

Zambia

YOUTH MANIFESTO

TOWARDS THE 2021 GENERAL ELECTION AND BEYOND



NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US!

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FOREWORD

Zambia's population is estimated at 18.9 million with the youth accounting for almost half of the total population. However, a majority of young people remain excluded in many ways from effectively participating in and shaping their future. This reinforces the call for more inclusive development and governance processes that ensure that the aspirations and interests of young people are addressed and prioritized through policy, strategies and resource allocation.

Among the key development stakeholders are the political parties and the political actors. As Zambia heads towards the general elections in August 2021, this is the time that political parties must demonstrate their preparedness to put the future of young people at the centre of their development agenda. This Youth Manifesto reflects the collective voice of the young people of Zambia. It is the voice that requires to be listened to. The Youth Manifesto presents and outlines pressing needs and priorities that the youth aspire to be addressed by those that are seeking political leadership. The Youth Manifesto is therefore a clarion call for political actors to respond to what really matters to the young people. But this manifesto is also a call to all other actors that have the mandate, the power, the will and the interest to make a difference in the lives of the young people of Zambia. It is also a manifesto that goes beyond elections because after August 2021, the Youth Manifesto will serve as a basis upon which the commitments and promises that political actors have made towards young people can be checked and assessed. In this way, this manifesto is at the same time a tool for accountability.

As a clear testimony of this being a collective voice, the process of developing the Youth Manifesto was not only consultative but also holistic. In terms of consultations, Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) and the Centre for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA), two lead organizations in this initiative, facilitated consultative meetings of a wide range of youth groups and organizations across all ten provinces of Zambia that were organized both at provincial and national levels to solicit their inputs into the manifesto. These youth groups and organizations reflected the diverse sectors in which youth are involved including political parties, civil society, public institutions, private sector as well as those from tertiary education. Efforts were also made to ensure that youth with disabilities have their voice integrated.

The Youth Manifesto was being developed at a time political parties were also in the process of developing their own respective election manifestoes. Recognizing that political parties particularly in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic may have limitations to reach out to the wider society including the youth, a cautious decision was made to present the preliminary findings arising from the Youth Manifesto consultative process to a selected number of political parties well before this Youth Manifesto could be completed. These political parties included Democratic Party (DP), Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD), Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), New Hope Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD), Patriotic Front (PF), Socialist Party (SP) and United Party for National Development (UPND). Four of these parties (FDD, New Hope MMD, PF and UPND) work with DWF within the framework of the Southern Africa Political Parties and Dialogue (SAPP&D) programme. The other three (DP, MDC and SP) work with the Young Women in Action (YMA) another partner organization in this initiative. During these engagements, the parties mentioned committed to take recourse to the preliminary findings from these consultative

processes as they (political parties) advanced in their manifesto development process. It is our expectation that these parties have indeed honored their commitments by taking cognizance of the aspirations of the young people contained in this manifesto.

By coming up with this manifesto, the young people of Zambia have set the tone for how they want to be engaged, involved and addressed. The realization of the aspirations presented herein must be a concerted effort of everyone who cares about the future of Zambia, which is the future that belongs to these young people. We hope and we wish that everyone becomes part of this manifesto by championing for what the young people seek to realize, by advocating for ways in which these wishes can be realized and by always being alive to the fact Zambia is a youthful nation.

Democracy Works Foundation (DWF)

Centre for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Development of this Youth Manifesto is a culmination of efforts by a number of stakeholders. Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) under its Southern Africa Political Parties and Dialogue (SAPP&D) programme conceived this initiative as one way of contributing to the realization of inclusive politics and development which is one of DWFs core values as well as SAPP&D programmes strategic objective. The Centre for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA) proved to be an ideal strategic partner to this initiative as it is a platform that advances the agenda for the youth across Zambias political spectrum. DWF and CYLA would like to express their gratitude to all those stakeholders that have made it possible for this manifesto to come this far. The following organisations deserve special recognition: Youth Arise Zambia (YAZ), National Youth Development Council (NYDC), Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia (AAAZ), Youth Wing with a Vision Zambia, Young Women in Action (YWA) and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA). These organisations, together with DWF and CYLA constituted the steering group for this initiative that also engaged with political parties and presented to them the key findings arising from the consultative processes.

Beyond this core group, there are also a number of other organisations and groups that form part of this collective initiative. These organisations include the following: Youth and Women in Democracy Initiative (YWDI), Proactive Youths for Positive Change (PYPC), Zambia National Association for Disabled Women (ZNADWO), Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC), Young Men Christian Association (YMCA), Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), Vision Zambia Initiative (VZI), Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (YEFI), Zambia Alliance of Women (ZAW), Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR), Youth for Parliament (Y4P), United Teachers Union of Zambia (UNITUZ), Zambia Empowerment Hub for Entrepreneurship and Skills Training (ZEHEST), Zambia National Women s Lobby (ZNWL), Non-Governmental Organizations Coordinating Council (NGOCC), Resident Doctors Association of Zambia (RDAZ), She Entrepreneur (SHE), Young Volunteers for Environment Zambia (YVE), Volunteers Welfare for Community Based Care of Zambia (VOWAZA), Zambia Federation of Associations of Women in Business (ZFAWIB), University of Zambia Students Union (UNZASU), Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD), Youth Development Organization (YDO), Vilole Images, Restless Development and Youth Sexual Health in Zambia (YHSZ). DWF and CYLA would also like to thank Dr. Charity Musamba, the Governance, Gender and Development expert, for the technical support in analysing and consolidating the issues for the manifesto development. Her support and continued commitment to the cause is greatly appreciated.

The Youth Manifesto also benefitted from the services of a number of CYLA Ambassadors that served as facilitators for the provincial level consultative workshops. Their commitment to this cause is deeply acknowledged. In addition, the contributions made by the youth representatives themselves during the consultative workshops is also appreciated. The needs and aspirations as articulated make this manifesto truly a collective voice. Furthermore, a number of political party representatives both at national and provincial levels played a vital role particularly in ensuring that the Youth Manifesto initiative has the support of political parties who, ultimately, need to integrate the aspirations expressed herein in their party election manifestos as well as policy agendas.

The Youth Manifesto initiative has been made possible with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This support has been provided within the framework of the SAPP&D Programme that is implemented by DWF in six countries including Zambia. The other countries that are covered under SAPP&D Programme include Angola, Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho and Malawi. The views expressed in this Youth Manifesto must however not be associated with USAID.

ABBREVIATIONS

AAAZ	Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CEEC	Citizens Economic Empowerment
CSPR	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
CYLA	Center for Young Leaders in Africa
ECZ	Electoral Commission of Zambia
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FNDP	Fifth National Development Plan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEEA	Gender Equity and Equality Act
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
JCTR	Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflections
LCMS	Living Conditions Monitoring Survey
LEAs	Law Enforcement Agencies
MFIs	Micro Finance Institutions
MMPR	Mixed Member Proportional Representation
NDP	National Development Plan
NGOCC	Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
SNDP	Seventh National Development Plan
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
TNDP	Third National Development Plan
UN	United Nations

VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
VMMC	Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
ZANEC	Zambia National Education Coalition
ZNWL	Zambia National Women s Lobby
ZAWLD	Zambia Association of Women Living with Disabilities

PREAMBLE

We, the Youth of Zambia, recognizing that we constitute almost half of the national population, being fully aware of our great potential as critical drivers of Zambia's development and governance destiny, but being mindful of our terrible reality that to date we remain greatly excluded from the shaping of the Agenda of our destiny, hereby present this manifesto as a collective voice of our aspirations towards the realization of the National Vision 2030.

Through this manifesto, we position ourselves as the most formidable asset and main catalysts for national prosperity and development as we lay out not only our aspirations but also concrete proposals that if implemented will transform our country to the benefit of this and future generations.

We acknowledge that as a country, Zambia has demonstrated commitment to our development and empowerment by signing and ratifying international instruments including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Youth Charter. We further note that to ensure their effective implementation, Zambia has domesticated these commitments into national laws and policies including the following;

- The Constitution which guarantees youth with their right to participation in the economy and governance of the country
- The National Development Council Act which seeks to coordinate the implementation and evaluation of youth programs
- The National Youth Policy which aims to create an enabling environment for youths participation in development
- The Education Act that guarantees access to education for all, youths development as well as prohibiting child marriage.
- The Employment Act that provides the right to employment
- The Employment of the Young Person's Act that prohibits young people from hazardous work.
- The Adolescent Health Strategy that seeks to ensure a health care system that is responsive and friendly to young people.
- Citizenship Empowerment Programs that aim to provide financial resources to youth for initiating businesses and other entrepreneurship activities.

We further observe that the national laws and policies notwithstanding, we continue to witness not only poor implementation of these policies and strategies but also a great deal of mismanagement of the limited resources made available. We note with regret that for decades young people have been hardly visible in decision making structures such as local government, parliament, cabinet as well as general structures of public administration.

Desirous of wanting to guarantee a better future, we present and commit our collective voices contained in this manifesto not only to political decision makers but also to all those other actors who believe in the great potential that is bestowed in us, the youth of Zambia as we demand to be part and parcel of defining and shaping our destiny in all spheres of life! And as we hereby singularly and collectively proclaim: *"Nothing for Us without Us 2021 and beyond"*.

**A
CALL
TO
*Action***

1 OUR ECONOMY



Issue 1: Economic Development Approach

Our main contention as the young people of Zambia is that we are not benefiting from the current economy operations and its outcomes. This model has focused much more on economic growth rather than achieving broad based and inclusive growth (GRZ 2017; UNDP 2019; WB 2018). Consequently, the economic situation is characterised by huge economic, financial or income and social inequalities (ICG 2018; UNDP 2020). Unsurprisingly, we, the young people, have been adversely affected by this outcome. We have been excluded from participating actively in the economic development processes as well as benefiting from economic outcomes of the Country.

This approach has placed heavy emphasis on macro-economic fiscal and monetary stability, direct foreign investments and private sector involvement. This has crowded out the space for us as we do not have the resources and capabilities to compete with the huge foreign and domestic actors. The economic terrain is characterised by unfair and unequal access to economic and financial resources, particularly disadvantaging us, the young but potentially economically productive young people. There is need to adopt and pursue an economic model that will place at its core the iconic needs, potential and capabilities of the youth in Zambia.

It is in this regard that we, the youth of Zambia, demand the following;

- Full implementation of the Decentralisation Programme (DP) to ensure that national planning, priority setting and resource allocation processes are brought closer to local communities and the young people.
- Adoption of economic development policy framework aimed at promoting

broad based and fair distributive outcomes by investing in the provision more permanent job opportunities, diversification of the economy with priorities in small and medium enterprises (to promote value addition and processing), the agriculture sector, tourism, arts and sports sector

- Attainment of five (5) percent annual economic growth rate within a period of five (5) years
- Adoption of financing and budgeting framework that facilitates the redistribution of public resources to the potentially economically viable but vulnerable and marginalised including the Youth
- Institution of a Debt and Loan Contracting Mechanism anchored on the principles of public participation, transparency and accountability for the purpose of promoting effective public debt management in Zambia ensure the inclusion of the participation of the Legislative bodies
- Enhancement of the roles of public participation platforms in the national development and budgeting processes such as the Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs), Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDDCCs), District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs) and the Ward Development Committees by allocating a specific number of representative seats to the youth and youth focused civil society organisations
- Development and implementation of Youth Empowerment initiatives guided and grounded in the overall national development aspirations and processes respectively

Issue 2: Employment Creation

Unemployment has remained the biggest barrier to our development advancement as young people in Zambia. Thousands of us the young people are offloaded to join the labor market every year but the chances of finding a job or an occupation are becoming slimmer by each day.

The majority of the unemployed, jobless and economically inactive people in Zambia are from our category the youth. It is also important to note that although Zambia witnessed impressive growth rates until 2015, this growth failed to generate enough jobs to reduce unemployment among the youth. Unemployment rate among the youth in Zambia by the year 2020 was 21.62% from 21.41% in 2019 (ILO 2020). Youth unemployment and joblessness in Zambia is mainly driven by the following factors. First, most of us possess education qualifications such as primary and secondary education which are insufficient for job market competitiveness. For example, only twenty-eight (28) percent of young people that manage to complete secondary school acquire a University degree making Zambia as one of the countries with the lowest number of university students in the Southern region (UNESCO 2016). There is a connection between this shortcoming and quality of education. The reasons for poor transition rates include poor literacy and numeracy skills among primary school students, limited spaces for higher level education, and the high cost of secondary and tertiary education. Progression into secondary and tertiary education largely depends on whether students are able to read and count while in primary school (ibid).

Another contributing factor relates to the mismatch between the development programmes aimed at empowering the youth and existing growth opportunities (IGC 2018). Although there are various existing employment and job opportunities

in Zambia today such as construction, agriculture telecommunication, manufacturing and tourism, limited economic growth has constrained the extent to which these opportunities can be materialized to expand hiring of additional labour force. These sectors require a certain level of competence, skill and expertise that majority of us the young people do not possess. As noted already, low levels of education have contributed to this problem. The scarcity of employment opportunities has also meant that we, as young people, have to spend a significant part of our productive time searching for jobs or a productive occupation that are hard to come by. It is important to highlight that such challenges have contributed to the persistence of poverty, deprivation, destitution and exclusion among the young people in Zambia.

Given that youth unemployment is high and job opportunities are limited and yet Zambia will largely depend on the young people in pursuing sustainable economic and social development, it is important to ensure that youth employment is put as a major and prime development priority. The provision of gainful and long-term employment for young people has a great potential to reduce poverty and enhance economic prosperity for Zambia.

On this basis, we demand the following

- Provision of 500,000 jobs per year targeting the youth. Within this, Government, in partnership with the Private Sector, must take lead in ensuring that the target is met within the stipulated time. Of this total number of jobs, three quarters (375,000) must be in form of formal and long-term nature in order to provide us with the opportunity to embark upon and build sustainable work lives. A quarter (125,500) of these jobs should be informal in nature. Guided by the principles of gender mainstreaming and inclusion of the interests and needs of PwDs, the prioritised

strategic areas in this regard should include the following:

- i. Agriculture cash crop production and commercial agri-business by providing youth tailored agri-business services and support such as investment partnerships, financing and credit facilities, academic and skills building publicly sponsored opportunities
- ii. Civil Service particularly in the frontline Government Ministries, Departments and other spending agencies
- iii. Trade, Business, and Entrepreneurship by providing youth tailored credit and finance support services, market and innovation support
- iv. Construction by enforcing legislation that provide for the inclusion of the youth in job recruitment and training
- v. Tourism by implementing an economic diversification plan that will focus on promoting hospitality, travel and tourism businesses
- vi. Sport, Entertainment and Art by investing in institutions offering training, providing public educational and academic support as well as providing tax holidays and exceptions for necessary materials and equipment

Issue 3: Employment Creation

For us, entrepreneurship is the main mechanism to promote opportunities for sustainable livelihoods among the young people in Zambia. It is the best option for our majority,

particularly those of us residing in the rural areas and peri-urban areas where entrepreneurial prospects are high but we lack opportunities to develop the required skills and knowledge to pursue such opportunities.

In addition, access to capital remains challenging for aspiring young entrepreneurs. We have limited resources to utilize as collateral for even the smallest of loans. Although microfinance institutions (MFIs) are slowly filling this funding gap, the industry is still at an infancy stage with the respective regulations still being developed thus not able to provide most of the services as would be relevant and required by our target group. Although there are signs of improvements particularly in terms of financial inclusion in Zambia, it remains unclear as to how much of this change is benefiting the young people in Zambia. Financial inclusion increased to 69.4% from 59.3% in 2015 (Finscope 2020). Consistent with this, formal financial inclusion rose to 61.3% (2015, 38.2%) and this growth was mainly attributed to increased uptake of mobile money services to 58.5% from 14.0% in 2015. However, informal financial inclusion declined to 32.3% from 37.9% in 2015 as more adults were using formal financial services (ibid).

In our view, the main barriers to achieving higher levels of inclusion, particularly with regard to us the young people, include lack of financial resources, low awareness levels and unemployment. These barriers call for heightened interventions in terms of financial education, provision of infrastructure especially in rural areas, and a general improvement in economic activity (ibid).

For these reasons, we demand the following:

- Creation of a total of five thousand long term job opportunities within a period of five (5) years which translates in one thousand (1000) jobs per annum. Of these, one-third should be earmarked for the youth- both females and males. Female youth and PwDs should be given equal access and provided with preferential treatment in certain cases in this regard. Provision of finance and credit facilities tailored to provide youth-friendly services and goods, including in the rural areas of Zambia (e.g. Youth Bank) Provision of markets as well as market information on products and produce using Government institutions such as the Local Government and Provincial Centres to attract and reach out to the majority of the youth
- Establishment of Youth Economic Empowerment Zones in both the rural and urban areas

Issue 4: Economic Diversification-Agriculture, Mining, Tourism and Industry

As young people, we have observed that Zambia has been formulating strategies to diversify its economy from heavy dependence on the mining sector since the time of independence but very little has been achieved in this regard. Instead of transforming the economy, the mining sector has continued to be the main source of national revenue (GRZ 2017; 2020, WB 2018; 2020). The agriculture sector which offers an alternative economic base has received minimal attention and has been taken over increasingly by foreign large-scale commercial investors. Successive regimes have failed to ensure increased domestic participation especially for us the young people. Instead, we have remained engaged in this

this agriculture sector largely at the subsistence and small-scale levels. Further, the other sectors, especially industry and tourism, have been neglected as the Country continues to pursue a largely Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) economic model. Yet, these are the two other sectors that have potential to absorb most of unemployed and jobless young people.

The continued overdependence on copper is not beneficial to majority of us the young people. Copper prices have been unstable and, on the decline, worsened by unproductive mining investment agreements. It is not only imperative but even more urgent for the Government in Zambia to **put in place economic diversification back at the top of the national development agenda.**

In this regard we demand the following:

- The development of a diversification road map outlining the practical and time bound strategies supported by clear financing plan demonstrating Zambia deviation from copper and agriculture, tourism and industry-based economy.
- The provision and facilitation of market linkages for Youth-based economic and productive activities
- Generation of quality and long-term job opportunities for the youth in the public service and private sector (formal)
- Development and implementation of economic policies that foster redistribution of wealth
- Provision of preferential treatment for Youth employment in the Public Sector with emphasis on equal access for both men and women

- Enactment of legislation and enforcement of compliance on decent wages and just working conditions for the informal sector
- Increase budget allocations to economic sectors that attract the participation of the Youth such as construction, small scale mining and manufacturing as well as artisan

With regard to economic diversification under Agriculture, we demand the following:

- Allocation of ten percent (10%) of the entire national budget, in accordance with the Maputo Declaration, to the agriculture sector. The priority areas of focus in this regard should include the following; extension service provision, credit and finance facilities for small scale farmers market access facilitation
- Promotion of commercial farming (cash crop production) activities among the youth farmers by providing monetary and non-monetary incentives such as credit and financing facilities, market access and innovation support and necessary tax exceptions
- Encouragement of youth farmers to diversify into other forms of commercial agri-business activities including livestock, fisheries and forestry by providing monetary and non-monetary incentives such as credit and financing facilities, market access and innovation support and necessary tax exceptions
- Establishment of Youth farming blocs in each of the ten (10) Provinces by constructing these blocks, providing start up financial support, necessary communication, commercial and transport facilities and market linkages

- Promotion of irrigation schemes linking to Youth framers to facilitate all-year round access to water thereby reducing dependency on rain-fed agriculture by investing in hydro systems and alternative sources such as solar systems
- Provision of subsidized inputs and machinery for Youth farmers engaged in farming, fishing, forestry and construction
- Promotion of land ownership for the Zambian Youth by allocating a ten (10) percent of all the demarcated land to the Youth. This must be accompanied by servicing these land portions with the necessary commercial and social services as well as infrastructure

With regard to economic diversification under Industry, we demand the following:

- Promote forward and backward linkages in the mining sector especially in artisan, supply, sales and trading activities by providing regulation to encourage the actors in the mining sector to create business linkages with business entities focused on supporting youth development initiatives
- Establish Youth Provincial Industrial Zones in each of the ten (10) Provinces. These zones should be directly linked to strategic economic and financial growth centre of the Country to ensure the sustainability of youth initiatives
- Resuscitate and upgrade the Youth Training and Youth Centres in the ten (10) Provinces by revamping the dilapidated ones and constructing new ones where needed. Setting up and operating Youth Training Vocational and Skills centres in each of the Provincial centres of the ten

(10) Provinces by revamping the dilapidated ones as well as constructing new centres

- Establish and introduce small innovation and development of ICT goods and services production centres, workshops and yards in strategic regions of the Country e.g. along the line of rail and main highways
- Provide Tax Holidays and exemptions to youths engaged in commercial agri-business, industrial and tourism activities

- Invest alternative forms of energy such as solar, windmills with special focus on the low-income communities and rural areas
- Effective completion of on-going energy development national projects aimed at increasing supply of energy
- Promote energy development work and innovation yards targeting research and development initiatives initiated by the Youth

Issue 5: Energy

Zambia began to experience a protracted energy crisis, mainly in the form of electricity shortages and high cost of fuel by the year 2015. This crisis has adversely affected the economic, financial and business opportunities for majority of young people. For example, the cost of running small businesses such as hairdressing, barbershops, welding, catering carpentry, to mention a few, has drastically increased. This has forced most of us to close up our businesses. Even those involved in trade and sales are experiencing unaffordable costs in travel, transportation and communication. In addition, majority of us cannot afford most of the available alternative sources of energy given our weak economic and financial position.

In this regard, we demand the following

- Provide access to affordable energy and energy sources for the youths engaged in production activities such as agriculture, tourism, industry, sports, mining, sales and trade



2 | SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Issue 1: Poverty Reduction

We are not happy and remain unsettled with the persistence of high levels of poverty, vulnerability and deprivation experienced by millions of young people in Zambia at individual, household and community level. The poverty level in Zambia is estimated at fifty-four percent entailing that over half of the total population of the people in Zambia are living in poverty. Reports also indicate that poverty amongst the youth is high. A combination of poor education and unemployment has contributed to the current high levels of poverty existing among the Youth in Zambia (UNFPA 2018). Clearly, when you analyze poverty levels according to age of household head and residence, the young people, constitute a large proportion of the poor in Zambia. Almost half of households headed by we the young people are characterized as poor. Also, of great concern is the developmental disparity between the Youth in the rural and urban areas are of great concern. Most of the young people that reside in rural areas are poor. Among the 15 to 24-year olds, 59.6% of those in the rural areas are poor compared to 20.8% of their urban counterparts. Similarly, among the older rural youth, ages 25 to 34, almost three quarters (73.0%) live in poverty, compared to 14.8% of those in urban areas. In our view, this poverty must be addressed both in statistical and qualitative terms. **Reducing poverty in Zambia will entail making our development needs a priority especially in terms of equalizing our development position in the rural and urban areas.**

It is on the basis of this ground, that we demand the following:

- Reduction of the current poverty levels among the Youth by a quarter through the prioritising of youth employment creation, economic and diversification

- Ring-fence public financing to small and medium scale farming, construction, manufacturing, artisan, trade and sales
- Including the Youth in value addition in Small Scale- Medium Industries including ICT and Service Provision
- Set up banking and credit institutions specifically targeting the Youth products and services
- Promoting asset ownership among the Youth of productive age in the following assets land, estates, capital, technology, mineral, wildlife, fisheries and livestock, forestry and conservation

Issue 2: Equity-Broad Based Growth and Redistribution

a) **Social welfare, protection and security Sector Concern**

In our view, social security plays a key role in poverty reduction, enhancing of human development and safeguarding of human rights. Given our huge numbers, we are highly exposed to vulnerability and deprivation due to our low socio economic and financial status. This is what has driven and trapped the majority of us into poverty. Our main challenges in this regard have included the following; low financing; inappropriate targeting, poor programming and limited coverage; low number of the vulnerable and poor people receiving agriculture and livelihood support services; dysfunctional social welfare, protection and security public programmes

On this basis, we demand the following;

- Expansion of the coverage of beneficiaries and ensure that the Youth including those with disabilities are given equal access and that they benefit
- Increase in the budget allocations to interventions focusing on sustainable livelihoods for the poor and vulnerable
- Accountability in the utilization of the funds to this sector
- Creation of stronger linkages between social protection services and sustainable livelihoods
- Recruitment of adequate and properly trained professionals and experts especially at Provincial and District levels of administration - taking into consideration gender equality and inclusiveness of PwDs
- Formulation of social protection and social security targeting the youth
- Allocation of a third of the total SCT to the youth
- Provision of tax holidays and subsidies for youths engaged in productive activities especially in activities related to agriculture, tourism, arts, music sports and small and medium industries

b) Social Inclusion

We, as young people, had huge expectations when the Country returned to democratic rule in 1990. We were supportive of this change because we were convinced that this form of governance would provide each and every citizen, including us the young people, with equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from national development (GRZ 2016).

However, in practice and by policy, this governance change has failed to serve, promote and protect our interests of us the young people. To the contrary, we have been systemically excluded, more so for the female youth and young people living with disabilities (GRZ 2017; ZNWL 2021).

We are also calling for deeper focus and concern for people living with disabilities. The last national census indicated that there were 181, 856 (2.4 %) people with disabilities in rural areas and 69, 571 (1.4%) people with disabilities in urban areas in the country (GRZ 2010) and this number is expected to have increased, especially for the young people living with disabilities. We acknowledge that there are legal and policy frameworks aimed at safeguarding the interests of this group of the population including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified in 2010; the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012 that aims to provide for the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and the 2016 National Policy on Disability that recognizes full and effective participation and inclusion in society as one of its guiding principles. However, we have observed that not so much has been practically achieved in terms of improving the socio-economic and political living conditions of the young people living with disabilities. Even efforts to mainstream the needs of PwDs have yielded little results. This is one of the major groups that have been left behind in participating and benefiting from the development goods and services of the Country. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are usually excluded from both the development and governance process of Zambia (GRZ 2017; ZNWL 2021).

¹ There are various national instruments, including policies that aim to protect persons with disabilities. Some of these include, and these include: the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified in 2010), the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012 aimed at eliminating of all forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and the 2016 National Policy on Disability.

We are also concerned that unemployment among persons with disabilities including the youth is high with majority of them depending on self-employment, and agriculture in the urban and rural areas respectively. In our view, these weaknesses have persisted due to the following reasons: a) The young people living with disabilities find it more difficult to get a job given that many of the jobs available involve manual labor; b) Young people with disabilities are rarely involved (are excluded) from accessing education, health, political and economic public services and goods; c) The lack of effective legislation and programmes to ensure the integration of PwDs in all spheres of life; d) Low levels of funding to institutions mandated with managing the affairs of PwDs; e) Low levels of investment in annotations and transformative processes in areas of PwDs; f) High levels of poverty and vulnerability among PwDs; g) Lack of supportive facilities and services for PwDs i.e. the schooling system, employment and labor regulations, inadequate and lack of social services and infrastructure, cultural and societal attitudes; h) Negative societal, social and cultural norms, practices and beliefs

In this regard, we demand the following:

- Increased investment in education and health needs of PwDs
- Provision of services and infrastructure that accommodate the needs of PwDs
- Provision of preferential treatment in employment and job creation for PwDs
- Adoption and enactment of the Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMPR) to accommodate PwDs
- Creation of mentorship programme and interventions in the public service

- Appointment of PwDs to positions of leadership and decision making in the Public Sector

c) Quality Public Service Provision

Health

As young people, we have continued to face huge barriers to accessing appropriate, quality and adequate health services in a timely manner. Although we acknowledge that there has been a notable improvement in some sections of the Sector, particularly infrastructure development, including the rural areas, we still remain concerned that necessities such as human resource, essential drugs, equipment and operational aids are still inadequate. We have also observed that working conditions for essential workers have remained poor and that gross mismanagement of finances and other resources has persisted (GRZ 2019; CSPR 2020; UNDP 2020). These challenges have been exacerbated by the advent and effect of the COVID 19 pandemic. The pandemic has stretched the already overburdened health system of the Country including the provision of services that are of particular importance to us young people. Majority of us require timely access to quality services in relation to General health services, SRH services (including the provision of contraceptives); Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC); Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT), and Immunizations and mother and child health.

From our perspective, it is important to take note that there is higher demand among the young for health services in the rural than urban areas largely because they have less access to clean water and sanitation; have lower quality nutrition, and lack of

immunization, and they face higher rates of incidence that require medical treatment. As young people, we remain highly concerned with the poor quality of services provided especially in the rural areas. Although non-state actors such as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) are playing a key role, the continued failure by Government to provide adequate and quality health care services is a detriment to youth development. In addition, our health needs remain unmet mainly because of the following shortcomings in this Sector; 1) Fear and misconceptions among young people regarding health services; 2) Long distances to health centers, particularly in rural areas; 3) Illiteracy among young people; 4) Cultural and religious factors; 5) Lack of youth-friendliness e.g., confidentiality, physical spaces; 6) Low financing; 7) Poor and inadequate infrastructure especially in the rural areas; 8) Increase in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes cancer and cardiovascular diseases and 9) Inadequate human resource both frontline and specialist

For these reasons, we demand the following:

- Allocation of a total of Fifteen percent (15%) of the entire national budget in accordance with the Abuja declaration to the health sector.
- Provision of quality and adequate services and infrastructure especially in the rural areas.
- Ensuring that all infrastructure and services take the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) into consideration rumps, lifts
- Provision of adequate essential services in

a timely manner, especially in the rural areas. In particular, establish youth friendly services and infrastructure in all health institutions

- Provision of adequately trained human resources especially in the rural areas
- Recruitment and employment of more young people in front service provision nurses, doctors and administrative staff. Of these, ten percent (10%) guided by gender equality principles should be reserved for youth of employable age
- Provision of good working conditions for front service providers especially in rural areas
- Provision of youth friendly corners that guarantees privacy and confidentiality that have adequate and well-resourced corners in each District Public Health facilities
- Reduction of the Doctor-Patient Ratio from 1:12000 to 1:1000
- Ensure timely provision of essential drugs and equipment in all health facilities including in the rural facilities
- Provide access to sexual reproductive Health Services at all healthy facilities

Education

As young people, we are calling upon all development actors to classify this Sector as a productive and not social sector. In our view, development begins and ends with education. Therefore, education-and quality education in particular - should be placed at the center of national development (ZANEC 2021). For us as young people, our major concern is the high numbers of the youth that are not educated in Zambia as highlighted by

the LCMS in 2015. Although in 2016 the Ministry of General Education reported that Zambia was moving towards universal primary education, LCMS found that over half (54%) of 10 to 14-year olds had no education while majority of the youth had only attained basic education mainly in the form of basic primary and junior secondary qualification (GRZ 2015). The main reasons for this unfortunate outcome included long distance of travel to school, lack of financial support, inadequate learning spaces and unavailability of required learning institutions such a secondary schools or tertiary institutions within reachable distances.

Additional challenges in the sector include limited spaces for higher level education (1,009 secondary schools against 8, 843 primary schools; high cost of secondary and tertiary education affecting progression into secondary and tertiary education; inadequate public financing; inadequate learning materials and requirements - high levels of student-book ratio (5:1) and teacher deficit (55,000)²; inadequate human resource especially in rural areas coupled with poor working conditions in the rural areas lack of accommodation, social and economic services. Furthermore, notwithstanding the gains attained in promoting access to education by both females and males in Zambia, school attendance for the young people in Zambia still shows significant gender differentials. For example, primary school net attendance ratio (NAR) for the population age 7-13 is seventy nine percent (79%).³ The secondary school NAR dropped drastically to forty (40) percent with a difference between urban (56%) and rural (29%) areas (ZDHS 2018).⁴ In addition, girls also continue

dropping out of the schooling system at senior secondary and tertiary level. As a result of these limitations, we note that Zambia has very low numbers of university students in the region compared to South Africa and Botswana and that the transition rates from lower secondary to upper secondary school has remained consistently low

We further observe that our education system is characterized by particular shortcomings that impact negatively on our ability to access further academic and employment opportunities. Key among these include; **1)** Highly academic learning curricula; **2)** Limited career guidance especially at secondary and tertiary level; **3)** Limited focus on entrepreneur and skills training; **4)** Poor administration and management practices. These are some of reasons also contributing to the high unemployment levels amongst the Zambian Youth.

For these reasons, we demand the following

a) With regards the Education Model: Access to Universal Education for All

- Provision of free primary and secondary education
- Adopt a binary system combination of formal, skills and vocational training education system from primary to tertiary level
- Align the curriculum learning needs to the job market and linkages consistently and actively sought after and Introduce youth empowerment and leadership courses in all institutions of learning
- Provide adequate and equal access to university and college opportunities

² ZANEC 2021

³ Eighty one percent (81%) for girls and seventy seven percent (77% for boys)

⁴ Thirty eight percent (38%) for girls and forty two (42%) for boys

for youth including those located in rural areas, with curriculum and prioritize market skills such as science and technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and strategic leadership

- Recruit and employ of more front service providers teachers, school management and administrative staff and ensure impartiality, transparency and accountability in the recruitment of staff and management of learning institutions
- Provide good working conditions for front service providers especially in rural areas economic and social goods and services such as decent accommodation, banking, marketing, communication, transport and commercial accessories

b) Key Priorities in Infrastructure and Service Provision

- Build, construct and rehabilitate better and quality infrastructure especially at secondary and tertiary level with key focus on the rural areas
- Ensure that all infrastructure take the needs of PwDs into consideration
- Provide more secondary and tertiary institutions. Every district to have a full-fledged Technical Secondary School
- Rehabilitate and create more Vocational and Training Centres in each District
- Create and adequately finance Skills and Training Centres

c) Services and Provision

- Provide academic bursaries especially for students coming from vulnerable and marginalised families including Youths Living with Disabilities
- Ensure that all services take the needs of PwDs into consideration
- Invest in building reading and writing skills among the Youth with special attention to those out of formal school
- Invest more in technical skills and computer literacy especially from senior primary to tertiary level with rural areas set
- Provide adequate essential services in a timely manner, including teaching aids and materials especially for science and mathematics courses

Water and Sanitation

The provision of quality and adequate water and sanitation services is very important to the advancement, protection and enhancement of our health and social status as young people. Improvements in this sector are directly connected to our social interactions, health and hygiene requirements, economic, production and entertainment activities such as sport. Yet, we have observed that this is one of the development areas that continue to receive very little attention in Zambia. For instance, this sector has been receiving three to four times less than the allocations to education and health from 2012 2020, (JCTR 2020). Public financing to the sector on average has been 0.04% of the national budget (CSPR 2020).

In addition, we are concerned that the following long standing setbacks faced in this Sector remain unresolved to date: **1)** Low percentage of people with access the basic drinking water sources especially in the rural areas; **2)** Low percentage of people with access basic sanitation facilities both in the urban and rural areas; **3)** Low percentage of people with access to safely managed sanitation services; **4)** Poor service provision by sanitation and water public service providers and **5)** High levels of water and sanitation related diseases

Therefore, we demand the following:

- Increase the budgetary allocation to this sector by three-fold
- Increase in public investment in water and sanitation services in local communities
- Ensure that all public district education and health institutions have functional/adequate water and sanitation services
- Facilitate women and youth participation in sanitation service provision under private sector development initiatives
- Ensure adequate financing of local Councils and municipalities for provision of adequate and quality services in water and sanitation
- Prioritise provision of safe water and sanitation services in low income communities
- Provide affordable water and sanitation services among poor and vulnerable communities
- Provide access to basic clean water to households, public schools and health institutions especially in the rural areas.

Arts, Music and Sports Low Public Concern

For us as young people, the sector of sports, music and arts is not only important for personal and physical growth, but if properly harnessed, can play a significant role in national development. In particular, we are convinced that sports, music and art have contributed to national and peace building initiatives in Zambia. More notably, these sectors have a huge potential of advancement opportunities for us. We also believe that this Sector, when properly exploited, can significantly improve our current low levels of economic, financial and social inclusion in Zambia. It is common knowledge that we, the youth, are easily and keenly attracted and interested to activities related to arts, music and sports. For us as young people, this sector is a major source of employment, innovation and productivity. However, we have observed that there has been little investment in the sector especially post the 1990s. In addition, development programmes have been poorly implemented and mostly hijacked by personal and partisan interests. As such, music, sports and art has remained loosely connected to the overall national development aspirations of the Country. In addition, the other key challenges affecting these areas include: 1) Poor financing of Government Ministries and Departments mandated with managing this Sector; 2) Low investment and poor incentives; 3) Weak connection to the overall development process; 4) Lack of training and educational facilities; 5) Unavailability of materials and equipment; 6) Limited training and capacity building opportunities e.g. institutions, private sector actors and 7) Poor working conditions

For these reasons, we demand the following:

- Increase public financing to activities that foster advancement for the youth music, crafts, entertainment and hospitality industry
- Construction of more public institutions to offer educational and skills training in these sectors
- Provision of bursary and financial support in public tertiary institutions providing skills training and education in this sector
- Provision of the PwDs in this sector are provided with access to bursary services, ICTs and other materials required to build a successful profession and career in this field

Climate and Environment

Zambia, like several other developing Countries, has been experiencing drastic changes in climate and its environment. As young people, we are particularly concerned with changes that are increasingly becoming a common calamity especially in relation to our means of livelihoods. For instance, most of the young people residing in the rural areas and heavy density communities in urban areas are experiencing severe disruptions to their economic and productive activities as a result of calamities such as floods or droughts. These natural calamities have been costly particularly in terms of crop destruction, disruption of education and health systems as well as damages to human dwellings such as housing, communications and transport. On one hand, these calamities have resulted in the loss of productive resources in the form of reduced yields, increase disease outbreaks on livestock s and fisheries while imposing additional financial burdens on public expenditures as Government has been required to reconstruct and rehabilitate affected infrastructure as well as purchase support materials for affected communities and families.

As young people, our key concern is mainly with the thousands of youth whose livelihood is largely dependent on natural resources. For instance, there have been registered decline in volumes of harvests of fish stocks which has necessitated lengthy fish-bans as well as the banning of cutting of trees that has reduced income generation opportunities for some youths especially in the peri-urban areas. Besides disturbing our livelihood activities climate and environmental calamities have impacted negatively on other development and social living conditions such, schooling programmes, food and security, increased exposure to health hazards and destruction of infrastructure (communication and housing). From the gender perspective, young women and girls in the rural areas have to travel longer distances to fetch firewood and water as these resources are receding further and further from local communities.

In addition, we have observed that we the young people lack sufficient capabilities to address the negative impact of climate and environmental change largely because of the following factors; **1)** High levels of vulnerability levels among the youth; **2)** Lack or limited access to finance and other economic resources; **3)** Lack or limited access, adaptive capacities and knowledge on coping and resilience strategies or responses; **4)** Limited access to information on climate change and environment and lastly; **5)** Low levels of education and literacy

Therefore, we demand the following:

- Increased public financing to sectors mitigating the effects of climate change and environmental damage such as agriculture, water, mining, art, SMEs and sanitation, forestry, fisheries
- Provision of affordable alternative sources of energy for the youth engaged in productive economic ventures SMEs, farming, mining and artisan

- Increase in public support to coping and resilient interventions response to the sectors holding strategic development potential for the Youth - agriculture, water and sanitation, SMEs, art, mining, forestry, fisheries
- Implementation of programmes focused on promoting resilient responses among the youth to mitigate the negative effects of climate change
- Provision of timely access to information on climate change and environment to the public
- Introduction of basic education courses in community schools, adult literacy, vocational skills learning institutions on climate change and environment



3 | GOVERNANCE

Issue 1: Youth Participation in Governance

Zambia is a democratic state - both its development and governance systems are guided by the principle and value of equality and equity (GRZ 2016). As young people, we recognize that Zambia has a favorable youth policy environment and has demonstrated commitment to ensuring that the Youth participate and are represented in both the development and governance processes, thereby also benefiting from the outcomes by signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Youth Charter. (GRZ 2010). Domestically, the Amended Constitution of Zambia of 2016 guarantees us the youth the human rights and participation in the national economic and governance affairs. For implementation purposes, the proceeding NDPs, namely the TNDP, FNDP, 6NDP and including the current 7NDP, have all acknowledged the developmental repercussions of excluding the Youth from the participating in the management of the Country. Furthermore, the National Vision 2030 that aspires to transform Zambia into a Prosperous Middle-Income Country by 2030, places us the Youth at the center of the success of this Vision (GRZ 2006).

However, all this strong rhetoric has not been matched by practical measures. Consequently, we remain one of the most marginalized and excluded segments of Zambia's population today. Even programmes such as civic education and voter education programs that have been incorporated in the learning curriculum have not resulted in our increased participation and representation in governance. To the contrary, our visibility in the governance structures of the Country have been on the decline. For instance, there are only two (2) Member's within the category of the youth group out of a total of one hundred and fifty-eight (158) Members of Parliament between the period

2016-2021.¹ Although the numbers have improved at Local Government level these are still insignificant in comparison to the non-youth category.

There are various factors that have contributed to our exclusion, low participation and representation in governance processes. These include the following; **1)** The lack of interest in governance affairs; **2)** Lack of time to engage due to other competing demands such as school; **3)** Lack of possession of required documents such as voters cards; **4)** Lack of information about governance and political processes; **5)** Intimidation and the lack of support from adults; **6)** Weak culture of civic and social activism; **7)** Lack of legal and institutionalized framework for youth participation and involvement; **8)** Political violence and intimidation; **9)** Lack of financial and economic resources; **10)** Weak democratic consolidation and development and **11)** Undemocratic political tendencies intra and inter party

For these reasons, we demand the following:

- Ensure the effective implementation of policies on youth development and empowerment
- Appoint more young people to positions of leadership and decision making in the Public Sector i.e. Commissions, Boards
- Enact a law on the Mixed Member Electoral System (MMES) for Political Parties and Parliament
- Legally oblige political parties to institute youth integration mechanisms in their operations
- Develop and promote leadership and mentorship programmes in learning institutions

Issue 2: Accountability and Transparency

Poor development performance in Zambia has been closely associated with the existence of weak and in some cases, even total lack of accountable and transparent systems in the management of public affairs (GRZ 2009, 2017; UN 2020; CSPR 2018). We observe that even the publicly financed youth development programs have not been spared from these challenges (UNFPA 2018). As the youth, we remain greatly concerned and disappointed that our programmes are often poorly designed, poorly implemented and politically manipulated with misplaced priorities and tailored towards wrong beneficiaries. As a result, our development status economic, financial, social and political, has consistently remained low in comparison to other segments of the population.

Instead, of transforming us into development and governance change agents, we are now mostly associated with violence and other forms of social delinquency. We deserve to be given space to build leadership careers and to develop interest in matters relating to the governance of this Country.

Based on these concerns; we demand the following;

- Full implementation of the decentralization programme within a period of five (5) years
- Enactment of the Freedom of Information Bill by 2022
- Enactment of legal provision to oblige all public office bearers to publicly declare their assets on an annual basis
- Enact legislation to oblige Local Authorities to publicize their financial status reports on a quarterly basis

- Institutionalization of public participation in national development planning and national budgeting process with a fixed number of seat reserved for the Youth
- Adoption of the transparent, participatory and accountable debt and loan contraction process by 2022
- Institute stringent accountability, participatory and transparency mechanisms in all youth empowerment programmes

Issue 3: Political Violence Concern

Insecurity and violence of any form is inimical to societal, community and personal advancement. As young people, we have observed with concern that we are increasingly exposed to insecurity and violence, especially gender and politically related violence. In particular, we the young people have become both victims and tools of political violence popularly known as cadres. This violence not only inhibits us from enjoying our civil, political and economic freedoms but more importantly, undermines our prospects of becoming responsible citizens and leaders. In our view, we have been taken advantage of and exploited to participate in this type of violence largely because of the following reasons;

1) The lack of economic and financial empowerment; **2)** High levels of poverty and economic deprivation; **3)** Absence of a comprehensive and consolidated national youth development agenda; **4)** Low levels of solidarity among the youth; **5)** Low levels of literacy political and educational and **6)** The unequal application and enforcement of the Public Order Act by Law Enforcers when it comes to the congregation of youth for political participation

Issue 4: Gender and Youth Development

In this regard, we demand the following:

- Increase public financing to community-based Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)
- Provide effective security services during electoral periods such as campaigns and voting
- Repeal of the current Public Order Act
- Strengthen the powers of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) on conflict management and political violence
- Invest more in community and social welfare services provide adequate administrative and human resources
- Suspend political parties and actors that perpetuate, support and condone violence from taking active participation in public and official political processes such as in election activities
- Strengthen community-led security and anti-violence initiatives
- Establish partnerships between political actors and education and learning intuitions on peace-building, democratic behavior and leadership
- Develop mentorship, counselling and peace building programmes targeting young people in politics

We, the youth, have recognized that gender plays a major role in youth involvement in the development and governance processes including the education and health programmes targeting both the girl and boy child but with greater emphasis on the former (GRZ 2018; 2020).² We also acknowledge that progressive legislative provisions, state-CSO partnerships and mechanisms that have been put in place.³ However, the following factors continue to entrench inequalities between the male and female youth in our Country

Inadequate public financing of gender equality interventions: Majority of programmes are inadequately and inconsistently financed and the enforcement of legislation has been weak (CSPR 2018; GRZ 2017; GRZ 2019).

Socio-economic Imbalances: More male youth are able to progress academically and economically. Some of the negative outcomes of these imbalances have included the following; **1)** High levels of School Drop-outs among Female Youth; **2)** Child marriages and youth pregnancies; **3)** Poor provision of social services and amenities especially in the health and education sectors; **4)** Weak opportunities of youth advancement and transformation

Lack of gender sensitive health services: The lack of private physical spaces and confidentiality for evaluation and treatment also serve to dissuade us, especially the male, from accessing health services. This has contributed to the high levels of poor health among us

Rising cases of GBV among the Youth: Unemployment, high levels of drug abuse

² These seek to combat gender inequality and improve the status and opportunities for women and adolescent girls

³ For example, some NGOs have set up safe houses, Toll numbers for safety, provide bursaries to vulnerable girls and female children, provide health and social protection services, feed and nutrition products e.g. ZANEC, ZOCs, FAWEZA, CAMFED

and conflicts over productive reasons are some of factors contributing to the rise in violence among us. Ultimately, we are seen as one of perpetrators of violence at personal, family and societal level.

Unequal access to political resources: Male youth tend to participate more actively in activities such as political party affairs, events and management while the levels of the female youth tends to be on the lower side. Growing violence and political violence, the lack of willingness by most political parties to mainstream gender practices in the operations are some of the main causes of this problem (ZNWL 2020).

This limitation is also present in public institutions such as National Assembly, Local Government, Public Commissions and other statutory decision-making bodies in Zambia.

In this regard, we demand the following;

- Increase budget allocations for programmes aimed at enhancing gender knowledge and skills among the youth both in the formal and informal sectors, in the following three (3) Ministries Gender, Community Development and Social Services and Youth Development and Sport
- Legally oblige political parties to comply with the 50-50 gender balance representation in the management structures and adoption list for electoral positions
- Ring-fence economic and financial empowerment programmes targeted at the youth, especially the female youth, to promote sustainable livelihoods among this segment of the population
- Re-introduction of community youth and adult literacy education programmes to facilitate access to education for young people who might not have a chance to undergo formal education.

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About Democracy Works Foundation (DWF)

DWF is southern African non-profit company focused on democracy development in the region. DWF is headquartered in South Africa with country offices in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and eSwatini. As an independent foundation, we are committed to building and promoting inclusive, equitable and sustainable consensus democracies in Southern Africa; our resilient democracy. We do so by providing tools, platforms and content to strengthen democrats, democratic culture and democracy institutions. DWF works on the supply and demand side of democracy. We operate across several programmatic areas:

- Monitoring: we collect data, do research and provide analysis on the state of democracies.
- Institutions: we support the capacity of democracy institutions to fulfil their mandates.
- Citizens and leaders: we train future democrats to drive change.
- Climate and democracy: we strengthen the capacity of communities and democracy institutions to prioritize climate change initiatives.
- Culture: we provide platforms for democratic engagement to cultivate new ideas for democracy
- Additionally, the Foundation provides advisory services on good governance and social impact and functions as a fiscal host and fund manager.

We believe that democracy is always a work in progress. It is often challenged and never complete. DWF is uniquely placed to continuously invest in and nurture resilient democracy and development.

Pursuant to its objectives, DWF is implementing a five year (2017 – 2022) USAID funded **Southern Africa Political Parties and Dialogue (SAPP&D)** Program that seeks to strengthen the capacities of political parties in Zambia amongst other countries including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, eSwatini and Malawi to better respond to and represent the needs of society whilst at same time enhancing a democratic political culture that supports the meaningful participation of women, youth and marginalized individuals. Specifically, the programme seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To strengthen participatory policy and platform development that accurately reflects citizen-identified needs to explicitly include access to clean water and energy and management of these resources.
- To develop a sustainable approach to building the capacity of internal party structures emphasizing democracy, transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness
- To inculcate a political culture and behavior within parties that supports meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized individuals in identifying party policy and in leadership structures.
- To establish a regional network of political parties and other relevant actors to share and support best practices, lessons learned and knowledge on strengthening democratic party structures.

About Center for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA)

The Center for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA) is a non-profit young political leader s volunteer organization established in 2017. The center is a platform that brings young people from different political parties and other diverse backgrounds to build capacity through interactive skill sharing in civic participation and governance. The organisation envisions empowered young political leaders advancing social transformation, peaceful coexistence and the consolidation of multiparty democracy, bearing the mission, to provide a multi-party platform for young leaders to dialogue, advocate and mobilize for collective and self-development and social transformation through partnerships, capacity building and networking.

CYLA has in place a three-tier membership: Full members drawn from the Alumni of the Program for Young Politicians in Africa (PYPA) Academy and other accepted leadership training; Associate Members being Non-PYPA Alumni members that belong and support political parties in Zambia; and Non-Politically affiliated members. An additional category of Non-Youth members with interest in CYLA Vis a Vis Honorary member being organisations and persons above the age of 35.

**DEMOCRACY
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ZAMBIA
YOUTH MANIFESTO

