



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Office of the Vice President

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE UPDATE ON
PREPARATION FOR THE 2016 TRIPARTITE ELECTIONS
AND REFERENDUM DELIVERED BY HER HONOUR THE
VICE PRESIDENT, MRS INONGE M. WINA, MP**

April, 2016

Mr. Speaker,

I thank you for according me this opportunity to update this August House on the preparations for the 2016 General Elections and the printing of the 2016 elections ballot papers.

Mr. Speaker,

The Commission has drawn up a roadmap, in which it has outlined various activities it will undertake before the poll day on 11th August, 2016.

Mr. Speaker,

I wish to report that the preparations are on schedule and to date the following activities have been undertaken:

1. Consultations with Stakeholders

Mr. Speaker, the Commission has held several consultative meetings with stakeholders on the electoral process. In particular, the Commission has held meetings with political parties through the Political Party Liaison Committee to inform and discuss various electoral issues affecting political parties.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that arising from the stakeholders' meeting that was held on 4th February, 2016 at Mulungushi Conference Centre, a Consultative Elections Committee has been formed whose aim is to look at key issues and concerns in relation to the 2016 General Elections.

The Committee consists of five (5) political parties with representation in Parliament, two (2) political parties with no representation in Parliament, two (2) Faith Based Organisations,

and three (3) Civil Society Organisations which includes representation from Persons with Disabilities and a representative from the Law Association of Zambia.

Mr. Speaker, the Commission has also held consultative meetings with stakeholders with special needs to obtain their views on the various electoral services pertaining to them and their participation in the electoral process.

2. Procurement of Election Materials and Services

Mr. Speaker, the Commission has commenced the bidding process for the procurement of various election materials and services for the 2016 General Elections and Referendum. The Commission has so far procured non – security election materials such as ballot boxes, and the distribution of these and other non-security election materials to the districts has began.

3. Printing of Ballot Papers

Mr. Speaker, with regards to the printing of ballot papers, the Commission will soon conclude the open international tender bidding process for the printing of ballot papers.

Mr Speaker, the Commission had issued a Notice to Award the contract to Alghurair Printing and Publishing LLC, a company that is incorporated in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. The Notice to Award expired on 21st April, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, as the tender process is still ongoing and to avoid prejudicing the whole tender process, a comprehensive statement shall be issued once the procurement process for

the printing of ballot papers by the Commission is complete. Currently, there is an appeal that is before Zambia Procurement and Purchasing Authority (ZPPA). The Commission is awaiting the ruling from ZPPA.

4. Delimitation of Constituencies

Mr. Speaker, the Commission carried out delimitation in six constituencies. The objective of the 2016 delimitation of constituencies was to give effect to the Constitutional provision that amended the number of constituencies from 150 to 156.

Mr. Speaker, the delimitation was undertaken in six districts that were established after the 2011 General Elections. The six districts were Ngabwe in Central province, Sinda in Eastern province, Chembe in Luapula province, Chirundu in Lusaka province, Nkeyema and Sioma in Western province. These districts were established either out of single constituency district (Ngabwe, Chirundu and Sioma) or by splitting an existing constituency into two (Sinda, Chembe and Nkeyema). This resulted in constituencies being located in two districts which created challenges in managing elections in the constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, following consultations with stakeholders during the delimitation, new constituencies were created from these districts while some constituencies were renamed.

Mr. Speaker, once the Commission finalises the post delimitation process, the Commission shall issue a gazette notice indicating the names and details of the boundaries of the new constituencies. A public notice shall also be issued informing the public on the renamed and renumbered constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, the six new constituencies will take effect after the dissolution of Parliament and will be contested in the 2016 National Assembly elections.

5. Training of Election Officers

Mr. Speaker, the Commission has commenced the training of Election Officers for the various activities. The Commission has begun the training of trainers for Election Officers and Conflict Management Officers.

Mr. Speaker, the Commission has also aligned its various training manuals with the provisions of the amended Constitution.

6. Voter Education and Publicity

Mr. Speaker, the Commission is preparing for the commencement of voter education. Procurement and distribution of voter education materials is underway and the training of voter education facilitators will soon commence so that the facilitators can be deployed by the end of May in all the 1624 wards to commence the sensitisation of voters on the forthcoming elections.

Mr. Speaker, media programs and adverts will soon start running in the print and electronic media to inform the public on various activities on the elections. The Commission will also use community radio stations for its publicity and elections reporting. Training will be conducted for public and private media reporters.

7. Accreditation

Mr. Speaker, accreditation for both local monitors and international observers has been scheduled for 23rd May to 2nd August, 2016. Accreditation of local monitors will be done in the respective districts while that of international observers will be done centrally at a venue to be advised by the Commission. Accreditation for access to the National Results Centre will be done in Lusaka from 3rd to 9th August, 2016.

8. Nominations

Mr. Speaker, the nominations for Presidential aspiring candidates will be conducted from 30th May to 3rd June 2016 while nominations for the Mayoral/Council Chairpersons' Elections will be held on 30th May 2016. The nominations for aspiring candidates for the National Assembly and Local Government Elections will be received on 31st May, 2016. The Commission has issued a nomination checklist of the requirements that all aspiring candidates need to meet during elections.

9. **Referendum**

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the Referendum is to be held together with the 2016 General Elections. The Commission is finalising on the modalities of conducting the Referendum however there will be a stream in the polling stations specifically for non-registered voters to vote.

Mr. Speaker, as we move closer to the General Elections, the Government will continue to update the House and the nation on the progress in the preparations for the elections.

I thank you.