

SHE VOTES

SHE LEADS



**A Zambian Pocket
Handbook on
Civic Engagement and
Education**

VOTE

Girls Gone Political

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ABOUT GGP



Girls Gone Political

A black silhouette of a young girl speaking into a microphone. She has a red heart on her chest with the text "Girls Gone Political" written on it.

Girls Gone Political (GGP) is a young women's grassroots civic movement From Zambia that was founded in 2020. located in the Southern part of Africa.

Our Vision: We believe that equal participation of young women and men in governance and decision-making is crucial for achieving sustainable development. GGP is fighting for the enhanced participation and increased representation of authentic young women in politics and public service.

Our Mission: To create a platform that amplifies the voice of girls and young women to be fully represented at the decision-making table and at all levels of Zambia's political and governance sphere.

We are looking to bridge the gender gap in politics, foster intergenerational leadership and break the patriarchal barriers that limit the participation of young women.

"Girls Gone Political"

THIS NOTE BOOK
BELONGS TO:

Your Vote Matters



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PERSONAL GOALS



Goals

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Due Dates

Priority

Affirmation





The GGP Civic Education Handbook has evolved from the insights gained during a series of grassroots engagements conducted by Girls Gone Political (GGP) from 2021-2024.

This initiative aims to equip young women and all its readers with essential knowledge of democracy, elections, and governance in Zambia. Armed with this understanding, they can effectively address community issues, hold public officials accountable, and actively participate in shaping governance.

We want to acknowledge all key partners, individuals, and organizations that have contributed their material and financial resources to the development of this civic guide:

Femme Democracy Foundation, National Assembly of Zambia, The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), The United Nations in Zambia (UN), Oxfam in Southern Africa, Action Aid Zambia (AAZ), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (YLDP), Youth4Parliament, Zambia Women's Parliamentarian Caucus, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Zambia National Women's Lobby and Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC).

We will expand the distribution of this handbook to reach more girls and Young Women and partner with Civil Society Organizations to empower them and their communities to meaningfully engage in Zambia's civic space."

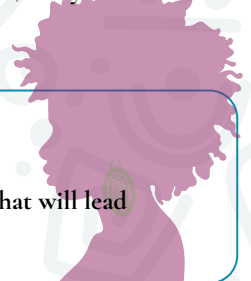
This handbook was compiled by Ruth Kay Kangwa (GGP Founder & Movement Lead), Riziicky Fatacky Abdallah with Contributions from Emma Mwiinga (Electoral Commission of Zambia), Kunda Mwitwa, Melissa S. Hamalambo, Villy N. Sitali Muleta Kapatiso, Mumbi Namwawa



Quote



"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg





Disclaimer: Several people have contributed to the development of this handbook, and we have also sourced content from a wide range of online and offline sources. We adhere to the ethics and the principle of non-plagiarism. While we have endeavoured to acknowledge all sources. If any reader recognise any content that has been not been properly attributed, please notify us at girlsgonep@gmail.com. Providing details: quoting the content, the page reference and the source. We will correct the unreferenced content. Thank you.

Quote



“Freedom can be won only through struggle, and we call on all our sisters of all races to go on the of ensive to conquer their rights. Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women.- Thomas Sankara”



She Votes, She Leads: A Zambian Civic Engagement and Education Pocket Handbook
First Edition, 2024

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For permissions requests or inquiries, write to:

girlsgonep@gmail.com or info@girlsgonepolitical.com
www.girlsgonepolitical.org



Quote



“Freedom can be won only through struggle, and we call on all our sisters of all races to go on the offensive to conquer their rights. Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women.- Thomas Sankara”



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Quote



"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg



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Quote



"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg



GGP She Votes She Leads Civic Education handbook, a vital resource tailored for girls and young women below the age of 35 .

In a nation with over 19 million people, Zambia's democracy has thrived as we elect representatives through Elections. Understanding the electoral process and our democratic framework is crucial for building an informed and engaged citizenry, especially among young women who often face unique barriers to civic participation.

60 years post the 1964 independence, we have only one young female MP Mere 7.5% representation at the local government level. Young women, a key segment of the population, are notably under-represented in key positions of influence at both the local and national levels. This absence of substantial female presence not only undermines the principles of equality and democracy but also hampers the diversity and effectiveness of decision-making processes.

Furthermore, the lack of awareness among young women about their civic rights and duties perpetuates this gap, limiting their potential contribution to shaping policies and public service delivery. Studies show that only 30% of young women are aware of their civic rights, further exacerbating their marginalization.

I strongly believe that access to essential information on civic engagement is key to overcoming these challenges and empowering these groups to enact meaningful change.

This handbook aims to fill that gap by providing summarized, comprehensive education on representation, highlighting both the civic duties of citizens and the responsibilities of the state. It addresses the specific hurdles faced by young women in politics and offers practical solutions to enhance their political participation.

So, buckle up and join us on this transformative journey into the heart of Zambian democracy. Together, we'll navigate the pathways to active citizenship and advocate for a future where young women's voices are heard and valued.



Ruth Kay Kangwa,
Founder, Girls Gone Political



Understanding Democracy: 'For the People, By the People'

This section explores the principles and structure of democracy, empowering you to engage actively in civic life.

1.1 What is Democracy?

You have probably come across the term democracy either in school, from peers, or from the media. The word Democracy comes from two Greek words namely; *Dēmos* which means people and *Krátos* which means rule or power. From the two words mentioned, we can define democracy to mean 'Rule by the people'.

Democracy means that the government is created by and for the people. It's a system where power comes from the people themselves, either through their direct involvement or by electing representatives they trust.



This ensures that leaders who make decisions on behalf of the people are accountable to the people. In a democracy, every citizen is encouraged to participate actively in their government's affairs.

1.2 Importance of Democracy for Women and Girls

Democracy is crucial for women and girls because it guarantees their right to participate fully in society. It ensures that they can engage in civil activities, vote in elections, and have a say in decisions that impact their lives, families, and communities. Even though girls under 18 may not yet have the right to vote or hold public office in many places, they still have the right to be involved in decision-making processes, as recognized by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.



In today's world, where nearly half of all countries are democracies, it's increasingly important for everyone, including women and girls, to have equal opportunities to participate. This inclusivity fosters good governance, essential for achieving lasting peace and development in our societies.

Women's Participation in politics is an inherited right that we possess by virtue of being human. Therefore, because we are human beings, we are entitled to have a seat at the decision-making table because the principles of democracy call for it. Some of the rights women are guaranteed include.

- **Equality and Non-Discrimination:** Women are entitled to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with men and free from discrimination.
- **Right to Political Participation:** Women have the right to vote, stand for election, and participate in public affairs.
- **Right to Assemble and Association:** Women have the right to freely belong and assemble to any political party, movement or organization championing Youth or Women's participation.
- **Right to Freedom Expression:** Women are guaranteed their right to freely express their political opinions using various means as well as receive vital information on civic matters.

Additionally, it is important to note that apart from civil and political rights, social culture and economic rights equally play a key role in ensuring women fully participate in politics. Such rights include the Right to Access Quality Education, Right to Access to Economic Opportunities, Right to Healthcare and Reproductive Rights



Freedom of expression | Equality before the law | Right to Peaceful Assembly | Right to Vote



1.3 Key Principles of Democracy

Democracy is like the foundation of a house. It's what keeps everything steady and fair. Here are some simple explanations of its main parts:

Political Equality: It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, everyone has the same chance to be part of the governance eco-system.

Rule of Law: In a democratic state the law applies equally to everyone. Even the people in charge have to follow them.

Individual Rights and Freedoms: You have the right to speak your mind, belong to a political party of your choice, practice your religion, and be treated fairly. No one can take that away.

Elect Your Leader: We all get to vote for who we believe can lead us. It's like picking your favorite player for your team.

Listen to Everyone: Most of the time, decisions are made based on what the majority of the people want. But it is important to also listen to what the smaller groups say too.



1.4 Levels of Representative Democracy in Zambia

1. National Level:

- **President:** The President is the Head of State and Government, elected by the people through voting.
- **Cabinet:** These are ministers appointed by the President to lead different ministries and the Secretary to the Cabinet leads the Civil Service.
- **National Assembly:** This is made up of 156 elected Members of Parliament (MPs), 8 nominated MPs, the Vice President, the Speaker and Deputy Speakers.
- **Judiciary:** This is headed by the Chief Justice who is an ex-officio Judge of the High Court.

2. Provincial Level:

- Zambia is divided into ten (10) provinces.
- Each province is led by a Provincial Minister appointed by the President. Provincial administrations coordinate development projects and policies but do not make laws.

3. Constituency Level:

- This level is made of areas that are known as Constituencies. There are currently 156 and these are represented by Members of Parliament.

4. District Level:

- Provinces are further divided into 117 districts.
- Each district is governed by a District Commissioner appointed by the President to implement government policies and programs at the district level.
- Each District is governed by a Local Authority, which is known as a council. This council is led by a Mayor (for councils in towns and large cities) and Council Chairperson for a rural district.
- The council also consists of Councillors. Who are elected by the community in local government elections. These communities are known as wards.



These different levels ensure that governance in Zambia is decentralized. This means that grassroots communities have a say in how things are run, while the national government provides a unified policy framework.

1.5 Citizen Participation in Democracy: Why Should Young Women Participate?

For a democracy to thrive, everyone, especially young women must be free to share their thoughts and ideas. It's not just about voting; it's about getting out to participate by being positively active in your community and making sure your voice is heard and your actions are building a better, stronger democratic society for all. Here are some the ways you can participate:

- **Express Yourself:** Share your opinions and ideas openly. Engage in national discussions, attend meetings, and participate in decision-making processes. By staying informed and involved, you help ensure that your community is run efficiently and fairly.
- **Promote Democratic Values:** Advocate for fairness, justice, and equality within your community.
- **Respect the Rule of Law:** Uphold and encourage adherence to laws to maintain societal order and justice.

As a young woman in your community, it is your responsibility as a Citizen of your Country to make a difference!





The Structure of Government in Zambia

Understanding the structure of government is crucial for participating in and influencing the democratic process. Before we dive into the composition and functions of the Central and Local Government in Zambia, it's important to understand what government means. The Oxford Dictionary defines *'to govern'* as to conduct the policy, actions, and affairs of a state, organization, or people with authority. In simpler terms, to govern is to run the affairs of a country or people with authority.

In Zambia, the government is divided into two main tiers: central and local government. Each has different roles and responsibilities, working together to ensure the effective governance and development of the nation. This section provides an overview of how both levels operate and interact.

2.1 Central Government: Roles and Functions

The central government plays a critical role in the governance and administration of the country. It is structured as follows:

- The President of Zambia, who is elected through a general election, leads the government.
- The Vice President who is also elected together with the President assists the President in leading government.
- The President appoints various ministers to head different government ministries. These ministers form a committee that is known as Cabinet which presides over the affairs of the central government.
- Central government is headed by the President and the Civil Service is headed by the Secretary to the Cabinet who also reports to the President.



Central Government

The central government of Zambia includes several key ministries, each responsible for specific sectors of national development and public services. These ministries play a vital role in shaping policies, implementing programs, and delivering essential services to the Zambian people. Here are some of the roles and responsibilities of the central government:

Formation and Leadership

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
Policy Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops and implements national policies for economic and social development. • Proposes and enacts laws to govern the country.
National Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting and analysing intelligence to identify and mitigate potential security threats • Ensuring effective policing to maintain law and order.
Foreign Affairs and International Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts Zambia's foreign policy and represents the country internationally. • Negotiates treaties, agreements and protects Zambian citizens abroad.
Public Finance Management and National Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulates the national budget and manages public finances. • Ensures transparency and accountability in financial matters.
Justice and Legal Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholds the rule of law and administers justice. • Protects human rights and ensures legal reforms.
Healthcare and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides healthcare services and promotes public health. • Supports education and skills development.



Formation and Leadership

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes gender equity & equality and combats gender-based violence. • Supports women's economic empowerment and leadership
Community Development and Social Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports community-driven development initiatives. • Provides social welfare services to vulnerable groups.

2.2 Local Government: Roles and Functions

Local government, on the other hand, is crucial for the development and administration of local communities. Here's how it operates:

Local government authorities are elected at the local level which is known as wards, to represent the interests of their communities. This includes municipal councils for cities and large towns, and town/district councils for rural areas and smaller towns.

Role of Local Government

- **Regulation and Licensing:** Local governments issue business licenses, building permits, and other regulatory functions to ensure orderly development within their jurisdictions.
- **Local Planning:** They are involved in urban and rural planning, including land use management, road infrastructure and environmental conservation.
- **Local Representation:** Local government structures provide a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes.





Functions of Local Government:

- **Constituency Development Fund (CDF):** Local governments manage the CDF, which is allocated for community projects and initiatives aimed at improving local infrastructure and services.
- **Budget Management:** They are responsible for preparing and managing local budgets, ensuring funds are allocated effectively to meet community needs.
- **Public Health Services:** Local governments oversee health clinics, sanitation, and waste management services to promote public health.
- **Education Services:** They support the provision of primary and secondary education, including maintaining school facilities and supporting educational programs.
- **Local Law Enforcement:** Local authorities make and enforce by-laws and regulations to maintain order and safety to govern the district.

2.3 Accessing The Constituency Development Fund

One of the important mechanisms through which local government promotes community development is the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The CDF is a special fund allocated to constituencies to support local development projects. It aims to empower communities by providing resources directly to elected Members of Parliament (MPs) to address local priorities and needs.



- **How it Works:** Each constituency receives an annual allocation of funds from the central government, managed by the Ministry of Local Government. MPs, in collaboration with local authorities and community leaders, identify and prioritize development projects. These can include infrastructure projects, health and education initiatives, and community empowerment programs.
- **Accessing The Constituency Development Fund (CDF):** Young women can access the CDF through active participation in their communities and engagement with their elected representatives.

Here's how :

- **Engagement in Community Development:** Young women can participate in community meetings and forums where local development priorities are discussed. They can advocate for projects and resources that benefit women and youth.
- **Collaboration with MPs:** By building relationships with their MPs and local leaders, young women can influence the allocation of CDF towards projects that address their needs.
- **Formation of Community Groups:** Young women can form or join community co-operatives that focus on specific development issues. These groups can apply for CDF funding to implement projects that benefit the community.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Young women can monitor the implementation of CDF-funded projects to ensure transparency and accountability, and to learn about project management and community development.

The CDF is a vital mechanism for community development and empowerment in Zambia, providing funding for infrastructure projects, disaster relief, youth and women's initiatives, and education.

QUICK FACT

The total number of Wards in Zambia is 1,858 and only 7.5% Local Government Wards are represented by women)



CDF COMPONENT ALLOCATION	PERCENTAGE (%)
Community Projects 5% Disaster Contingency.	60
Youth and Women Empowerment 40% Grants 60% Soft Loans	20
Secondary School (Boarding) & Skills Development Bursaries	20
Total	100

2.4 Separation of Powers: Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary



STATE HOUSE



SUPREME COURT



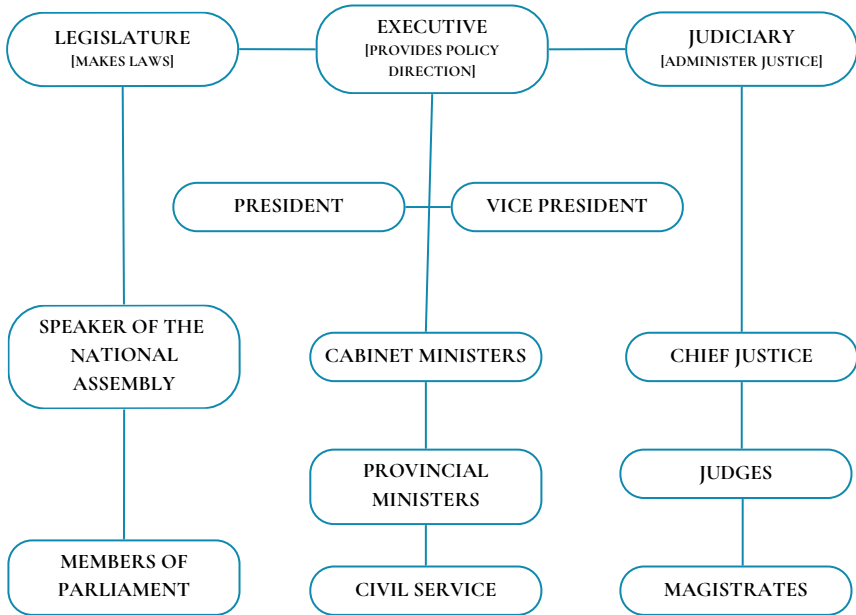
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUICK FACT

Government increased the (CDF) allocation for 2024 to K 30.6 million— from the current K 28.3 million



Separation of Powers Structure



The principle of separation of powers is a fundamental aspect of Zambia's democratic system. It ensures that power is distributed among three distinct branches of government: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary. Each branch has specific roles and responsibilities to maintain checks and balances within the government.

Executive Branch:

- **President:** The President of Zambia is the head of state and the government, is responsible for implementing and enforcing laws. The President is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.
- **Vice President:** Assists the President and may assume presidential duties if the President is unable to perform them.



- **Cabinet Ministers:** Appointed by the President, these officials head various government ministries and departments, overseeing policy implementation and administration.

Legislative Branch:

- **National Assembly:** Comprised of elected and nominated Members of Parliament (MPs), the National Assembly is responsible for making laws, approving budgets, and scrutinizing the work of the Executive.
- **Speaker of the National Assembly:** Presides over parliamentary sessions, ensuring orderly conduct and adherence to parliamentary rules.
- **Committees:** Various parliamentary committees review legislation, government policies, and public expenditure, providing detailed oversight, scrutiny and recommendations.

Judiciary Branch:

This is a branch of government that is responsible for interpretation of Laws and is headed by the Chief Justice. The Judiciary is made up of different courts.

- **Supreme Court:** The highest court in Zambia, it has the final authority on constitutional and legal matters.
- **Constitutional Court:** Handles cases specifically related to constitutional issues.
- **High Court:** Deals with civil and criminal cases, and has appellate jurisdiction over lower courts.
- **Subordinate Courts:** Includes Magistrates Courts, which handle criminal and civil cases.
- **Local Courts:** Deal with customary law matters and minor civil disputes.

Checks and Balances:

- **Executive Accountability:** The Legislative branch holds the Executive accountable through parliamentary questions, debates, and oversight committees.
 - **Judicial Review:** The Judiciary can review and potentially overturn laws and executive actions that are deemed unconstitutional.
 - **Legislative Oversight:** The Legislature has the power to approve budgets, scrutinize government expenditures, and hold inquiries into executive actions.
- No one branch is powerful than the other, they are all equal and exist separately.





Understanding Representation & Election In Zambia

3.1 Introduction

Imagine so many Zambian citizens gathered in one place to decide on several critical issues. Each individual brings a unique blend of life experiences, cultural backgrounds, beliefs, as well as levels of expertise. The complexity and challenge of reaching a consensus would make it very hard to agree on anything! To navigate this, that is why we elect individuals to represent our needs and interests on various community, national, and global issues.

In this section, we will explore the different types of representation in Zambia, the election processes, and the duties and responsibilities of our elected officials. We will conclude by examining the qualities that define effective and good representation, why it's important, and how you can get involved.

3.2 Types of Representation

Every five (5) years, on the second Thursday of August, Zambian citizens have the chance to elect individuals who will represent their interests at different levels. This process is called a general election.

3.2.1 National Level: Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections. At the national level, Zambians elect the President and the Vice-President. These leaders are responsible for representing the entire country, making national policies, and ensuring the well-being of all citizens.

3.2.2 Constituency Level: Parliamentary Elections. Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to represent specific constituencies. They play a crucial role in making laws, scrutinizing government actions, and representing the interests of their constituents. Parliamentary elections also occur every five years.

3.2.3 Local Community Level: Local Government. Elections at the local level, citizens elect Mayors/Council Chairpersons and Councillors. These representatives are responsible for managing local governance and ensuring the provision of essential services. Local government elections take place alongside national elections.



3.2.4 **Grassroot Level:** Ward Development Committees are elected to focus on the development and well-being of specific wards. These committees ensure that local issues are addressed, and residents have a direct say in their community's development.

3.3 Election Processes and Requirements

3.3.1 National Level:

Presidential elections in Zambia are conducted directly under a majoritarian electoral system, requiring the winning candidate to receive more than fifty percent of the valid votes cast.

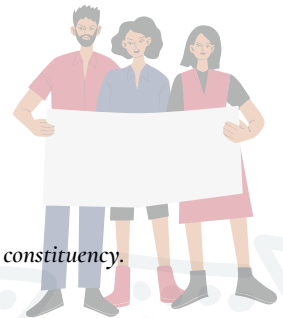
According to *Article 106 of the Constitution of Zambia* to qualify for the positions of President and Vice-President, individuals must meet a specific criteria:

- *Must be a Zambian citizen by birth or descent.*
- *Must be at least thirty-five (35) years old.*
- *Must be a registered voter.*
- *Must have a grade twelve certificate or its equivalent*
- *Must have been ordinarily a resident in Zambia.*
- *Must declare their assets and liabilities.*
- *Must not have previously held office as President for two terms.*
- *Must have paid taxes or made satisfactory arrangements for tax payments.*
- *Must be supported by at least one hundred (100) registered voters from each Province.*

3.3.2 **Constituency Level:** Parliamentary Elections involve electing MPs who represent specific constituencies. They can also be nominated by the President of Zambia. You can run for MP under a political party ticket of your choice or as an independent candidate. To become a Member of Parliament (MP) in Zambia, you need to meet specific requirements under Article 70 of the Constitution.

Qualifications for a Member of Parliament:

- *Must be a Zambian citizen.*
- *Must be at least twenty-one (21) years old.*
- *Must be a registered voter.*
- *Must have a grade twelve certificate or its equivalent.*
- *Must declare assets and liabilities.*
- *Must be supported by at least fifteen (15) registered voters in the constituency.*





3.3.3 District Level:

Local government elections are for electing Mayors/Council Chairpersons and Councillors. To become a Mayor/Councillor in Zambia, you need to meet the requirements under Articles 47(3) and Articles 153-154 of the Constitution.

Qualifications for Mayor/Council Chairperson /Councillor:

- *Must be a Zambian citizen.*
- *Must not be a Member of Parliament.*
- *Must be at least nineteen (19) years old.*
- *Has a certificate of clearance showing payments of council taxes, where applicable*
- *Must be a registered voter.*
- *Must have been ordinarily resident in the district for at least five (5) years.*
Must declare assets and liabilities.

Qualifications for Councillor:

- *Must meet the same qualifications as the Mayor/Council Chairperson.*
Must be eligible to stand for election as a member of the local authority.

3.3.4 Ward Level: Ward Development Committee (WDC) Elections- WDC members are elected to focus on local development and well-being. Each ward in Zambia has its own committee, made up of local residents who understand the unique challenges and opportunities within their area. To become a WDC Member in Zambia, you need to meet the requirements under Part 5 of the Local Government Act No. 2 of 2019

Qualifications for WDC Member: Must be a Zambian citizen.

- *Must be at least 18 years old.*
- *Must have lived in the ward for at least two (2) years.*
- *Must not be actively involved in partisan politics.*
- *Must have 5 supporters to endorse you.*



3.4 Duties and Responsibilities

COMPONENTS	DUTIES/ROLES
<p>Republican President of Zambia</p>	<p>Head of State: Represents Zambia domestically and internationally.</p> <p>Executive Authority: Implements laws, formulates policies, oversees government functions, and manages public resources.</p> <p>Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces: Ensures national security and Défense.</p> <p>Legislative Functions: Signs or vetoes bills and addresses Parliament on national matters.</p> <p>Diplomatic Functions: Manages international relations and treaties.</p> <p>Economic Management: Develops and implements economic policies</p> <p>Appointment Powers: Appoints key government officials and judges.</p>
<p>Member of Parliament (MP)</p>	<p>Advocates for Constituents in Parliament</p> <p>Hold the government accountable.</p> <p>Create and Amend laws.</p> <p>Plan & overseeing local projects.</p> <p>Guides social and economic growth.</p> <p>Lobbying for funding for local projects</p>
<p>Mayor/Council Chairperson</p>	<p>Implementation Oversight: Ensures council decisions are executed.</p> <p>Works closely with the Town Clerk or Council Secretary to ensure smooth administration.</p> <p>Leads council meetings.</p> <p>Ceremonial Representation the at civic events.</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate the performance Council budget, municipal services and projects</p>
<p>Ward Councillor</p>	<p>Bridges the community and council.</p> <p>Participate in the formulation and approval of bylaws, policies, and resolutions.</p> <p>Debate and vote on matters brought before the council.</p> <p>Advocate for the provision of essential services and infrastructure in their wards such as water supply, sanitation, roads, and schools.</p> <p>Participate in the planning and implementation of development projects within their wards.</p> <p>Work with community members to identify priorities and allocate resources</p>





COMPONENTS	DUTIES/ROLES
Ward Development Committee (WDC) Member	<p>Connects the community with local government, ensuring effective communication and collaboration.</p> <p>Develop annual plans to improve the area or respective Zones</p> <p>Community Engagement: Involves residents in decision-making.</p> <p>Identify and implement ways to teach new skills within the community.</p> <p>Propose projects and budgets to higher committees for funding.</p>

3.5 Qualities of Good Representation

- In evaluating the effectiveness and integrity of your representatives, it is important to consider key qualities that ensure they serve your interests best. The following are some key things you should look out for in your representative:

1 Accountability and Transparency:

Representatives should be answerable for their actions and share information openly experiences and issues with genuine care.

4 Inclusivity and Competence:

Ensure diverse voices are represented and leaders have the necessary skills.

2 Integrity and Fairness:

They must act ethically and treat everyone equitably.

5 Commitment and Vision:

Leaders should be dedicated to public good and have a clear vision for the future.

3 Responsiveness & Empathy:

Effective leaders should be attentive to the needs and concerns of their people by understanding and addressing their grievances.





How Can You Be the Change

- **Be a Representative:** Don't shy away from representing your community.
- **Know Your Representatives:** Understand their duties and responsibilities.
- **Follow Local News:** Stay informed about community happenings.
- **Reach Out:** Communicate with your representatives about factual community issues.
- **Track Progress:** Monitor local and national projects.
- **Provide Feedback:** Offer practical solutions to ongoing issues.
- **Volunteer:** Assist with local community projects.





Voting and the Electoral Process Elections in Zambia: Your Voice, Your Choice

In Topic 3, we talked about how all 19.6 million Zambians cannot gather and make decisions together. That is why we have elections. Elections are how we choose representatives who will make decisions and manage public affairs on our behalf.

What are Elections?

Elections are a process through which people are allowed to choose their representatives. In Zambia, every citizen who is 18 years and above transfers their power to make national decisions to individuals using a ballot paper. Zambia conducts two types of elections: General Elections and By-elections.

- **General Elections:** these include presidential, national assembly, and local government elections held on the same day, every five years, on the second Thursday of August.
- **By-Elections:** These are held to fill vacant parliamentary or local government seats that occur due to the death, resignation, disqualification, or expulsion of a sitting member after a general election. By-elections ensure continuous representation and allow voters to choose new representatives outside the regular election cycle.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) is an independent Body which has the responsibility to manage elections. It is established under Article 229 of the Constitution of Zambia.

4.1 Importance of Voting

A Participation of the People

Elections provide an opportunity for the people to participate in the governance of their country. Elections should involve all citizens who qualify to take part.

B Choosing Political Leaders

Elections are the principal source of political leaders. Political parties nominate candidates to compete for political offices.

C Influencing Policy

During elections, citizens have a chance to support policies that are beneficial to the people or the country.



Providing Representation

Elections provide an opportunity for citizens to choose representatives that speak and decide on their behalf.

D

Contributing to building a sense of responsibility among Political Leaders

Elections give citizens an opportunity to review the performance of their leaders. Leaders therefore need the electorate's approval and must be responsive to the electorate after they are elected.

E

Granting Legitimacy to the Government.

Elections give legitimacy to the government. This means that through elections citizens give the government the right and authority to rule. This promotes political stability and helps development in the country.

F

4.2 Voter Registration: Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria:

- You must be a Zambian citizen.
- You must be 18 years old or older.
- You must possess a valid National Registration Card (NRC).

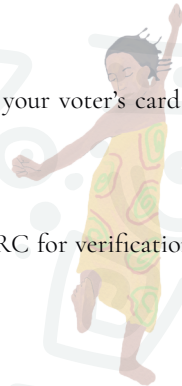
4.3 What Happens on Voting Day

Arrive at the Polling Station:

- On voting day, go to your designated polling station with your voter's card and National Registration Card (NRC).

Queue and Verification:

- Join the queue and wait for your turn.
- When you reach the front, present your voter's card and NRC for verification by the polling officers.





Receive Ballot Papers:

- After verification, you will receive ballot papers for the different elections (e.g., presidential, parliamentary, and local government).

Mark Your Choices:

- Go to a private voting booth.

Mark your choice for each election by placing a clear mark (usually an 'X') in the box next to your preferred candidate's name/face/symbol.

Cast Your Ballot:

- Fold each ballot paper as instructed to keep your vote confidential.

Drop the folded ballot papers into the respective ballot boxes.

Indelible Ink:

- Your finger will be marked with indelible ink to indicate that you have voted and avoid double voting.

4.4 Ensuring Your Vote Counts

To make sure your vote is valid and counts towards the election outcome, follow these tips:

- **Proper Identification:** Ensure you bring your voter's card and NRC to the polling station.
- **Follow Instructions:** Listen carefully to the polling officers and follow the instructions on marking and folding your ballot papers.
- **Avoid Spoiled Ballots:** Take clear, unambiguous marks on your ballot papers. Don't write anything else or mark more than one option.
- **Report Irregularities:** If you notice any irregularities or problems at the polling station, report them to the presiding officer immediately.

4.5 Overview of Zambia's Electoral Process

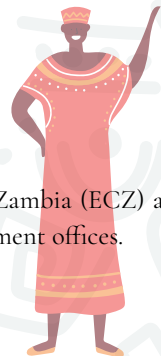
Step 1: Registration Process:

1. Locate a Registration Center:

- Registration centers are set up by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) at various locations such as schools, community centers, and government offices.

2. Provide Necessary Documents:

- Bring your NRC to the registration center.





3. Complete Registration:

- Fill out the registration form with your details; and
- Your fingerprints and photograph will be taken.

4. Receive Your Voter's Card:

- After completing the registration, you will receive a voter's card which you will use to vote on election day.

Updating Voter Information:

- **Change of Residence:** If you move to a different constituency, visit the nearest registration center to update your voter information.
- **Correction of Details:** If there are errors on your voter's card, such as incorrect spelling of your name, visit the registration center to make corrections.
- **Lost Voter's Card:** If you lose your voter's card, you can apply for a replacement at the registration center.

When you understand these aspects of voting and the electoral process, you will be an active participant in Zambia's democracy, ensuring that your voice is heard and your Human Rights are protected.

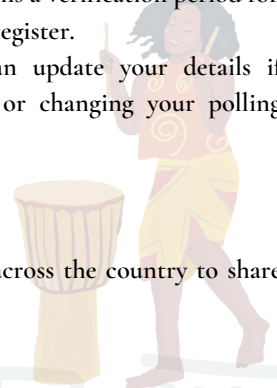
The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) is an independent Electoral Management Body. It is established under Article 229 of the Constitution of Zambia whose main responsibility is to manage elections in Zambia.

Step 2 . Voter Verification

1. **Verification Exercise Period:** The ECZ periodically opens a verification period for registered voters to confirm their details on the voter register.
2. **Updating Information:** During this period, you can update your details if necessary, such as correcting personal information or changing your polling station.

Step 3. Election Campaign Period

Campaigning: Political parties and candidates campaign across the country to share their manifestos and persuade voters to support them.





Campaign Regulations: The ECZ sets rules for fair campaigning, including regulations on campaign finance, advertising, and public rallies.

Step 4. Pre-Election Preparation

1. **Distribution of Election Materials:** The ECZ distributes ballot papers, voter registers, and other essential materials to polling stations.
2. **Training of Election Officials:** Election officers are trained on their duties to ensure a smooth and fair voting process.

Step 5. Election Day

1. **Polling Stations:** Polling stations open early in the morning (typically around 6:00 AM) and close in the evening (around 6:00 PM).

Step 6. Vote Counting

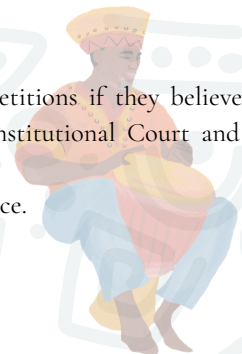
1. **At the Polling Station:** After the polls close, election officials count the votes at each polling station in the presence of party agents and observers.
2. **Transmission of Results:** The results are then transmitted to the district and national tally centres.

Step 7. Announcement of Results

1. **Provisional Results:** The ECZ announces provisional results as they come in from different polling stations and districts.
2. **Final Results:** Once all votes are counted and verified, the ECZ announces the official final results.

Step 8. After-Election Period

1. **Petitions and Disputes:** Candidates or parties can file petitions if they believe there are irregularities in the electoral process. The Constitutional Court and Local Government Tribunal handle these disputes.
2. **Swearing-In:** The newly elected officials are sworn into office.





Young Women's Political Participation

5.1 Overview

Women's political participation is crucial for a balanced and representative democracy. Young women face additional barriers to political participation, including age discrimination and limited political experience. However, their involvement is crucial for shaping a future that addresses the needs and aspirations of the younger generation. Here's why it's important for young women to participate in politics:

- **Fresh Perspectives:** Young women bring new ideas and innovative solutions to political discussions.
- **Representation:** Young women's participation ensures that the interests and concerns of the youth are represented in policy-making.
- **Empowerment:** Engaging in politics empowers young women, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards their communities.
- **Role Models:** Young women in politics can inspire others to become involved, creating a ripple effect that promotes greater youth engagement.

5.2 Current State of Women's Political Participation in Zambia

In Zambia, women's political participation has seen some progress over the years, but there are still significant challenges to achieving gender parity in politics. Below is a comparative analysis of women's participation in Zambian elections for the National Assembly and local government for the years 2011, 2016, and 2021:

YEAR	TOTAL SEATS IN PARLIAMENT	WOMEN NOMINATED	WOMEN ELECTED	PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN
2011	156	138	15	10.7%
2016	156	106	26	16.7%
2021	156	150	22	15.7%



YEAR	TOTAL SEATS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT	WOMEN NOMINATED	WOMEN ELECTED	PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN
2011	1422	419	82	6.2%
2016	1624	528	116	7.1%
2021	1878	503	141	7.6%

5.3 Barriers to Young Women's Political Participation

Women, especially young women, face a unique set of challenges in participating in politics.

These barriers include:

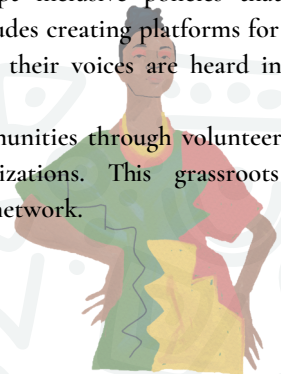
- **Cultural Norms:** Traditional gender roles and societal expectations often discourage women from pursuing political careers. Young women, in particular, may face resistance due to perceived inexperience and societal pressure to conform to traditional roles.
- **Financial Constraints:** Campaigning for political office requires significant resources, which many young women may not have access to. This includes funding for campaign materials, transportation, and other logistics.
- **Limited Support Networks:** Women, especially young women, often lack the necessary support networks and mentorship opportunities that are available to men. This isolation can hinder their political ambitions.
- **Violence and Harassment:** Women in politics may face gender-based violence and harassment, both online and offline, deterring them from participating. Young women are particularly vulnerable to cyberbullying, sexual harassment and physical threats.
- **Age Discrimination:** Young women often face age discrimination, where their abilities and perspectives are undervalued simply because of their age. This can limit their opportunities to engage meaningfully in political processes.
- **Lack of Political Experience:** Young women may be perceived as lacking the necessary experience to hold public office, which can discourage them from running.



5.4 Promoting Youth and Women's Political Participation

To increase the political participation of young women, the following strategies can be implemented:

- Provide training and mentorship programs specifically for young women interested in politics. These programs should focus on leadership skills, public speaking, campaign management, and understanding political processes.
- Financial Support: Establish funds and grants specifically for young women candidates to support their campaigns. This could include micro-grants for grassroots campaigning and larger funds for more established candidates.
- Advocate for policies that ensure gender and youth quotas and equal opportunities for women and young people in political parties and government positions. This could include implementing gender quotas within political parties.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns to challenge gender and age stereotypes and encourage young women to participate in politics. Highlighting successful young women politicians as role models can be particularly effective.
- Develop safe spaces where young women can discuss political issues, share experiences, and organize advocacy campaigns without fear of harassment or violence.
- Organise activities that focus on empowering girls in learning institutes through Leadership trainings, civic and voter education. These programs should aim to instill Confidence, equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the political landscape.
- Ensure that political parties and institutions adopt inclusive policies that promote the participation of young women. This includes creating platforms for young women within party structures and ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes.
- Encourage young women to engage with their communities through volunteer work, local council meetings, and civic organizations. This grassroots involvement can help build their political profile and network.





Running for Public Office

6.1 Why Should You Run for Office?

Running for public office offers young women a unique opportunity to influence policy, represent diverse perspectives, and drive social change. As public officials, young women can advocate for issues that directly affect their lives and communities.

By running for office, young women not only break stereotypes and inspire others to participate in politics but also contribute to a more representative democracy.

Running for public office is a big decision, especially for young women. It's not just about you—it affects your family and friends too. Think it through, considering the impact on your relationships and the challenges of dealing with differing opinions.

In this section, we'll explore why running for office is important, the steps to become a candidate, and how to overcome challenges, especially for young women. Let's dive into the journey of becoming a representative and making a difference in your community and country.

6.2 Analysing Your Ward/Constituency

Before you start the actual campaign, you should get an accurate picture of your constituency.

- You must know its geography.
- You must know the history of the constituency.
- You must understand special aspects of the regions traditions & culture.
- You must know what the biggest political challenges are in the region.
- You must find out who the most important opinion-leaders in the constituency are.

If you want to win your ward/ constituency, everyone must get the message and know it inside and out.

Engage actively with community members through meetings, surveys, and informal conversations to gain deeper insights into their priorities and expectations. Learning the local language enhances communication and connection with constituents.

Conduct a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to assess your campaign's position.



These factors will guide you in developing a targeted and impactful campaign strategy focused on community needs and aspirations. If you want to win your ward or constituency Everyone must get the message and know it inside and out.

6.3 Crafting Your Election Message

- Your election message is the core of your campaign. Here's how to craft it effectively:
- Define Your Vision: Clearly articulate your vision for the constituency. What changes do you want to bring? What are your long-term goals? How do you plan to practically implement this vision for your people?
- Tailor Your Message: Customize your message to resonate with different community segments. Highlight how your plans address their specific needs.
- Communicate Effectively: Use simple and relatable language. Share real-life stories and examples to make your message compelling and relatable. Storytelling is a powerful tool but don't give false hope or moreover-promise what you cannot deliver

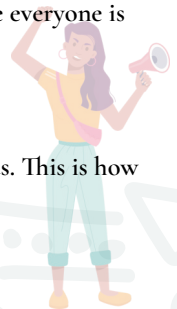
6.4 Building Your Team

A strong team is essential for a successful campaign. Here's how to build one:

- Identify key roles such as campaign manager, communications director, volunteers coordinator, and finance officer. Assign clear responsibilities to each team member.
- Selecting Trusted Advisors who understand the political landscape and can provide strategic guidance. They should be trustworthy and committed to your vision.
- Mobilize volunteers and supporters from your community. These are people who believe in your cause and are willing to contribute their time and effort.
- Establish clear lines of communication and regular meetings to ensure everyone is aligned with the campaign strategy.

6.5 Practical Campaign Methods

Campaigning in Zambia requires a mix of traditional and modern methods. This is how You should to approach it:





Urban Areas:

- **Social Media:** Utilize platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp to reach urban voters. Share updates, engage in discussions, and run targeted ads.
- **Community Events:** Organize rallies, town hall meetings, and cultural events. Engage directly with the voters and address their concerns.
- **Media Engagement:** Use local radio, TV, and newspapers to share your message and participate in interviews and debates.

Rural Areas:

- **Door-to-Door Campaigning:** Personal interactions are crucial in rural areas. Visit homes and engage with voters directly.
- **Local Gatherings:** Attend community gatherings such as Cooperative meetings, church gathering, and cultural ceremonies. Use these opportunities to share your vision.
- **Flyers and Posters:** Distribute flyers and put up posters in strategic locations. Use visuals and simple language to convey your message.

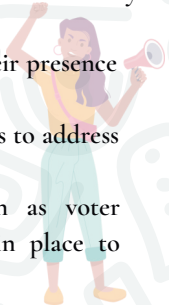
Cost Management:

- **Leverage Community Support:** Rely on your community base for volunteer work and in-kind contributions such as venues, transport, and printing.
- **Fundraising Events:** Organize local fundraisers and seek small donations from supporters. Every contribution counts.
- **Resource Optimization:** Be strategic with your spending. Prioritize high-impact activities and minimize unnecessary expenses.

6.6 Monitoring the Vote on Election Day

Ensuring the integrity of the election process is vital. Here's how to protect the vote:

- **Educate voters** on the importance of voting and the voting process. Ensure they know where, what time and how to vote.
- **Poll Monitoring:** Mobilize volunteers to monitor polling stations. Their presence helps deter malpractice and ensures transparency.
- **Coordinate with Authorities:** Work closely with local election officials to address any issues that arise on election day.
- **Addressing Challenges:** Be prepared to address challenges such as voter intimidation, misinformation, and logistical issues. Have a plan in place to respond swiftly and effectively.





6.7 Overcoming Challenges for Young Women

- Running for office as a young woman comes with unique challenges. Here's how to overcome them:
- **Building Confidence:** Believe in your capabilities and the value you offer. Seek mentorship from experienced politicians and activists, who can provide guidance.
- **Navigating Financial Constraints:** Leverage community support, focus on grassroots campaigning, and utilize cost-effective methods.
- **Balancing Roles:** Manage your time effectively to balance campaign activities with personal and professional responsibilities.
- **Dealing with Bias:** Address gender bias and stereotypes by consistently delivering high-quality work and demonstrating dedication. For example take on challenging projects and excel in them, making sure your results speak for themselves. Stand firm against discrimination and advocate for gender equality by participating in initiatives that promote inclusive practices and policies.

6.8 Understanding Your Competitors

Knowing your competitors is crucial in a political race. Here's some ways to navigate this:

Candidates from the Same Party:

- **Internal Pre-Election Procedures:** You might need to go through an internal nomination process within your party. Respect the internal party rules during these procedures.
- **Balancing Act:** Aim to win the majority within your party while remembering that this internal contest is also observed by future voters. Your conduct during this phase shapes initial impressions.
- **Maintaining Unity:** Ensure the nomination process fosters unity, allowing the winner and loser to campaign together effectively afterward.

Strategy for Political Party Nomination:

- **Focus on Experience and Competence:** Discuss your experiences and highlight why you are the best candidate for the party, emphasizing concrete examples.
- **Fair Competition:** Avoid undermining your competitors. Instead, demonstrate how you engage with opponents confidently and fairly, conveying security, integrity, and trust to your audience.





Candidates from Opposing Parties:

- **Identify Key Opponents:** Understand who the main contenders are from other parties. Research their platforms, strengths, and weaknesses.
- **Contrast Your Plans:** Clearly differentiate your plans and vision from those of your opponents. Highlight what makes your approach better for the community.
- **Build a Strong Narrative:** Create a compelling story about why you are the best choice, focusing on your connection with the community and your unique qualifications.
- **Stay Positive and Professional:** Maintain a positive campaign. Avoid personal attacks and instead focus on constructive criticism of your opponents' policies. This approach builds respect and trust among voters.
- **Monitor Opponents:** Have a campaign team member monitor your opponents to stay informed about any new developments or information.
- **Objective Political Arguments:** Stick to objective political arguments in your contest with opponents. Voters want to understand the differences between candidates, so help them recognize these differences without resorting to exaggeration or overstatement.

6.9 Standing as an Independent Candidate

In some electoral systems, including Zambia's, individuals can run for office as independent candidates without affiliating with any political party. This is how you can navigate this option:

Independent candidates in Zambia do not represent any political party and must gather support solely based on their personal platform and community connections.





- **Challenges and Opportunities:** Running as an independent candidate requires significant grassroots support and resources. Unlike party-affiliated candidates, independents must fundraise independently and build a campaign team from scratch.
- **Legal Requirements:** Ensure you meet all legal requirements set by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), including nomination procedures and financial declarations.
- **Crafting Your Message:** Emphasize your independence as a strength, focusing on local issues and solutions. Highlight transparency, accountability, and direct representation of your constituency's interests.
- **Campaign Strategy:** Develop innovative campaign methods suitable for both rural and urban areas, leveraging community engagements, social media, and local media outlets.
- **Facing Political Opponents:** Independents often face challenges in competing with well-established party candidates. Focus on differentiating yourself through integrity, community service, and a clear vision for governance.
- **Protecting Your Vote:** On election day, ensure your campaign monitors are vigilant to prevent voter intimidation, fraud, or irregularities.





Practical Steps for Young Women to Enhance Democracy

Below are some practical checklist steps that young women and girls can take to enhance democracy, promote good governance, and engage more actively in civic life:

Engage in Civic Education:

- Organize and participate in workshops, seminars, and discussions to learn about democratic processes, citizens rights, and responsibilities.
- Educate yourself about the Constitution of Zambia, the electoral system, and the roles of different branches of government.

Participate in the Electoral Process:

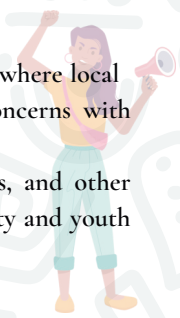
- If you're 18 years of age and above. Ensure that you and your buddies get your NRC and get registered as voters. Stay informed about upcoming elections and exercise your right to vote.
- Encourage voter registration drives and educate others about the importance of voting.

Join or Form A Youth Movement/ Youth Organizations:

- Establish or become a member of youth-led organizations that advocate for democratic reforms, transparency, and good governance.
- Collaborate with like-minded groups to organize campaigns, petitions, and advocacy efforts for issues that matter to you.

Engage with Political and Traditional Leaders:

- Take part in town hall meetings, council sessions, and other forums where local and national issues are discussed. Share your perspectives and concerns with political leaders.
- Build relationships with traditional leaders, local councillors, MPs, and other elected officials to advocate for policies that promote gender equality and youth empowerment.





Promote Transparency and Accountability:

- Use social media and other digital platforms to monitor and report on government activities, corruption, and misuse of public resources.
- Support initiatives that promote transparency, such as open data projects and citizen monitoring programs.

Support Women's Leadership:

- Advocate for more women to participate in politics and leadership roles. Support female candidates and encourage them to run for office.
- Mentor and empower other young women to speak confidently in public and take on leadership roles in their communities, WDCs and community-based organizations.

Educate Your Community:

- Organize voter education campaigns and community discussions to raise awareness about civic rights and responsibilities.
- Engage in peer-to-peer education to encourage other young women to actively participate in civic and political processes.

Monitor Policy Implementation:

- Track the implementation of policies and laws that affect women and youth. Hold the government accountable for their promises and commitments.
- Provide feedback and suggestions for policy improvements through official channels and consultations.





Legacy of Women's Leadership in Zambia

1ST FEMALE MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (MP)



MUKWAE NAKATINDI YETA NGANGA

1ST YOUNGEST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AT 24 IN 1964



MALINA K AGILA CHILILA

1ST FEMALE CABINET MINISTER



MAINGA BULL

FIRST LADY AND FREEDOM FIGHTER



BETTY K AUNDA

1ST FEMALE COUNCILLOR IN 1964



DORIS CHIMANYIKA

FOUNDER LUMPA CHURCH AND FREEDOM FIGHTER



ALICE LESHINA MULENGA

Legacy of Women's Leadership in Zambia

1ST FEMALE AMBASSADOR



GWENDOLINE CHOMBAKONIE

FREEDOM FIGHTER AND ACTIVIST



**MAMA JULIA
CHIK AMONEKA**

FREEDOM FIGHTER AND ACTIVIST



MAMA MARY FULANO

FREEDOM FIGHTER AND ACTIVIST



MAMA CHIBESA K ANKASA

SECOND REPUBLICAN VICE PRESIDENT



W.K MUTALE NALUMANGO

FIRST REPUBLICAN VICE PRESIDENT



INONGE MUTUKWA WINA



Legacy of Women's Leadership in Zambia

FIRST FEMALE JUSTICE



IRENE MAMBILIMA

FIRST FEMALE SPEAKER



NELLY B. K. MUTTI

FIRST FEMALE POLITICAL PARTY LEADER AND MINISTER



EDITH Z. NAWAKWI

FORMER MP FOR PETAUKE AND MINISTER



DORA SILIYA

FORMER AMBASSADOR AND POLITICIAN



INONGE MBIKUSITA LEW ANIKA

CHONGWE MP AND MINISTER



SYLVIA MASEBO



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"Your Voice Counts"