



Elections House
Haile Selassie Avenue
PO Box 50274
LUSAKA.
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PRESS RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)

ECZ, NGOCC CONFER ON MATTERS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Yesterday, April 2nd, 2022, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and the Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) held a meeting as part of the ongoing stakeholder engagement process. This meeting served as a platform for both parties to address issues pertinent to the electoral process.

Mrs. Mwangala F. Zaloumis SC, Chairperson of ECZ, welcomed the initiative, underscoring the pivotal role played by NGOCC as a key stakeholder in the electoral process. Mrs Zaloumis emphasised the importance of regular interactions between NGOCC and the Commission to ensure effective collaboration.

Leading the delegation from NGOCC, Chairperson Ms. Grace Sinkamba extended heartfelt congratulations to the Chairperson of the Commission for being conferred with the title of State Counsel. Mrs. Sinkamba said the Women's Movement recognises this conferment as a significant achievement for women.

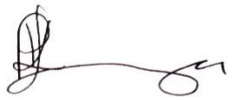
Key issues discussed during the meeting included:

1. **Low Participation of Women in Elective Offices:** Both parties acknowledged the challenge of low participation of women in elective positions, such as Members of Parliament, Mayors/Council Chairpersons, and Councillors. ECZ outlined measures taken, including revising nomination fees to address the

barriers hindering women's participation in elections. There was mutual agreement on the importance of proportional representation, with a commitment to advocating for constitutional reforms to facilitate it. Additionally, both parties stressed the need to enhance education, awareness, and lobbying efforts to encourage political parties to nominate more women for electable positions. It was also noted that while the current Register of Voters predominantly consists of women, further efforts are needed to increase women's participation at the elective office level.

2. **Electoral Violence:** Both parties strongly condemned electoral violence, recognizing its detrimental impact on women's participation in the electoral process. NGOCC urged ECZ to adopt a firmer stance against electoral violence and advocated for the suspension of any political party found engaging in violence from campaigning and participating in elections.
3. **Continuous Registration of Voters:** NGOCC commended ECZ for its efforts in conducting Continuous Registration of Voters and urged the Commission to continue disseminating disaggregated data on gender and persons with disabilities. ECZ invited NGOCC and its affiliate organisations to collaborate in conducting voter education initiatives.

The meeting underscored the shared commitment of ECZ and NGOCC to address challenges and enhance the inclusivity and integrity of the electoral process. Both parties affirmed their dedication to ongoing collaboration and cooperation.



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For/The Commission
ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA