



CHRISTIAN CHURCHES MONITORING GROUP (CCMG) For Free and Fair Elections

INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL RESULTS FOR THE 2015 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION STATEMENT

Saturday 24th January 2015

1. Introduction

The Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) is a monitoring coalition comprising four faith based organisations namely, the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ), the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) and the Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC) and with Caritas Zambia under ZEC. The Chief Executives of CCZ, EFZ, JCTR and ZEC serve as CCMG's Steering Committee. Now that Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has announced the official results, CCMG is able to independently verify the accuracy of the presidential election results.

As part of its overall effort to observe the 2015 presidential election, the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) conducted a Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT). The PVT methodology involves using statistical principles and information technology. It provides the most accurate and timely information on the quality of Election Day processes and enables independent verification of the official results based on observation of voting and counting at polling streams and polling stations.

2. Findings

CCMG has heard from 99% of its PVT monitors located at 703 polling streams at 501 polling stations in every province, all districts and all 150 constituency of the country. At these polling stations there were 398,220 registered voters and 130,717 votes were cast on Election Day. The official results as announced by the ECZ are consistent with CCMG's PVT estimates. This means that the official result for every candidate falls within CCMG's PVT estimated range. For example the ECZ has announced that Hakainde Hichilema of UPND received 46.7% of the vote and CCMG's PVT estimates he should receive between 46.2% +/-3.7%. Similarly, the PF's Edgar Lungu received 48.3% of the vote according to the ECZ and CCMG's PVT estimates he should receive 48.6% +/-3.7% of the vote. In both examples, the ECZ's official result falls within CCMG's PVT estimated range.

3. Comparison of ECZ's Official Results with CCMG's PVT Estimates

Table 1 provides a comparison of the ECZ's official results with CCMG's PVT estimates. The estimated range is based on the statistical margin of error. Margin of error is not a measure of quality, but of precision. The margin of error varies by candidate; for example for Hakainde Hichilema and Edgar Lungu the margin of error is +/-3.7%. As Table 1 clearly shows the official results as announced by the ECZ are consistent with the PVT estimated range.

Table 1: Comparison of ECZ's Official Results with CCMG's PVT Estimates
(based on 699 of 703 polling stream at 498 of 501 polling stations reporting at which 130,717 votes were cast)

Candidate	Party	ECZ Official Result	CCMG PVT Estimate	CCMG PVT Margin of Error
Eric M Chanda	4R	0.5%	0.5%	+/-0.1%
Elias CM Chipimo	NAREP	0.4%	0.4%	+/-0.1%
Hichilema Hakainde	UPND	46.7%	46.2%	+/-3.7%
Tilyenji C Kaunda	UNIP	0.6%	0.8%	+/-0.2%
Edgar Lungu	PF	48.3%	48.6%	+/-3.7%
Godfrey K Miyanda	HERITAGE	0.3%	0.3%	+/-0.1%
Nevers S. Mumba	MMD	0.9%	0.8%	+/-0.1%
Edith Z Nawakwi	FDD	0.9%	1.0%	+/-0.2%
Danny M Pule	CDP	0.2%	0.2%	+/-0.1%
Peter C. Sinkamba	GREENS	0.1%	0.1%	+/-0.1%
Ludwig S. Sondashi	FDA	0.1%	0.1%	+/-0.1%

ECZ results as of 24 January 2015 with 150 of 150 constituencies reporting

The PVT estimated turnout is 33.1% +/-1.2 while for rejected ballots it is 1.0% +/-0.1%.

4. PVT Methodology

The PVT methodology provides, amongst other things, immediate independent assessment of official results. The PVT's findings are based on the official announced and posted results from a nationally representative sample of polling stations selected by a trained statistician. CCMG's PVT sample includes 703 polling streams located at 501 polling stations in every province, district and constituency in the country. Appendix 1 shows the distribution of CCMG's PVT sample polling stations as compared to all of the polling stations by province. As the appendix clearly shows, the distribution of sampled polling stations matches the distribution of all polling stations in terms of polling stations, polling streams and registered voters. This demonstrates that the sample for CCMG's PVT is truly representative and that its findings are accurate.

CCMG's PVT monitors arrived at their assigned polling stations and polling streams at 5:30hrs in the morning and observed the entire process through voting, counting and posting of results. Throughout the day CCMG's PVT monitors sent in observer reports via coded text messages to a computer database for processing. All messages were checked for accuracy and verified. With regards to the results verification, CCMG's PVT monitors did not ask any voter for whom he/she voted (a PVT is not an exit poll) nor did they count the ballots themselves.

All CCMG's PVT data comes from polling stations and polling streams where voting and counting occurred and based on direct observation of the entire process there. No CCMG PVT data comes from collation centres. This gives the highest assurance that CCMG's PVT findings reflect the actual ballots cast by voters.

5. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the CCMG's PVT, Zambians should have considerable confidence that the official results as announced by the ECZ reflect the ballot casts at polling stations. Not only are the ECZ's official results consistent with the PVT estimates, but, as CCMG indicated in its preliminary statement, voting and counting proceeded with only minor issues at the overwhelming majority of polling stations and polling streams. Importantly, PF had party agents at 93% of polling stations during counting and at just 3% of those stations did PF party agents not sign the official results form. Similarly, at 97% of polling stations a UPND party agent was present during counting and again at only 3% of polling stations did the UPND party agent not sign the official results form. Further, at 98% of polling stations all political party agents present were given a copy of the official results form and at 98% of polling stations the official results were also posted for the public to see. All of this clearly demonstrates that it was a credible process and that the ECZ's official results reflect the ballots cast at polling stations and polling streams. ECZ can further enhance the transparency and accountability of the electoral process by posting the polling station results on their website.

Now that the ECZ has announced the official results, CCMG calls on the winners to be magnanimous in victory and for those who did not make it this time to recognize that this is not the country's last election. Voters will go to the polls again in 2016 and hence all candidates and parties will have another opportunity to convince voters that they have the best policies for the country and would make the best representatives of the people.

Despite the credibility of the Election Day processes, CCMG is very concerned about the low turnout for these elections as low participation undermines the credibility of our democratic institutions and elected leaders. While low turnout may be due to the rain, the rain did not stop the ECZ from conducting the elections nor CCMG from monitoring them. More analysis is needed to understand why voters did not participate and how to ensure a higher voter turnout in 2016. Further, we need to ensure that in 2016 a) political leaders do not make unsubstantiated and alarming statements; b) there are no incidents of political violence; c) electoral endorsements are not made in anticipation of political favours; and d) candidates do not secure funding from dubious sources as it has the potential to mortgage the country. All of these require electoral reforms that require action before the 2016 tripartite elections.

In closing, the CCMG Steering Committee congratulates all Zambians on a successful election, but at the same time we appeal to everyone, especially all candidates and their supporters, to act responsibly and in the interest of the nation. Zambia has constitutionally managed the passing of a president and provided an opportunity for its citizens to select a new head of state of their choosing. This is no small feat and hence all Zambians are winners regardless of how they voted. Once again Zambia has been able to demonstrate a good example to Africa of democratic elections.



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Appendix 1: Comparison of All Polling Stations with CCMG PVT Sample Polling Stations

Province	# of Polling Stations (All)	# of Polling Stations (PVT Sample)	% Polling Stations (All)	% Polling Stations (PVT Sample)	# of Polling Streams (All)	# of Polling Streams (PVT Sample)	% Polling Streams (All)	% Polling Streams (PVT Sample)	# of Registered Voters (All)	# of Registered Voters (PVT Sample)	% Registered Voters (All)	% Registered Voters (PVT Sample)
Central	593	47	9%	9%	835	66	9%	9%	483,788	37,694	9%	9%
Copperbelt	919	71	14%	14%	1,405	110	16%	16%	845,439	64,682	16%	16%
Eastern	745	58	12%	12%	1,011	79	11%	11%	600,098	47,060	12%	12%
Luapula	571	45	9%	9%	754	59	8%	8%	408,790	30,621	8%	8%
Lusaka	536	42	8%	8%	1,155	90	13%	13%	796,686	59,686	15%	15%
Muchinga	454	35	7%	7%	541	41	6%	6%	269,139	20,898	5%	5%
North Western	459	50	7%	7%	597	64	7%	7%	315,588	33,788	6%	7%
Northern	637	35	10%	10%	806	48	9%	9%	434,478	26,224	8%	8%
Southern	804	61	12%	12%	1,077	81	12%	12%	617,461	46,149	12%	12%
Western	737	57	11%	11%	841	65	9%	9%	394,617	31,696	8%	8%
Total	6,455	501			9,022	703			5,166,084	398,498		