



Civil Society Election Coalition (CSEC) 2011

For Free and Fair Elections

Verification of Official Results Statement

Issued Friday 23 September 2011 at 11:00 hours Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka

The Civil Society Election Coalition (CSEC) 2011 deployed approximately 9,000 trained and accredited non-partisan monitors to polling streams for the 2011 Tripartite Elections. On Wednesday, 21 September 2011, we issued a preliminary statement on the Election Day process and found that “based on reports from our monitors in every province, district and constituency of the country, CSEC notes that so far the election process, while not perfect, has been generally smooth and peaceful.”

While it is the Electoral Commission of Zambia’s (ECZ) constitutional mandate to announce official election results, as part of CSEC’s monitoring effort we continued to observe the collation process in order to provide independent verification of the accuracy of the official results. This was done entirely in compliance with the provision of the laws of Zambia and the knowledge of the ECZ.

The Rapid Response Project (RRP) deployed monitors to a representative, random sample of polling stations located in every province, district, and constituency in the country. Based on official results as recorded by polling officials at these polling stations, CSEC can state with great confidence that the results for the Presidential Elections as announced by ECZ Chairperson Justice Irene Mambilima accurately reflect the ballots cast on 20 September by Zambians.

RRP Methodology

The Rapid Response Project (RRP) involved deploying highly trained, accredited 985 monitors to a representative, random sample of 710 polling stations to collect data on the conduct of the voting and counting process as well as to record the official vote count for the polling stations and rapidly transmit the information to a national data centre. The sample contains polling stations in all 150 constituencies of the nine provinces of Zambia. The distribution of sampled stations is listed by province in the appendix.

Unlike an exit poll, the RRP does not involve monitors asking voters for whom they voted. With the RRP, it is the polling officers who count the ballot papers and the RRP monitors simply record the official figures as announced and posted.

RRP Background

The Rapid Response Project is a technique that has been developed and applied in more than thirty countries around the world, including: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The RRP in Zambia was undertaken to provide independent and systematic information on the conduct of voting and counting as well as verification of the tabulation process and official results as announced by the ECZ.

Reporting by RRP Monitors

RRP reports were sent from sampled polling stations to the data centre where they were immediately entered into CSEC's RRP database. By the morning of Wednesday 21 September 2011, CSEC had received 99% of the reports from the sample. RRP reports were received from all 150 constituencies in the nine provinces. All data was rigorously checked and verified.

Analysis of Presidential Results:

The findings of the RRP are consistent with the official results as announced by the ECZ, meaning that the official results reflect the votes cast by Zambians. The RRP estimates for the Presidential Election have a margin of error of 1.4% at a 95% confidence interval. It is important to note, the RRP estimates are based on information from all 150 constituencies while the official results from the ECZ reflect the 143 constituencies¹ announced as of 00:30 hours early on Friday 23 September.

Table 1: Analysis of Presidential Results		
<i>Presidential Candidate</i>	<i>Official ECZ Results</i>	<i>RRP Estimates</i>
Michael Sata, PF	43.0%	42.7%
Rupiah Banda, MMD	36.1%	35.9%
Hakainde Hichilema, UPND	18.5%	18.8%
Charles Milupi, ADD	0.8%	1.1%
Elias Chipimo, NAREP	0.4%	0.4%
Tilyenji Kaunda, UNIP	0.4%	0.4%
Edith Nawakwi, FDD	0.3%	0.2%
Ng'andu Magande, NMP	0.2%	0.2%
Godfrey Miyanda, HP	0.2%	0.2%
Fred Mutesa, ZED	0.1%	0.1%

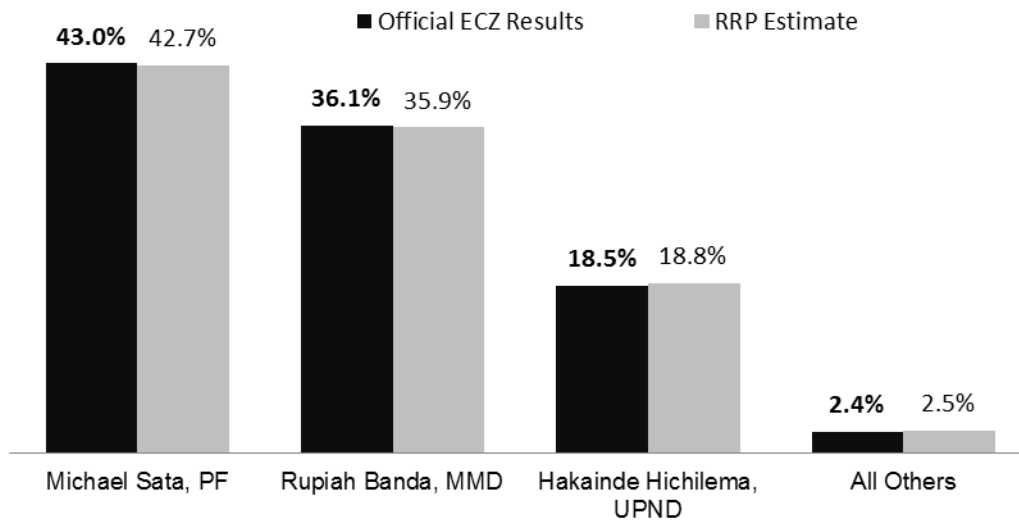
Note: Excludes Rejected Ballots

¹ The seven missing constituencies are: Kalabo Central, Liuwa, Luena, Lukulu West, Mongu Central, Nalikwanda and Sikongo.

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The order of the candidates and the relative percentage of vote for every candidate for the official ECZ results match the RRP estimates. Small differences are due to the RRP estimates are based on all 150 constituencies while the official ECZ results are based on only 143 constituencies.

Chart 1: Comparison of Presidential Results



CSEC estimates that when all 150 constituencies for the Presidential Election are announced that rejected ballots will be 2.3% of the votes cast and that the turnout will be 55.6%. Again both of these figures have a margin of error of +/- 1.4%

Conclusion

This statement is being shared with the people of Zambia, political contestants and the ECZ in order to enhance the transparency and credibility of the process and to give an overall national civil society picture of the election. Based on reports from our monitors in every province, district and constituency of the country, CSEC notes that the election process, while not perfect, was generally smooth and peaceful and the official results for the Presidential Election accurately reflect the votes cast by Zambians. In CSEC's view the elections generally met international and regional standards for democratic elections. The CSEC Steering Committee appeals to Zambians, especially all political parties and their supporters, to act responsibly and in the interests of the nation. Zambians have been able to exercise their democratic rights and therefore we are all winners regardless of how we voted. Once again Zambia has been able to demonstrate a good example for Africa for democratic elections and peaceful transitions of power.

Again, we thank the voters, especially women, disabled and young voters, for turning out and participating in the democratic process and to the ECZ officials who managed thousands of polling stations. We also congratulate those women candidates who successfully vied for political office. Finally, we thank all monitors, especially those from CSEC, who work tirelessly to help defend the rights of citizens to vote in challenging conditions.

God Bless Zambia and Africa

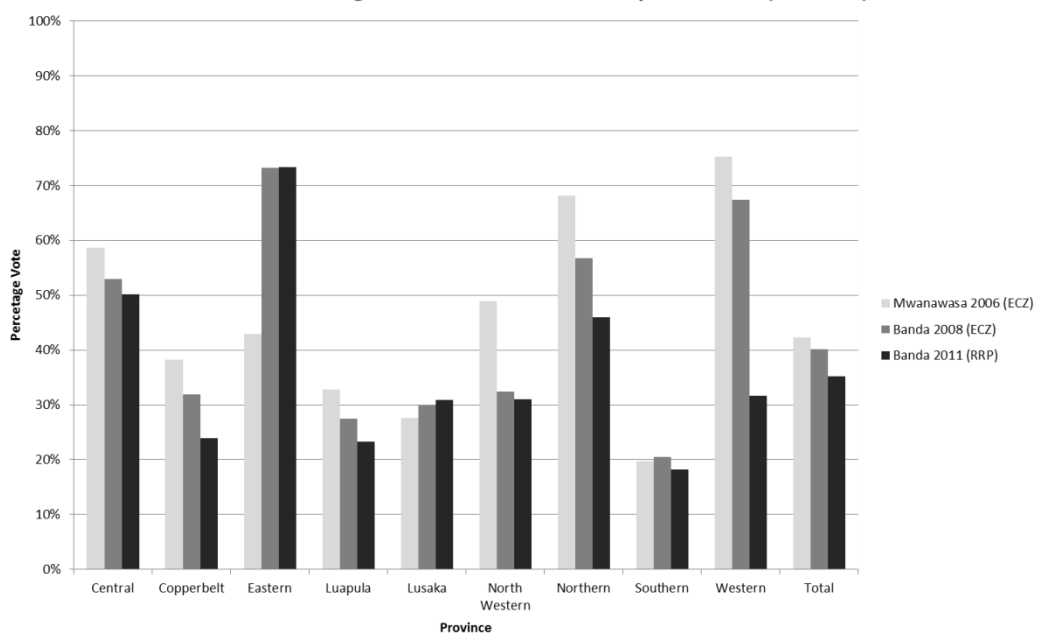
Appendix 1: Distribution of Sample by Province

Table 2: Distribution of Polling Stations				
Province	All Polling Stations	Sampled Polling Stations	% All	% Sample
Central	589	65	9%	9%
Copperbelt	919	101	14%	14%
Eastern	808	89	13%	13%
Luapula	571	63	9%	9%
Lusaka	503	55	8%	8%
Northern	1,028	112	16%	16%
Northwestern	459	53	7%	7%
Southern	840	92	13%	13%
Western	737	80	11%	11%
<i>Total</i>	6,454	710		

Table 3: Distribution of Registered Voters				
Province	All Voters	Voters in Sample	% All	% Sample
Central	482,013	50,662	9%	9%
Copperbelt	845,569	93,547	16%	17%
Eastern	644,725	71,716	12%	13%
Luapula	408,937	45,327	8%	8%
Lusaka	772,468	80,879	15%	14%
Northern	659,540	71,081	13%	13%
Northwestern	315,671	38,289	6%	7%
Southern	643,589	69,033	12%	12%
Western	394,661	43,040	8%	8%
<i>Total</i>	5,167,173	563,574		

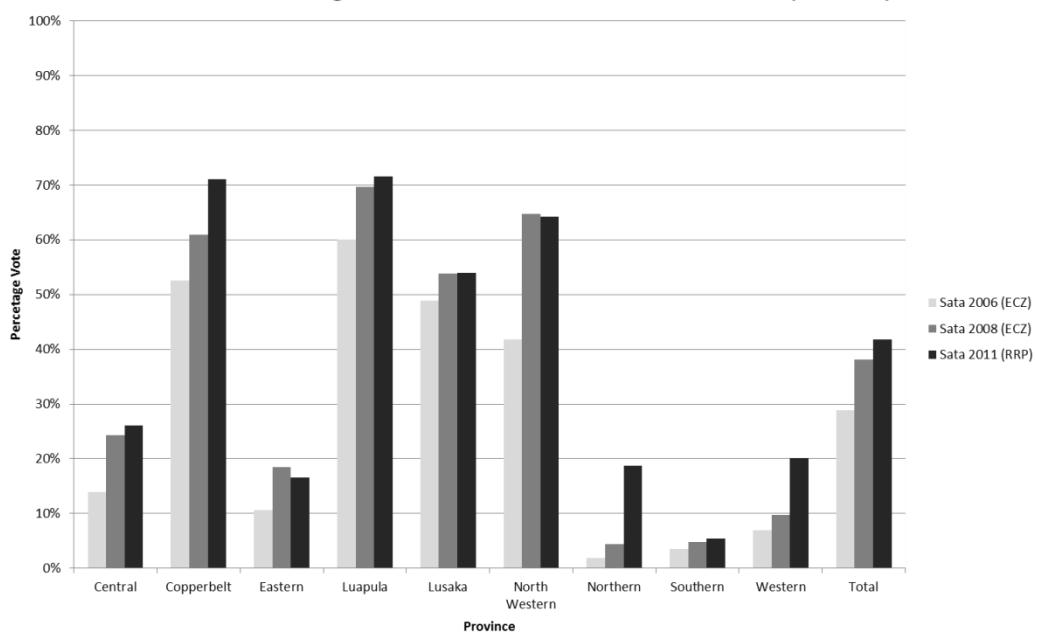
Appendix 2: Comparison of RRP Figures with Historic Official ECZ Results (2006-2011)

Chart 2: Percentage Presidential Vote for Rupiah Banda (2006-11)



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Chart 3: Percentage Presidential Vote for Michael Sata Vote (2006-11)



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The Civil Society Election Coalition (CSEC) 2011 is a joint initiative of eight independent and non-partisan Zambian organisations which have come together to monitor the 2011 Tripartite Elections together. CSEC's mission is to help ensure that all Zambians are able to exercise their right to vote and to provide the people of Zambia, political contestants and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) with independent non-partisan information on the electoral process. This is done to help enhance the credibility of the process and to promote peace in the country.

CSEC's member organisations are:

- Anti-Voter Apathy Project (AVAP)
- Caritas Zambia (Caritas)
- Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP)
- Operation Young Vote (OYV)
- Southern African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (SACCORD)
- Transparency International – Zambia (TI Z)
- Young Women in Action (YWA)
- Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL)

The member organisations and the thousands of volunteer monitors are all committed to carrying out their mission in accordance with the Laws of Zambia and the Electoral Code of Conduct as well as regional and international standards.

On Election Day, CSEC deployed approximately 9,000 trained and accredited non-partisan monitors to nearly every polling stream and station in the country. All CSEC monitors signed a Non-Partisan Pledge in addition to agreeing to adhere to the ECZ's Code of Conduct. These monitors, clearly identifiable by their t-shirts, were there to give voters confidence to participate in the election process.

Among CSEC's monitors, 985 were designated as Rapid Response Project (RRP) monitors to provide more immediate information on the conduct of the election. They were deployed to polling streams at a representative sample of polling stations located in every province, district and constituency of the country. It is primarily reports from these monitors that form the basis of this statement.