



INTERIM MISSION STATEMENT

SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE 20 SEPTEMBER 2011 ZAMBIA TRIPARTITE GENERAL ELECTIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Following an invitation by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) constituted an Election Observation Mission to observe the 20th September 2011 Presidential, National Assembly and Local Government Elections in Zambia. The 40-Member Mission was in the country from 6th to 24th September 2011. It was composed of 20 Members of Parliament, 10 Parliamentary staff from SADC Parliaments and 10 staff from the Forum's Secretariat. The Mission comprised male and female Members of Parliament from both the ruling and opposition political parties from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. This is the third time that the SADC Parliamentary Forum has observed General Elections in Zambia, having previously observed the 2001 and 2006 Tripartite General Elections.

The Mission Leader for the SADC PF Election Observation Mission was Hon. Elifas Dingara, MP, a Member of the National Assembly of Namibia and a Member of the SADC PF Executive Committee. The Deputy Mission Leader was Hon Zeca Castro Morgado, MP, Member of the National Assembly of Mozambique.

The 2011 Zambia Tripartite General Elections is the 26th election to be observed by SADC PF since 1999. Previously, the Forum observed the following elections: Mozambique and Namibia (1999); Mauritius, Zimbabwe and Tanzania (2000); Zambia (2001); Zimbabwe and Lesotho (2002); Malawi, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique (2004); Mauritius and Tanzania (2005); Zambia, DRC and Madagascar (2006); Lesotho (2007); Malawi, South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia (2009); and Mauritius (2010).

The Mission was preceded by a Pre-Election Technical Mission from 14th to 20th of August 2011, whose main objective was to assess the political environment prevailing in Zambia ahead of the 2011 Tripartite General Elections.

The purpose of this Interim Statement is to share with the peoples of Zambia, the SADC Region's Parliaments and citizens as well as the international community in general, the Mission's Observations, Findings and Recommendations which are aimed at strengthening

democratic electoral practices in the Region. A more detailed Final Report will be compiled and published not later than 90 days from the date of this Statement.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

In undertaking its election observation work, the SADC Parliamentary Forum Election Observation Mission to the 2011 Zambia Tripartite General Elections was guided by the following terms of reference which are premised on the Forum's Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region.

- i) Assess the extent to which the elections are conducted in line with the Zambian constitutional and legal framework as well as the Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region;
- ii) Assess the contextual factors, (political, economic, social and human rights) that are likely to impinge upon the integrity, transparency, freeness and fairness, credibility and legitimacy of the elections;
- iii) Assess the impartiality, efficiency and effectiveness of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) in the management of all relevant aspects of the elections;
- iv) Make an honest, independent, impartial and objective assessment of the extent to which conditions existed for the people of Zambia to freely express their will in the choice of political representatives;
- v) Assess special provisions/facilities in place to enable imprisoned persons, the disabled, sick, infirm, expecting mothers, citizens living abroad and public servants on duty to vote;
- vi) Draw some good practices, conclusions and recommendations on the election and report to the SADC Parliamentary Forum; and
- vii) Produce a report on the outcome of the election including strengths and possible areas of improvement.

3. TRAINING AND ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

The work of the Mission commenced with a three-day Training and Orientation Workshop for the MPs and staff in Lusaka from 6th to 9th September 2011. The main purpose of the Training and Orientation Workshop was to familiarise the Forum's Mission with issues of democracy, governance and elections, the political, constitutional and legal context of the electoral process as well as to equip the Members with the skills for election observation including the terms of reference and the methodology for the Mission. The Stakeholders that briefed the Mission included the ECZ, representatives of contesting political parties, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media.

4. DEPLOYMENT

The Mission deployed one Team in each of the nine (9) Provinces on 10th September, where they were based until 21st September 2011. The Teams operated from provincial capitals of Kasama (Northern Province), Ndola (Copperbelt Province), Chipata (Eastern Province), Mansa (Luapula Province), Kabwe (Central Province), Solwezi (North-Western Province), Livingstone

(Southern Province) and Mongu (Western Province). The Mission Leader and his Team covered Lusaka Province. The deployment plan is as shown in the table below:

PROVINCE	TEAM MEMBERS / DELEGATION	G	COUNTRY
MISSION LEADERSHIP	TEAM 01		
Lusaka	1 Hon Elifas DINGARA (Mr) (Mission Leader)	M	Namibia
	2 Hon. Kotiti DIHOLO (Mr)	M	Lesotho
	3 Ms. June KHUZWAYO....Staff	F	South Africa
NORTHERN PROVINCE	TEAM 02		
Kasama	1 Hon. Fani MUNENGAMI (Mr) (Team Leader)	M	Zimbabwe
	2 Hon. Moses Joseph MACHALI (Mr)	M	Tanzania
	3 Mr. Albuis MUTONGA.....Staff	M	Namibia
COPPERBELT PROVINCE	TEAM 03		
Ndola	Hon Zeca Castro MORGADO (Mr) (Team Leader)		
	1 Hon. Ruth MENDES (Mr) (Team Leader)	M	Mozambique
	2 Mr. Jaime Ezequiel NUMAIOStaff	M	Angola
	3 Michel Saraiva (Mr)...Interpreter	M	Mozambique
EASTERN PROVINCE	TEAM 04		
Chipata	Hon. Francisco Castro MARIA (Mr) (Team Leader)		
	1 Hon. Raul BARCELOS (Mr)	M	Angola
	2 Mr. Geraldo CAMBIETE....Staff	M	Angola
	3 Jose PINTO (Mr)...Interpreter	M	Angola

LUAPULA PROVINCE		TEAM 05		
Mansa	1	Hon. Kenneth Sililo MUBU (Mr) (Team Leader)	M	South Africa
	2	Hon. Henry DLAMINI (Mr)	M	Swaziland
	3	Mr. Absolom KUNZWA...Staff	M	Zimbabwe
CENTRAL PROVINCE		TEAM 06		
Kabwe	1	Hon. Maneswar PEETUMBER Hon (Mr) (Team Leader)	M	Mauritius
	2	Sen. Emmanuel Kisimba KIMBA (Mr)	M	DRC
	3	Mr. Sibiti Maowa LUPAYA....Staff	M	DRC
	4	Michel MWEZA (Mr)...Interpreter	M	DRC
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE		TEAM 07		
Solwezi	1	Hon. Stella MANYANYA (Ms) (Team Leader)	F	Tanzania
	2	Hon. Botsalo NTUANE (Mr)	M	Botswana
	3	Mr. Lawson Laston CHITSEKO.....Staff	M	Malawi
SOUTHERN PROVINCE		TEAM 08		
Choma	1	Hon. Ben ULENGA (Mr) (Team Leader)	M	Namibia
	2	Hon. Ellina SHIRICHENA (Ms)	F	Zimbabwe
	2	Hon. Fidelis MOLAO (Mr)	M	Botswana
	3	Mr. Liseddi KEEKAE.....Staff	M	Botswana

WESTERN PROVINCE	TEAM 09		
Mongu	1	Hon. Dr. Zukile LUYENGE (Mr) (<i>Team Leader</i>)	South Africa
	.		M
	2		
	.	Hon. Magalle John Paul SHIBUDA (Mr)	M Tanzania
	3	Mr. Jossy Stephen	
	.	MWAKASYUKA.....Staff	M Tanzania

5. METHODOLOGY

The Mission Teams employed several methods to gather information. These included review of the constitutional and legal framework of elections in Zambia, analysing the various election documents provided by the ECZ, attending political campaign rallies, witnessing door to door campaigns, holding discussions with SADC Ambassadors, reading of newspapers as well as electronic media and interacting with other Election Observer Missions such as the African Union, SADC Secretariat, COMESA, the Commonwealth Secretariat, National Democratic Institute, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), EISA and the European Union in order to exchange observations and information. These various methods enabled the Mission to gather comprehensive information and to assess the degree to which the 2011 Zambian electoral processes were managed. The Mission's Teams visited a total of 109 of the 150 National Assembly Constituencies, 54 out of the 74 Districts and 96 polling stations during the observation.

The Mission's observation process was based on the constitution and legal framework as well as the *Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region*, the *SADC Principles and Guidelines for Democratic Elections*, the *SADC Protocol on Gender and Development*, and the *African Union Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa*, among other relevant regional and international instruments. The global *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation* and the *Code of Conduct for International Election Observers*, which the Forum is party to, were also useful references for the Mission.

6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND POINTS OF ENQUIRY

In carrying out its observation work, the Mission was guided by the following principles:

- impartiality,
- neutrality,
- comprehensiveness,
- transparency,
- inclusiveness, and
- objectivity.

The specific points of enquiry for the Mission were:

- i) Constitutional and legal framework
- ii) Comprehensiveness of Voters Roll and related processes;
- iii) Civic and voter education;
- iv) Participation of women and the youth as voters, candidates and election officials;
- v) Preparation and distribution of voting materials, adequacy and location of polling stations;
- vi) Polling arrangements;
- vii) Counting of ballots, tabulation and verification of results;
- viii) Use of ICTs;
- ix) Conflict Resolution mechanisms;
- x) Media coverage of parties, candidates and election-related events;
- xi) Conduct of the campaign process;
- xii) Role of security forces;
- xiii) Political Party Funding
- xiv) Conduct of political parties and candidates,
- xv) Good practices from the Zambian Election;
- xvi) Areas of Improvement; and
- xvii) Overall Mission Assessment of the Electoral Process.

7. MISSION FINDINGS

7.1 The Constitutional and Legal Framework

The Constitution of the Republic of Zambia provides for the protection of citizens' freedoms of movement, expression, assembly and association, among others. Article 21 specifically provides for citizens' right to form or belong to political parties. These freedoms were, in the Mission's view, respected and exercised without undue hindrance.

The electoral process in Zambia is governed principally by the Constitution of the Republic, the Electoral Act (2006), the Electoral Commission Act (1996), relevant provisions of the Public Order Act (1996), the Local Government Act (2010) and the Electoral Code of Conduct (Statutory Instrument No. 90 of 2006). Part IV and Part V of the Constitution make provision for, among other issues, elections for the President, designation of the Chief Justice as Returning Officer for Presidential Elections, Elections for the National Assembly seats, the electoral system, and delimitation of constituencies.

The Zambian Constitution allows for the President and Vice President to continue exercising their functions and duties even after the dissolution of Parliament until the new President and Vice President are sworn-in.

The Mission noted the existence of an Electoral Code of Conduct regulating the conduct of political parties and other stakeholders such as the media, the police, observers and monitors

during elections. The Mission further noted that the Code, which has a legal enforcement mechanism including fines, police enforcement and penalty sentences, gives power to the ECZ to reprimand political parties and candidates violating the Code of Conduct.

The Mission however, observed that the law doesn't give the ECZ enough powers to enforce the Code hence the continued violation of the same by various stakeholders especially on issues relating to lack of fairness, balance and objectivity by the media in their coverage of political campaign issues.

The Mission is of the view that the constitutional and legal framework governing elections in Zambia generally augurs well for the conduct of free and fair elections.

7.2 The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)

Article 76 of the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia establishes the ECZ as an autonomous body with the sole mandate of supervising voter registration, conducting elections and delimiting constituency boundaries. Issues relating to the composition and operations of the ECZ and the conduct of elections are further articulated in the Electoral Commission Act (1996), the Electoral Act (2006) and the Electoral Code of Conduct (Statutory Instrument No. 90 of 2006). The law provides that the ECZ comprises a Chairperson and not more than four other members. The members are appointed by the President subject to ratification by the National Assembly. For one to qualify as Chairperson of ECZ, one should have held or be 'qualified to hold high judicial office or, any suitably qualified person.' The power and authority to appoint the Director and staff of the Commission rests solely with the Commission, to which such staff are accountable.

Recognising the notable exceptions, electoral stakeholders expressed confidence in the independence, impartiality, accessibility and capacity of the ECZ to organise and conduct credible elections.

The Mission noted that the legal framework within which the ECZ is established and operates generally augurs well for the independent and autonomous functioning of the Commission. This is in line with the Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region and the SADC Principles and Guidelines for Democratic Elections.

The Mission observed that the ECZ was evidently prepared for the 2011 Tripartite Elections. The ECZ ensured the printing of ballot papers in time under the observation of stakeholders including representatives of political parties, carried out civic and voter education programmes in collaboration with civil society organisations, and distributed both sensitive and non sensitive voting materials to District Polling Centres in the Provinces and constituencies according to the electoral calendar. It also trained polling staff and engaged stakeholders throughout the process. However, there were isolated cases where ballot papers and other voting materials could not be delivered in time.

Overall, the Mission commends the ECZ for the professional work in preparing for the 2011 Zambia Tripartite Elections.

7.3 The Political Environment

The Mission found out that the political environment was generally peaceful as demonstrated by unimpeded political rallies, campaigns, high degree of tolerance among political party supporters although isolated cases of election-related violence were reported to the Mission's Teams by stakeholders including the Police. The Mission noted with concern the tendency by political parties and candidates to use emotive and inflammatory language targeting personalities rather than issues which tended to promote polarisation and which could easily fan political violence.

The SADC PF commends the people of Zambia for the generally peaceful and friendly manner in which they conducted themselves during the campaign, voting and counting of ballots.

7.4 Voter Registration

The Mission noted that the voting age in terms of Zambian law is 18 years. The Mission further noted that Zambian law provides for continuous voter registration which, however, was not undertaken due to funding challenges. The SADC PF Election Observation Mission found out that for the 2011 Tripartite Elections, Zambia introduced biometric registration kits for the first time, changing from the manual system which was slow and difficult to update. The Mission also found that during the voter registration exercise, the ECZ collaborated with the Ministry of Home Affairs' Department of National Registration since one requires a National Identity document before getting a voting card. The Mission noted the challenges faced by the ECZ in the capturing of information from a manual National Identity registration system into a computerised Voters Roll, as well as deregistration of deceased persons.

The Mission found that the first voter registration was conducted from June to December 2010 and was extended in March 2011 for 3 weeks. This witnessed a big leap in total citizens registered from 3.9 million voters captured in the previous voters roll to 5,167,154 voters, representing 86 percent of the eligible voters. This puts Zambia above the regional average of 77 percent. In addition, the Mission noted the large number of first time voters in the 2011 Zambia Tripartite Elections, the majority of whom are the youths. A total of 1,272,000 first time voters registered to vote. In terms of age groups of the registered voters: 1,064,730 are between the ages of 18 to 25 years, 1,716,858 are between the ages of 26 to 35 years while 2,385,566 are above 35 years. The Mission also observed that of the 5,167,154 registered voters, female voters are a marginal majority at 2,590,821, representing 50.14 percent when compared to the 2,576,333 male registered voters representing 49.86 percent.

7.5 Voters' Roll

The Mission noted that copies of the Voters' Roll were available to the public and stakeholders in hard copies and besides the untimely dispatch, no significant complaints were raised by the

contesting political parties, candidates and other stakeholders, relating to anomalies, shortcomings and inaccuracies on the Voters' Roll.

7.6 Gender Representation

The Mission observed that there were very few women candidates participating in the 2011 Zambia General Elections, with only one Presidential candidate being a woman. Out of a total of about 450 Parliamentary candidates for the 150 National Assembly seats, only 85 women candidates were adopted by the political parties or stood as independent candidates as follows: 22 United Party for National Development (UPND), 21 Patriotic Front (PF), 20 Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD), 17 independent candidates, 3 Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD), 1 United National Independent Party (UNIP) and 1 National Restoration Party (NAREP). Only one of the 150 National Assembly seats had all women candidates. The Mission's interaction with various electoral stakeholders singled out inadequacies of the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) electoral system which emphasises winner-takes-all as the major reason for the poor representation of women among the candidates. Other reasons sighted included cultural, socio-economic and job security factors.

The Mission noted the urgent need for Political Parties in Zambia to incorporate gender equity in their constitutions, policies and manifestos.

The Mission therefore noted that the outcome of the election in terms of gender representation falls short of the objectives and targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which requires SADC countries to ensure 50/50 women and men representation in both political and decision making positions.

The Mission was encouraged by Women's representation within the ECZ structures where the Director of the ECZ Secretariat is a woman. While gender was not a criterion for the recruitment of electoral officials, the Mission observed a fairly equitable representation of women who occupied the positions of presiding officers or returning officers.

7.7 Participation of Youths

The Mission noted that in spite of the youth constituting the majority of the voters, their participation was generally marginalised to mobilising support for their parties' candidates without having a clearly defined agenda of their own in the electoral process. The Mission further noted that some candidates took advantage of youth unemployment to use them as unpaid political "foot soldiers" and rewarding them with beer.

7.8 Role of Civil Society Organisations

The Mission appreciated the civil society organizations (CSOs) for playing an important role in civic and voter education, working with the ECZ. In addition, the Mission noted the role of CSOs in promoting the participation of women in the electoral process through training women candidates in public speaking, fundraising and other skills. The Mission, however, noted concerns raised by various stakeholders, particularly political parties, regarding lack of impartiality by some civil society organizations in the discharge of their programmes.

Role of Traditional Leaders

The Mission noted the concerns raised against some traditional leaders that they tended to favour certain political parties and candidates to the exclusion of others, conduct that undermines their stature in the community as symbols of unity and social cohesion. The Mission was also informed that political parties abused traditional leaders by coercing them to openly support them. The Mission further took note of the intervention by the ECZ which had held a meeting with traditional leaders and brought to their attention the fact that they were prohibited from doing that by law. This had resulted in a reduction of such incidents.

7.9 Role of Development Partners

The Mission appreciated the crucial role played by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in coordinating a basket fund which was used for general electoral support including strengthening the capacity of ECZ, training the police in policing elections and civil society organisations in their civic and voter education activities.

7.10 Media Coverage of the Electoral Process

The Mission's observation was that there was polarization in the Zambian media, with the public media, both print and electronic, biased towards the ruling party and the mainstream private print media tilted towards some sections of the opposition. The Mission wishes to note that the public media has a greater obligation to provide balanced coverage of all political players, funded as it is by the tax payer.

In addition, the Mission found out that some sections of the private media, in particular television stations and community radio stations spread across the country, were fair in their coverage of political parties' candidates and the electoral process. This helped to fill the gap left by the generally unbalanced coverage of political issues by the mainstream media. The Mission also noted that the live election debates conducted by the media especially television stations helped to focus the debates on the main issues in this election. This helped to diffuse the polarization brought about by the biased reporting and use of inflammatory language by political parties and candidates.

7.11 Voter Education

The Mission found out that since July 2011, the ECZ had coordinated a robust voter education campaign across the country. The Mission further noted that the deployed voter education facilitators were supported with relevant materials in all the eight major languages including a facilitator's guide and manual. The Mission also found out that the voter education material was standardised and apolitical as is stipulated by Zambia's Electoral Act.

The Mission observed that the Electoral Act provides for continuous voter education but this was not done due to resource constraints. The Mission further noted the role played by civil society organisations in complementing ECZ efforts by providing civic and voter education. Political parties and the media also played significant roles in providing voter education.

The Mission further observed that monitoring of voter education activities was devolved to District Voter Education Committees comprising the ECZ and civil society organizations with the National Voter Education Committee helping with policy direction.

7.12 Political Campaigns

The Mission noted that the official campaign period for the 2011 Zambia Tripartite Elections stretched from 29th July 2011 to 18th September 2011 following dissolution of Parliament on 28th July 2011. The Mission further noted that the conduct of political parties and other stakeholders during campaigns in Zambia is governed by the Public Order Act (1996) and the Electoral Code of Conduct Regulations of 2006.

The Mission observed that apart from the isolated reports of political violence and election related conflicts, the election campaign was carried out in a calm and orderly manner with a relative degree of tolerance among contesting political parties and candidates despite the tendency of some candidates to engage in personality attacks of their opponents. The 2011 Zambia Election campaign expressed itself in the form of political rallies, door-to-door campaigns, billboards, posters, radio and television adverts as well as live debates involving candidates.

7.13 Polling Centers/Stations

The Mission found out that the ECZ established a total of 6,456 polling stations throughout the country with each polling station divided into multiple polling streams of not more than 850 people per stream to expedite voting. The Mission further noted that the voter registers were also customized up to a specific stream, with a register for each stream. The Mission noted that the ECZ trained approximately 60,000 electoral staff members who were recruited for the 2011 Zambia Tripartite Elections. The Mission further observed that most polling stations visited by its Teams in the provinces were well staffed, with each stream being manned by five officers other than security officers and ushers and attained some gender balance in the composition of officials manning them. Furthermore, the polling officers generally demonstrated good knowledge of the requisite voting procedures. The Mission is of the general view that the number of polling stations was adequate and generally accessible enough to allow as many eligible voters as possible to cast their vote.

7.14 The Vote and the Count

The Mission observed that most polling stations opened and closed at legislated times of 0600 and 1800 respectively. However, there were some polling stations which opened late due to logistical challenges mainly relating to the late arrival of election materials. The ECZ extended the voting period for those polling stations that opened late to compensate for the lost time. Polling materials were generally available in adequate quantities allowing voting to proceed smoothly throughout the day at most polling stations. The Mission also noted that the presence of political party agents, election monitors and the police at all polling stations together with the use of indelible ink to avoid multiple voters contributed to enhancing the transparency of the voting process.

The Mission noted isolated cases of violence in some of the constituencies including the burning of vehicles and confiscation of voting materials as reported in Kanyama and Lilanda in Lusaka Province, Mongu in Western Province and Solwezi in North-Western Province. Other than the aforementioned cases, the election proceeded countrywide generally with no significant cases of violence and intimidation on the polling day.

The Mission observed that counting of ballots took place at the respective polling stations at the end of the voting process and was generally conducted in a peaceful and transparent manner in the presence of candidate representatives, monitors and in some cases observers. The presiding officers and party agents signed the results before posting a copy on the outside of the polling station while each of the candidates' representatives was given a signed copy of the same.

7.15 Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in Place

The Mission noted the existence, across the country, of Conflict Resolution Committees as provided for in both the Electoral Code of Conduct and the Electoral Act. The Mission further noted that a number of incidences of election related violence and /or conflict were successfully resolved by the various District Conflict Resolution Committees which were composed of political party representatives, the police and civil society organisations. The Mission also found out that the District Conflict Resolution Committees received complaints and considered them and the unresolved cases at the District level were referred to the Provincial Conflict Resolution Committee for further adjudication before forwarding to the National Conflict Resolution Committee, which is an appeals committee chaired by an independent person appointed by the ECZ. The Mission noted the absence of an Electoral Court and that the Zambian High Court handles election related disputes in accordance with the Electoral Act.

7.16 Provision of Special Arrangements

The Mission noted that there were no arrangements for special groups such as the sick, the pregnant, the disabled and those living abroad to vote. While arrangements were made for the polling staff and the police on duty to vote in their duty stations, the Mission noted that a number of them were disenfranchised of their right to vote for their Local Government and Parliamentary representatives, having been deployed away from the wards where they were registered and were only allowed to vote for their Presidential representatives. Zambian law does provide for arrangements to be put in place to facilitate voting by those with special needs. A credible method to do this has not yet been put in place. The Mission, however, commends the ECZ for fast tracking voting of the sick, the disabled and the pregnant.

8. GOOD PRACTICES FROM THE 2011 ZAMBIA ELECTIONS

The Mission observed the following as good practices from the 2011 Zambia Tripartite Elections:

- i) High degree of tolerance which contributed to peaceful and orderly campaigns and generally amicable atmosphere during polling;
- ii) Existence of enforceable Electoral Code of Conduct stipulating how various stakeholders should conduct themselves during elections;
- iii) Efforts by the ECZ in opening up the electoral process by engaging and communicating with stakeholders on a regular basis, encouraging voters' interest and participation through voter education, and enhancing the transparency of the electoral process and speedy tabulation of results;
- iv) Professionalism and commitment to duty demonstrated by the electoral staff;
- v) The establishment of multiple voting streams at polling stations and limiting the number of voters to 850 per stream which speeded up the voting process;
- vi) The establishment of Conflict Management Committees involving a wide range of stakeholders to handle election-related conflicts;
- vii) The use of biometric voter registration kits and the availability of an electronic Voters' Roll and use of colour photographs for all voters;
- viii) The establishment of an electronic Results Management System which helps to expedite the tabulation, collation and announcement of results;
- ix) The provision for continuous Voter Registration in the law;
- x) The use of transparent and translucent ballot boxes;
- xi) The prohibition of political campaigning 48 hours prior to the election date which helps to create a calm and tranquil environment during the period leading to and on the voting day;
- xii) Role of civil society and religious organisations in denouncing violence and campaigning for peace;
- xiii) Civil Society's mobilization of non-partisan monitors who monitored the 2011 Zambian Tripartite Elections;
- xiv) The measures by the Zambian Police to enhance professionalism and political impartiality of members of the Police Service in the conduct of their election related duties;
- xv) Counting of ballots at each of the polling stations in the presence of party agents and observers, including the signing of polling station result sheets by electoral officials, and party agents and posting of the same at each polling station; and
- xvi) Acceptance of results by contesting parties and candidates.

9. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- i) The lack of provisions for gender equity in the electoral processes remains a major challenge in Zambia's democratic development. Political parties are therefore urged to foster national dialogue to address this critical question through the review of the electoral system. On their part, Political Parties should incorporate gender parity in their policies and constitutions in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
- ii) The absence of provisions for public funding of political parties in Zambia as well as lack of regulations regarding transparency in political party funding has resulted in variations in financial endowments which could unduly and disproportionately influence the capacity

of political parties to participate in political processes including elections. There is, therefore, need to come up with a legislative framework for public funding of political parties as well as provisions for disclosure of sources of funding in order to level the playing field;

- iii) Non implementation of the provisions in the Electoral Act which provide for facilitation of voting by special groups such as the sick, the disabled and the pregnant;
- iv) Need for the ECZ to review the establishment of polling stations closer to voters in order to shorten the distance voters travel to cast their votes.
- v) Need for the establishment of a special Electoral Court to expedite the resolution of election related disputes in keeping with good practices; and
- vi) The lack of fairness and balance and the polarisation exhibited by the public media as well as some sections of the mainstream private media calls for the need to review the legal framework to give the ECZ adequate powers to enforce the Electoral Code of Conduct.

10. MISSION'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE ZAMBIAN ELECTORAL PROCESS

Based on its overall findings, the Mission is of the view that there existed a conducive and peaceful environment in which elections were conducted. The people of Zambia were accorded the opportunity to freely express their will in voting for political parties and candidates of their choice. Having duly noted that the 2011 Zambian Presidential, National Assembly and Local Government Elections were, on the whole, a credible reflection of the will of the people of Zambia, the SADC Parliamentary Forum, therefore, declares the 2011 Zambia Elections as having been free and fair.