeholders to ensure children receive holistic protection and support.

She also committed the Commission to strengthening the capacity of church leaders on the Children's Code Act, to among others, address conceptions in some communities that human rights encourage juvenile delinquency.

"We need an open dialogue on this, and we know that the church is the best avenue to raise awareness on the provisions of the Act, including the rights and responsibilities of children, parents and guardians," she said.

During the conference, HRC-Z also conducted a breakout session on children's rights and advocacy, reaching more than 180 participants with information on the Commission's mandate and emerging child rights concerns.

Manager-Complaints and Investigations, Mr. Kebby Malila, said the Commission continued to receive complaints relating to child sexual abuse, neglect, trafficking and other forms of abuse.
He urged parents and guardians to closely monitor children's use of digital technologies, warning that online platforms were increasingly being weaponised to abuse and exploit children.

He also encouraged parents and guardians to uphold children's right to participate in decisions affecting them and always act in their best interests.
Participants were informed that churches could request human rights sensitisation programmes from the Commission and were encouraged to report violations through the Commission's toll-free line, 8181.

Organised by Orphan Sunday Zambia, this year's Together for Orphans Conference brought together more than 800 pastors, church leaders, traditional leaders and government representatives to discuss child protection, safeguarding and the welfare of orphans.



Manager - Complaints and Investigations, Mr. Kebby Malila, engages Church leaders on children's rights during the Together for Orphans Conference in Lusaka on 16th July 2026.

HRC-Z, ECES Host Football for Democracy Dialogue Tournament

On 25th July 2026, the Human Rights Commission-Zambia (HRC-Z), the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) through the Strengthening Democracy and Electoral Governance in Zambia (PRO DEM), funded by the European Union, hosted the Democracy Dialogue Tournament at Woodlands Stadium, Lusaka.

The event brought together former Shepolopolo players, the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) winners, football legends and various stakeholders to promote peace, human rights and democratic participation ahead of the 13th August 2026 General Election.

Photo Focus: Football for Democracy Dialogue Tournament



The 2012 AFCON Winning Captain Christopher Katonga speaking on behalf of the Legends team at Woodlands Stadium on 25th July 2026.



Football for Democracy Dialogue Women's Team posing for a photo with the HRC- Chairperson Dr. Pamela T. Sambo, before their game against Zambia Women National Team Legends at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka.

Photo Focus: Football for Democracy Dialogue Tournament



The Guest of Honour the Human Rights Commission Chairperson, Dr. Pamela T. Sambo greeting the Football for Democracy Dialogue Women's Team before kick off between the Women's teams.



The Director of Programmes, Mr. Victor Chaushi A.KA Kabova addressing players and spectators after the game between the 2012 AFCON Legends and Football for Democracy Dialogue Men's Team.





Football for Democracy Dialogue Men's Team displaying placards with various messages before kick off against 2012 AFCON Legends at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka.



Football for Democracy Dialogue Men's Team posing for a photo before their game against 2012 AFCON Zambia National Men's Team Legends at Woodlands Stadium.



The Guest of Honour the Human Rights Commission Chairperson, Dr. Pamela T. Sambo greeting the Women's Team Legends.



The Guest of Honour the Human Rights Commission Chairperson, Dr. Pamela T. Sambo launched the Tournament with a goal against the Women Legends for the Zambia National Soccer Team.

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

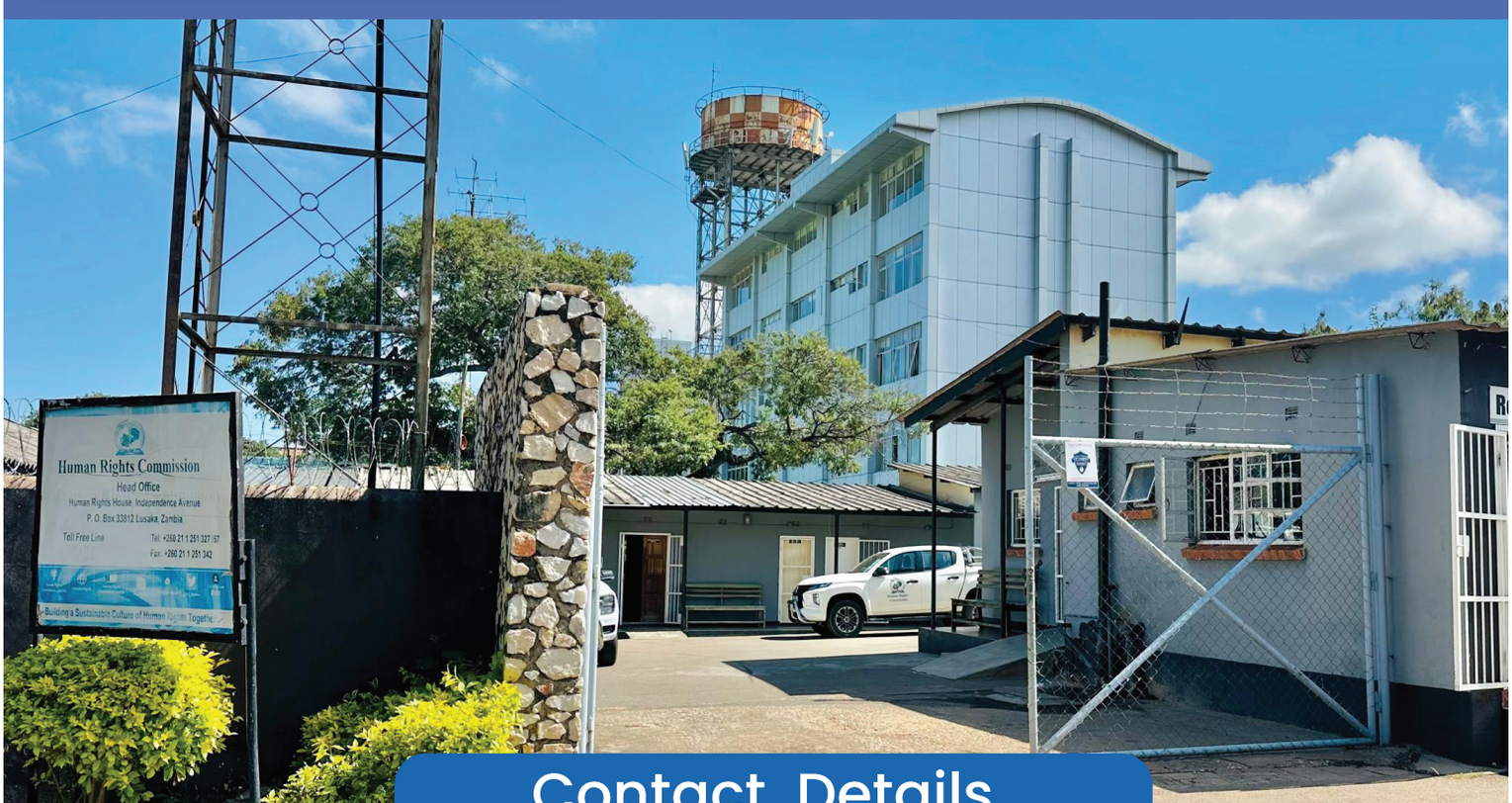
HRC pledges to serve its clients with

impartiality

#integrity

transparency and #accountability

while upholding virtues of independence in the discharge of its duties



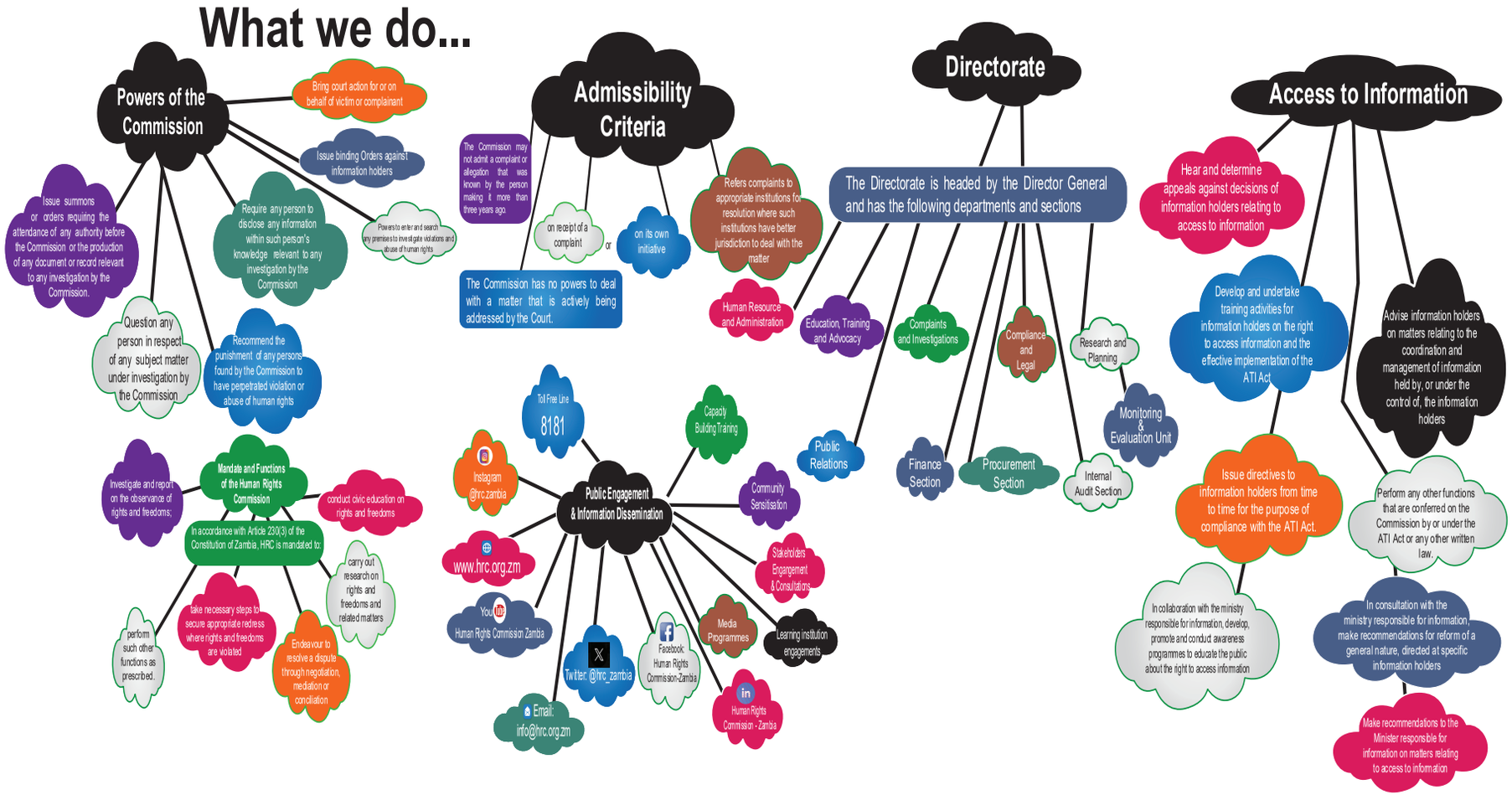
Contact Details

Toll Free Line: 8181 | www.hrc.org.zm | Human Rights Commission Zambia | hrc. zambia | info@hrc.org.zm | @hrc_zambia | 0954 443 010 | Human Rights Commission - Zambia | Human Rights Commission - Zambia

- **Head Office: Lusaka** Tel:+260-0211-251327/251357
- **Central Province Office: Kabwe** Mobile: +260 957 445 833
- **Copperbelt Province Office: Ndola** Mobile: +260 954 170 753/ 970 520 355
- **Eastern Province Office: Chipata** Mobile: +260 954 170 748/970 520 352
- **Luapula Province Office: Mansa** Mobile: +260 970 520 356/+260 958 122 370
- **Muchinga Province Office: Chinsali** Mobile: +260 970 520 358
- **Southern Province Office: Livingstone** Mobile: +260 975 961 028/ 0764 353 543
- **Northern Province Office: Kasama** Mobile: +260 954 170 760/0957 446 032
- **North- Western Province Office: Solwezi** Mobile:+260 764 353 519
- **Western Province Office: Mongu** Mobile: +260 958 122 374

Human Rights Commission-Zambia

Toll Free Line 8181 www.hrc.org.zm





Human Rights Commission Contact Details:

The Director-General
Human Rights Commission
Human Rights House Stand No. 36871
Independence Avenue
P.O. Box 33812
LUSAKA

Tel:+260-0211-251327/251357
Toll free line: 8181
WhatsApp: +260 954 443 010
Email: info@hrc.org.zm
Email: complaints@hrc.org.zm

Website: www.hrc.org.zm

PROVINCIAL OFFICES

Human Rights Commission
Central Province Office
Plot No. 6 Marshal Avenue
Opposite Zamtel Post Office
Mobile: +260 958 122 372
KABWE

Human Rights Commission
Copperbelt Province Office
Plot No.88189 Moffat Road
P.O. Box 240528 Ndola
Mobile: +260 958 122 371
NDOLA

Human Rights Commission
Eastern Province Office
Plot No. 916 Anoya Zulu Road
P.O. Box 510496 Chipata
Mobile: +260 958 122 367
CHIPATA

Human Rights Commission
Luapula Province Office
NAPSA Building along Chitimukulu Road
Mobile: +260 958 122 370
MANSA

Human Rights Commission
Muchinga Province Office
Plot No. 1588 Mayadi Compound
Lubwa Road
Mobile: +260 958 122 368
CHINSALI

Human Rights Commission
Southern Province Office
House No. 1861/1 Muchinga Road Livingstone
P.O. Box 60935 Livingstone
Mobile: +260 958 122 375
LIVINGSTONE

Human Rights Commission
Northern Province Office
Plot No. 696 Lunzua Road Kasama
Mobile: +260 958 122 369
KASAMA

Human Rights Commission
North- Western Province Office
Room No. 134 NAPSA Building Solwezi
Mobile: +260 958 122 373
SOLWEZI

Human Rights Commission
Western Province Office
Plot No. 164 Senanga Road Mongu
P.O. Box 910447 Mongu
Mobile: +260 958 122 374
MONGU

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

www.hrc.org.zm
Human Rights Commission Zambia
Human Rights Commission - Zambia
Toll Free Line 8181
@hrc_zambia
@hrc. zambia
info@hrc.org.zm
Human Rights House
Independence Avenue
P. O. Box 33812
Lusaka, Zambia
0954 443 010

www.hrc.org.zm