



**ZAMBIA
DECIDES
2026**

2026 General

ELECTIONS

Field Monitoring - Lusaka

Election Eve



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Introduction

Global Platform Zambia, through the SPAll programme and CSO strengthening project, conducted a sampling onsite monitoring of the following totaling centres for the 5 constituencies out of 10 constituencies in Lusaka district, namely Lusaka Central, Munali, Kabwata, Matero, Chawama and the civic centre as a totaling centre for the mayoral elections in the district. Three staff members undertook an onsite field investigation to check the levels of preparedness by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) at constituency totaling centres and selected polling stations; check security situations at these points; observe the environment of members; dispatch ballot papers from the Lusaka district; and deploy ECZ poll staff to polling stations. The field monitoring began at exactly 4:12pm.

Field Observations

Lusaka City Council

The first field began with Lusaka Civic Centre, where ECZ was dispatching ballot boxes containing ballot papers to respective constituencies within the Lusaka district, and by 17:19 hrs, the last batch of ballot boxes had been dispatched to the Kanyama constituency. The dispatch was witnessed by stakeholders, ECZ staff, Zambia police, Lusaka City Council police, media, and others.



Narration: 17:18hrs at Lusaka Civic Center, the last ballot papers for Kanyama constituency are being packed.

Kabwata Constituency

In Kabwata Constituency, the team visited St Patrick's School which is the totaling center for the constituency. There, the team found, election materials, ECZ poll staff, Zambia police officers, ballot boxes. The school is being used as a deployment center for ECZ poll- staff for the constituency. Later the team visited Arthur Wina Primary Schools, where there was no activity, campaign posters were still visible on the school wall fence, no presence of ECZ poll staff and the school was as quiet as early hours by the lake.



Narration: 17:44 at St Patricks School, poll staff is waiting with the ballot boxes and sorting trays



Narration: 18:40 at Arthur Wina Primary School, a campaign poster is still visible & the polling stations are empty with out poll staff

Lusaka Central Constituency

In Lusaka Central Constituency, the team moved to Woodlands B Primary School, where again, there was no activity; the school was quiet and still being used for church activities, as there was the presence of religious activities in the form of songs, prayers, etc. Political posters were still visible on the fence of the school.



Narration: 18:28 at Woodlands B Primary School, no activity from poll staff.

Chawama Constituency

In Chawama, the community was calm, as the team passed through the streets, people looked as normal as any other day and were going about their evening activities, bars music was still blasting and active, the streets were as friendly as possible.



Narration: 19:35 at Chawama Secondary School, Poll Staff have already signed the polling stations and started to hang the barricade tape

Matero Constituency

In Matero, the team visited Chingwele Primary School and Matero Boys Secondary School. At Chingwele Primary School, the team found one (1) ECZ poll staff member waiting for other staff members as well as ballot boxes. The team moved to New Matero Boys, which was as quiet and calm as the sky without any activities. However, when the team moved to old Matero Boys Sec. School, there were activities such as dispatch of ballot boxes, deployment of ECZ poll staff in groups per polling station, and allocation of election outfits for ECZ staff visibility. team moved to old Matero Boys Sec. School, there were activities such as dispatch of ballot boxes, deployment of ECZ poll staff in groups per polling station, and allocation of election outfits for ECZ staff visibility.



Narration: 20:44 at Matero Boys Sec. School, witnessing the dispatch of ballot papers and deployment of poll staff.

Munali Constituency

At Munali, the activities were like other stations which was characterised by deployment, dispatch, and allocation of election outfits were being done. The security situation was calm with a high turnout of police officers. The staff seemed excited and anxious, as some spoke and shared that it was their first time conducting elections. While others were excited to be deployed and requested the team to take some pictures of them.



Narration: 21:44 at Munali Primary School, election outfits are allocated and ECZ Poll staff are being

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the monitoring field visit revealed that preparations in Lusaka District on the eve of election day were generally underway, with ECZ staff deployment noted in some areas, dispatch of ballot boxes, and security preparations for polling stations. The vast majority of polling stations were quiet, though some stations had some activity and some campaign posters were still around. The communities the team passed through were peaceful, with evening activities showing normalcy. There were no security threats throughout the field time; traffic was normal; markets were active, going by their evening with some music accompaniment.

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