



**SPEECH BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA  
(ECZ) CHAIRPERSON MRS MWANGALA ZALOUMIS, SC.,  
DURING THE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2025 AT MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE CENTRE  
LUSAKA**

- The Vice Chairperson, ECZ and Members of the Commission
- The Chief Electoral Officer
- Co-operating Partners
- Representatives of Political Parties
- Representatives of Civil Society and Faith Based Organisations
- The Media
- ECZ Management and Staff
- Distinguished invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning, and a very happy New Year to you all. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first stakeholder meeting of 2025. I trust that you all had a wonderful 2024 and are re-energised for the important work ahead this year.

The purpose of today's meeting is to provide you with updates on the progress of the Electoral Commission of Zambia's plans for the 2026 General Election. We will be updating you on key milestones in the 2026 General Election Roadmap, the ongoing process of Continuous Voter Registration, and the Certification of the Register of Voters.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you may recall, the 2026 General Election Roadmap and the Electoral Reform Technical Committee (ERTC) were officially launched in July 2024. This significant event was attended by many of you present here today, and it marked the beginning of a comprehensive and transparent process for the road to 2026.

Since that time, the Commission has made substantial progress in implementing the roadmap and ensuring that

the electoral processes are as inclusive, efficient, and as transparent as possible.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At a high level, I would like to share some important milestones with you. In January 2025, the Commission took a crucial step by signing a contract for the supply and delivery of ballot papers and other election related materials, which is an essential component of our preparations for the 2026 General Election. Furthermore, in Quarter 2 of 2025, the Commission will begin mass voter registration, which will cover the entire country. This is also a critical phase of the roadmap, and we appeal to all stakeholders to lend their support to this process to ensure its success.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As part of our ongoing efforts, the Commission has been registering voters under the Continuous Registration of

Voters since June 2022. The first certification of the register took place in February 2024 for those who registered between June and December 2022.

The Commission is now preparing for the next phase which is the Certification of the Register of Voters for those who registered between January 2023 and February 2024.

I am therefore pleased to announce that the Certification of the Register will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025, and we invite you stakeholders to join us for the media event to mark this important occasion.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Turning to the work of the Electoral Reform Technical Committee, I am delighted to report that significant progress has been made. Since its launch in July 2024, the ERTC has been working diligently to review Zambia's electoral laws and procedures, and make necessary recommendations.

To date, the ERTC has conducted a comprehensive desk review and received valuable submissions from across the country, including through the public sittings held in provincial headquarters and written submissions from all the districts made through the offices of Town Clerks and Council Secretaries. All of the submissions have now been consolidated, and the ERTC is in the process of preparing its report. The Commission will continue to keep all stakeholders informed as this important process unfolds.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we move forward, I would like to reiterate that the Commission will continue to engage stakeholders throughout the entire process of rolling out the roadmap and other electoral matters. We believe that ongoing consultation and collaboration with all of you is essential to ensure the success of the 2026 General Election and the integrity of the electoral process.

In the course of today's meeting, management will be presenting a more detailed overview of the updates I have

outlined. I encourage you to engage with them during the presentation and to share any thoughts or questions you may have.

Once again, I thank you for your commitment to this process, and I look forward to working together as we move towards the 2026 General Election.

Thank you.