



CITIZENS FIRST MANIFESTO

2026 - 2031



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FOREWORD

The Citizens First (CF) is proud to present our manifesto for 2026–2031, outlining our core values and goals for a better and meaningful life for you and I and for a prosperous Zambia.

The past years have been challenging, with unmet expectations and growing economic hardships increasing in nature and complexity. Our capacity to mitigate climate change remains unsatisfactory. 60 years after independence, we have a pupil teacher ratio of 150/1 per class. Women continue to lose their lives while giving life through childbirth, a common man cannot afford to have 3 meals a day, and is actually living in wallowing poverty. 60 years after independence, Zambians do not own their own economy. Zambia continues to make foreigners dollar billionaires from its resources, while making Zambian citizens more poorer.

This Manifesto puts every citizen from each and every province, all the ten (10) provinces of Zambia at the centre of every decision, for the betterment of our country. It is a document reflecting the collective will and unwavering commitment of the Citizens First leadership to working with you in tackling poverty and fostering economic growth at the backdrop of youth talent, innovation and productivity and the ingenuity of the Zambian population, and further ensuring social justice for all Zambians.

At Citizens First, your wellbeing is paramount to us. We shall endeavor to nurture every life, through access to basic services, universal access to a quality public school system as well as access to quality competitive health services as close to your doorstep as possible. Our manifesto details out comprehensive strategies to not only enhance the wellbeing of citizens, but further positions the citizenry for prosperity and transformative growth and integrity to propel Zambia into a developed and prosperous country. restoring integrity, and rebuilding trust in our governance.

The CF intends to draw a thin line between development and politics while embarking on principles of political economy. The CF manifesto is developed to influence the long-term development to be broken down into immediate, short and long-term output and outcomes so that the national development plan and vision will be able to hold and anchor all development initiatives. The CF manifesto envisions the factors of production enhanced with policy coherence and consistency.

Our Manifesto leaves no one behind. The Children, the Youth, Women and Men, the vulnerable, the worker, the affluent, the traditional leaders, the church, the civil society, and the private sector are part of our manifesto contributing towards building a unified, well loved, peaceful and developed Zambia that you and I will be proud to call home. The Citizens First envisions a Zambia where everyone has the opportunity to survive, thrive, grow and have competences that are globally competitive in their own rights.

Let us come from all the corners of Zambia and unite in this mission to transform and reposition our country to greatness.

Thank you for your trust and support.



Harry Kalaba
CF President



THE CF PRESIDENT HON HARRY KALABA



Harry Kalaba, is a dedicated, disciplined and selfless leader who is able to transform the fortunes of the country and those of individual Zambians.

Born in a family where his father was a politician under President Kenneth Kaunda, Harry learnt about caring for the people from his parents at a very early age. His father served as Member of Parliament for Bahati and as minister in various government ministries. From his father, he learnt of service before self. His education in the catholic schools and formation in seminary reinforced values of christianity, loving your neighbour as you love yourself. This was further demonstrated when he was appointed minister and found settling allowances which were way beyond expectation for public service. He decided to respect the conditions of service for ministers but made a conscious decision not to take that money as according to him, there were inequalities in the conditions of service in government and he refused to get the money. Harry further learnt that as a Minister, one can get a loan to build a house from the Ministry of Finance. He decided to access that loan. He found that he could get the loan to construct his house and pay it in 5 years at no interest and no collateral, save for his Member of Parliament position as security. He again decided that as a servant of the people, he could not access such a loan that gives him such special and favorable conditions which are not available to the common man and is never a norm for credit and loan services. He went to Indo Zambia Bank and got a loan with a commercial interest as is available to all Zambians. Such actions are a demonstration of commitment to fully empathize with the people's experiences.

President Kalaba, brings a wealth of experience in public service having worked as a civil servant and as a member of Parliament for Bahati, Minister of Lands and as Minister Foreign Affairs. President Kalaba knows and respects the value of a professional and motivated civil service. He further knows the need to balance and respect the various interest groups while putting a mark of special interest on a Zambian citizen, the one whose resources the presidency and the government holds entrust for. He further acknowledges the need to promote and protect the interest of a zambian citizen of today and of the generations to come.

President Kalaba bestows special honors on his late father Simon Chisha Kalaba and on the late President Michael Chilufya Sata who saw great leadership potential in him and entrusted him to represent the people of Bahati and to further serve the nation of Zambia as a minister. He further recognises former President Edgar Lungu who made him continue to serve as foreign minister after the death of President Sata. He further attributes his deepest gratitude to the people of Bahati and the Zambian people.

He embodies a youthful and progressive leadership disposition, comprehending the current challenges in the economy and politics, making him the ideal candidate for Zambia's leadership post the August 2026 elections.

INTRODUCTION

THE CITIZENS FIRST: BUILDING A BETTER ZAMBIA FOR ALL FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

The Citizens First Party led by President Harry Kalaba presents the 2026–2031 manifesto which will create a better Zambia for you and for me and for generations to come.

The CF plans to build a Zambia that is self-reliant leveraging the country's rich endowments of natural resources and talent of the youthful population to unlock its economic potential and support prosperity and equal opportunities for all Zambians. This liberating broad approach embraces people driven policies to ensure that benefits accrue for everyone from the country's wealthy resources, premised on the interests of the grassroots, professionals, cultural and traditional groups, the Church and other religions, It further allows for citizens participation in government development plans and program implementation.

We believe that self-reliance and a liberated economy totally depends on an all-inclusive economic development approach and application of our knowledge, skills and strengths as a united people.

We are committed to working with the people of Zambia to bring about the most anticipated transformation and scale up progress in all sectors. We will deliver service to the last mile and last person in our communities and ensure that no one is left behind. CF will support growth and development of citizens on a personal level, community level, and promote establishment and growth of private sector players.



Our Vision

Develop Zambia through enhanced and competitive policies and programs that will ultimately position Zambia as a developed country with capacity to export its goods and services on the international arena leveraging on the central geolocation, the peaceful environment of the country anchored in the one Zambia One Nation and on the talent and energy of our youthful population to drive a homegrown development agenda.

OUR VALUES



INTEGRITY

Act with sincerity and honesty at all levels of decision making and program implementation for the common good of our nation and its people.



EQUITY AND EQUALITY

Embrace the principles of equality and equity in the redistribution of resources and opportunities regardless of colour, tribe, religion or political affiliation.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Acknowledge servant leadership and the holding of power and resources in trust for the people of Zambia. The CF will maximize efficiencies of resources and promote value for the Zambian resources.



LOVE FOR HUMANITY AND ONE ANOTHER

The CF values humanity and will promote human dignity



PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL PRIDE

A Zambian citizen will be at the centre of government decisions, programs and policies anchored in the national motto of the One Zambia One Nation.



ZAMBIA: WHERE WE ARE

Zambia is at a crossroads and in dire need to re-shape and re-route the country's development trajectory through a change in government leadership and enacting forward looking policies to transform and unlock Zambia's growth and economic potential.

Zambia is witnessing a reversal of the gains made in the last 3 decades of the multi-party democratic dispensation across all areas of development including democracy and governance.

We have increasing poverty with rising costs of staple foods and other essential commodities. The public health system is in shambles with increased disease state markers, resurgence of conditions which had previously been suppressed, and increased mortality rates from preventable deaths.

Proper Diagnostics and Management of disease conditions have become a far-fetched dream due to inadequate health commodities and tools for diagnostics and shortages of essential drugs laboratory reagents.

While the previous government enacted the National Health Insurance Management Authority, the vision of insurance supplementing the Government's health expenditure is not working. It's mostly underfunded and the employer contribution including government is undefined.

The government has introduced free education from grade 1 to grade 12 without increasing the numbers of classrooms, laboratories, workshops and teachers. This has led to overcrowding in classrooms with a ratio of 1 teacher to 150 children, leading to teachers failing to dedicate time for each and every learner and ensure no one is left behind. Alcohol and substance abuse is widespread in schools and with such overcrowding, it is very difficult to maintain order in class.

Zambia is experiencing the worst and most brutal loadshedding in the history of Zambia, due to inadequate generation capacity and lack of prioritizing the Zambian citizen before foreign consumers of electricity. Further, there has been little to no diversification in terms of energy sources.

Youth unemployment continues to be high while the government fails to open up youth positions in the private sector and in strategic areas of unique competitive advantage. While the youth of today come with very decorated degrees, they are rendered unemployable as Zambia has failed to facilitate diversified jobs and industries in line with the demands of the 21st century and that of the technology and artificial intelligence era.

Climate change continues to have devastating effects on the survival and well-being of a common man. Zambia is experiencing droughts and flooding as well as extreme temperatures. Agriculture and food security have been affected by poor policies around strategic reserving and climate change mitigation capacities. Deforestation is increasing at a faster rate while our capacities to reforestation is extremely low.

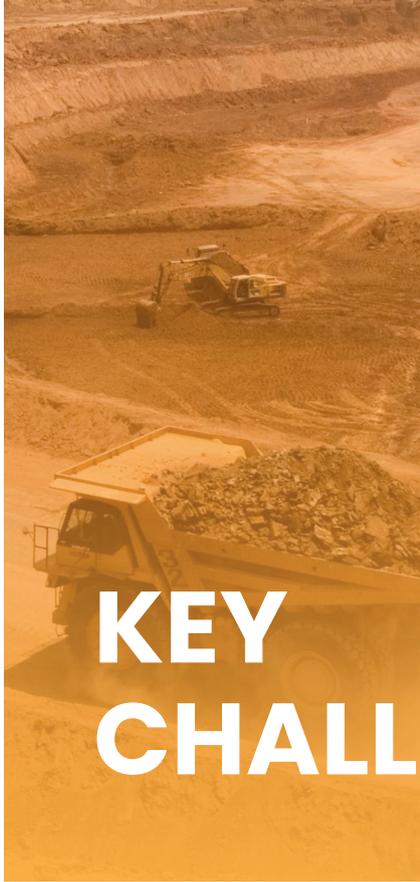
The country's indebtedness is increasing as the government has brokered deals to stagger repayments for the debt, while the country continues to contract more debt at very unsustainable levels.

Zambia continues to be an exporter of primary commodities while being a net importer of secondary goods. The private sector is further constrained and limited as Zambia fails to take advantage of industrialization despite having a comparative advantage in mining and agriculture among many.

Mining continues to be the economic backbone of Zambia, while owned by multinational corporations with money realized from sales of the minerals going directly to their offshore accounts. The Zambian people are essentially not part of the mining industry due to various reasons including the difficulty of securing licenses and getting financing for exploration and artisanal activities. Successive governments continue to give tax incentives making Zambians not to benefit from the depleting mineral resources.

Rule of Law, Transparency, Accountability, Constitutionalism, Governance and Democratization have deteriorated. The Police are not able to perform their professional jobs due to political interference. Violence of cadres is on the increase again while the police look on hopelessly.

Zambia, a country founded on the principle of One Zambia One Nation, is currently more divided than ever, with divisions ripping through government appointments and services and across real and perceived political affiliation, regions and tribes.



KEY CHALLENGES

01  | High Cost of Living and Increasing Poverty

02  | Energy Crisis

03  | Youth Unemployment

04  | Food Insecurity

05  | Policy Inconsistencies and Incoherence

06  | Constricted and Stunted Private Sector

07  | Limited Manufacturing and Industries

08  | Poor Health Services

09  | Non Incentivized and Compromised Civil Service

10  | Poor Governance, Increased Corruption, shrinking Democracy and a Divided Nation

STRATEGIC HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS:

The Citizens First recognises the strategic actions below as critical and requiring the whole of government attention and action. The Strategic High Level Actions affect and cut across most or all of the government's socio-economic growth and development programs. They will be integrated and mainstreamed throughout all stages of government planning and implementation as well as evaluation and learning.



YOUTH AND GENDER IN DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH

Zambia is one of the world's youngest countries by median age with a total population of 18.9 million (2021), and is growing rapidly at 2.9% per year, resulting in the likelihood of it doubling close to every 25 years. Children and youth constitute more than half the population of Zambia. This trend is expected to continue as its large population of youth enters reproductive age, putting more pressure on the demand for jobs, health care, and other social services.

Citizens First recognizes that the youth are a key and valuable demographic group which will advance Zambia's development trajectory in partnership with the well experienced older group of citizens. Constituting almost 30% of the population, the group presents the different skill levels and competences which when well harnessed will contribute to the Orange Revolution transformation of Zambia's development trajectory. The current youth population presents unique competencies of innovation, science and technology, arts, recreation and sports which the CF led Government will leverage upon to create jobs and new industries. The youth agenda will be mainstreamed in every ministry.

01

Realign the functions of Youth to the portfolio of Education, innovation, leadership, sports, arts and Gender to guarantee youth participation in national development.

02

Prioritize youth in all areas of development leveraging on technology and the relative comparative advantage of the diverse skills of the Zambian youth.

03

Replace the National Youths Development Council with the National Commission for Youth Development and elevate its functions and reporting to the office of the President.



04

Enhanced partnerships with the Zambian Private sector and development partners for mentorship programs and incubation for schemes for Youth Innovation.

05

Streamline street kids programs, out of school Youths and other youths into the National Service, Skills Development Centers and Trade Schools.

06

Realign the school curriculum from K-12 through Universities to make it more entrepreneurial and innovative with skills and practicals to meet the needs of today's knowledge-driven economy.

07

Enact Youth Affirmative Policy for recruitment in the Private and Public Sector.

GENDER



The Citizens First (CF) Government is committed to promoting gender equality as a fundamental principle of social justice and sustainable development. Despite progress in recent years, gender disparities persist in many areas of Zambian society, including education, employment, political participation, and access to resources. This policy aims to address these inequalities by implementing comprehensive measures to empower women and ensure equal opportunities for all genders.

01

Promote Equal Opportunities:

Ensure equal access to education, employment, and leadership positions for all.

04

Foster Cultural Change:

Promote cultural and social norms that support gender equality.

02

Empower Women:

Enhance women's economic, social, and political empowerment.

05

Ensure Inclusive Governance:

Involve women and marginalized groups in decision-making processes.

03

Address Gender-Based Violence:

Strengthen measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV).

DECENTRALIZATION

Decentralization is a key element in ensuring equitable growth and development, distribution of goods and services and access to social services and establishment of just societies.

The Citizens First will have a decentralized system of governance, driven by and for the people and citizens of Zambia, within a unified State for sustainable local and national development.

Key actions will include:

- 01** Decentralised System of Governance ensuring citizen participation in local governance to enhance local economic and social development.
- 02** Administrative Decentralization with meaningful devolution of functions and corresponding resources from national to subnational levels for effective and efficient administration and service delivery.
- 03** **Fiscal Decentralization:** Realign and reconfigure financing of local government to enhance implementation of participatory integrated multi sectoral district plans to enhance social, economic and environmentally sustainable local development.
- 04** Enabling Legal and Policy Framework: Develop a comprehensive policy and legal framework to support effective decentralization by devolution.



Strategic Focus Areas are the following:

- 01**
Community Mobilization and Engagement:
Establish and strengthen nonpartisan subdistrict planning and developmental community engagement structures at ward and zonal levels based on population and household numbers to enhance community participation in local and national affairs.
- 02**
Local Leadership Development and Institutional Capacity Building:
Enhance transformational local leadership development and institutional capacities of provincial, district, and local authorities.
- 03**
Resource Distribution and Allocation:
Ensure sufficient and equitable distribution of resources to subnational levels including establishment of a District Development Fund.
- 04**
Transparency and Accountability:
Introduce governance and administrative arrangements at national and subnational levels, which will foster transparency and empower citizens to hold their representatives accountable for good governance and effective service delivery.

The Citizens First will enhance the provincial and district administration, including the Ministry of Local Government and the Decentralisation Secretariat, with a multisectoral mechanism under the President’s office ministerial effective collaboration at provincial and district levels and enable integrated development Planning leading to sustainable local development and improvement of people’s Livelihoods.



SUSTAINABLE DEBT CONTRACTION AND MANAGEMENT

Zambia's debt situation calls for holistic economic management policy reform measures and correcting policy incoherent and inconsistent. The CF will enhance efforts to address incoherent and inconsistent policy implementation and ensure debt sustainability, and effective policy measures to ensure economic stability and growth.

Traditionally, Zambia's main foreign exchange earner and major export commodity is copper. However, Zambia's benefits are minimal due to unbalanced tax incentives for mining companies which rob our economy of the much-needed foreign exchange earnings, hence These tax incentives are detrimental to our economy and place a huge burden on our debt situation. Furthermore, Zambia produces the world's best emeralds and yet the contribution to our national earnings and treasury are insignificant. The country therefore resolves to debt contraction to bridge the gap of the nation's financing.

Debt is a critical tool for investment and growth if taken to productive areas of the economy. Therefore, borrowing must be sustainable with clear repayment plans. Zambia's debt has failed to yield necessary growth and development sufficient to generate funds for debt repayment due to our inability to grow and diversify our economy to sustainable levels hence a negative impact on debt sustainability.

The CF will develop a debt management plan which correlates with fund usage, projected economic growth and comprehensive repayment plan. Furthermore, the CF will relook the entire mining sector and ensure that mining, processing and exportation of high value minerals yield sufficient funds to the treasury and further promote fiscal space for the government to implement programmes and service the debt.

The CF will address key the issues surrounding our mining industry and export of all our metals and implement the following simplified policy measures:

01

Development of a Debt Management Strategy with the aim of minimizing borrowing costs, managing debt levels, and diversifying sources of financing starting with where we are.

02

Implement Resources Taxes that are fair to Zambia as owner of the resources:

- a. Consider re-introduction of windfall Tax.
- b. Do away with some tax incentives
- c. Broaden the tax base
- d. Assign and place appropriate value on our natural resources e.g. Mukula Tree, iron ore, copper dust etc
- e. Depoliticize mineral development and exploitation e.g. Gold, Sugilite, Emeralds, Carbon Credit,
- f. Introduce environmental Taxes without making the Tax regime segregative nor punitive

03

Create sink fund for the debt repayment from sources such as windfall Tax

04

Ensure Fiscal Discipline so that government spending is sustainable and aligned with revenue generation. This involves prudent budgeting, increasing revenue collection, and controlling expenditures.

05

Enhance Transparent Governance aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability in public financial management to prevent corruption and ensure that borrowed funds are used effectively and efficiently.



06

Borrow for the identified need and clearly outline programmes.

07

Debt Restructuring aimed at renegotiating to improve debt terms, extend maturities, or red6.

08

Strengthen Institutions like governance institutions, regulatory frameworks, and financial systems to enhance investor confidence, attract capital inflows, and ensure effective debt management.

09

Ensure Social Safety Nets implementation to protect vulnerable populations from the impacts of austerity measures or economic reforms undertaken to improve debt sustainability.

10

Diversification of the Economy aimed at encouraging economic diversification to reduce reliance on a narrow range of exports or industries, promoting resilience in the face of economic shocks and ensuring sustainable growth.

Enhance International Cooperation through working closely with international financial institutions, bilateral partners, and creditors to secure debt relief, access to concessional financing, and technical assistance to support debt sustainability efforts.



STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS FOR EFFECTIVE PROCUREMENT AND SERVICE DELIVERY:

Corruption is at serious epidemic levels across all systems of government in our country.

There is no sector and level or class that has been spared of corruption.

Corruption has led to dysfunctioning in the whole of public service, compromising on quality of goods and services offered and received by the government, and has further increased the cost for the government to procure goods and services. It has also led to increasing inequalities with the poor not receiving government as the rich with potential to bribe are prioritized. Corruption has also led to laziness and public servants' loss of intrinsic motivation for work within organizations. People are now glorifying theft and corruption over value of hard work and innovation. This corruption if not contained will lead to diminished state capacity with organized crimes etc.

The Citizens First is coming to change the narrative.



- 01 Incentive Hard work in the civil service
- 02 Establish ministerial anti corruption committees
- 03 Introduce Zero tolerance to corruption in all offices
- 04 Transform government procurement to include more approval levels
- 05 Establish systems with enhanced capacity to prevent, detect, investigate and disrupt corruption
- 06 Mainstream anti-corruption vices in all government plans and programs.
- 07 Introduce the Optimised efficiencies in procurement linked to value, quality and cost driven procurement.
- 08 Introduce annual to bi annual lifestyle audits for all public servants

PRIORITY ACTIONS

The Citizens First recognizes the reversal in developmental gains in the country and further notes new and emerging challenges. The CF will therefore undertake a very ambitious path of action to propel Zambia to where it should have been after 60 years of independence in line with Vision 2030 and further transform the development trajectory to respond to the current developmental needs and demands of the one competitive global community.



PRIORITY ACTION 1: INVESTING IN CITIZENS

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH FOR ALL

Health is an indispensable asset at the centre of growth, development and well-being of the individual and the nation. Universal health coverage (UHC) entails access and service provision to all people to the full range of quality health services they need, when needed and where need, and without financial hardship, and covering all services from health promotion, prevention, treatment and palliative care.

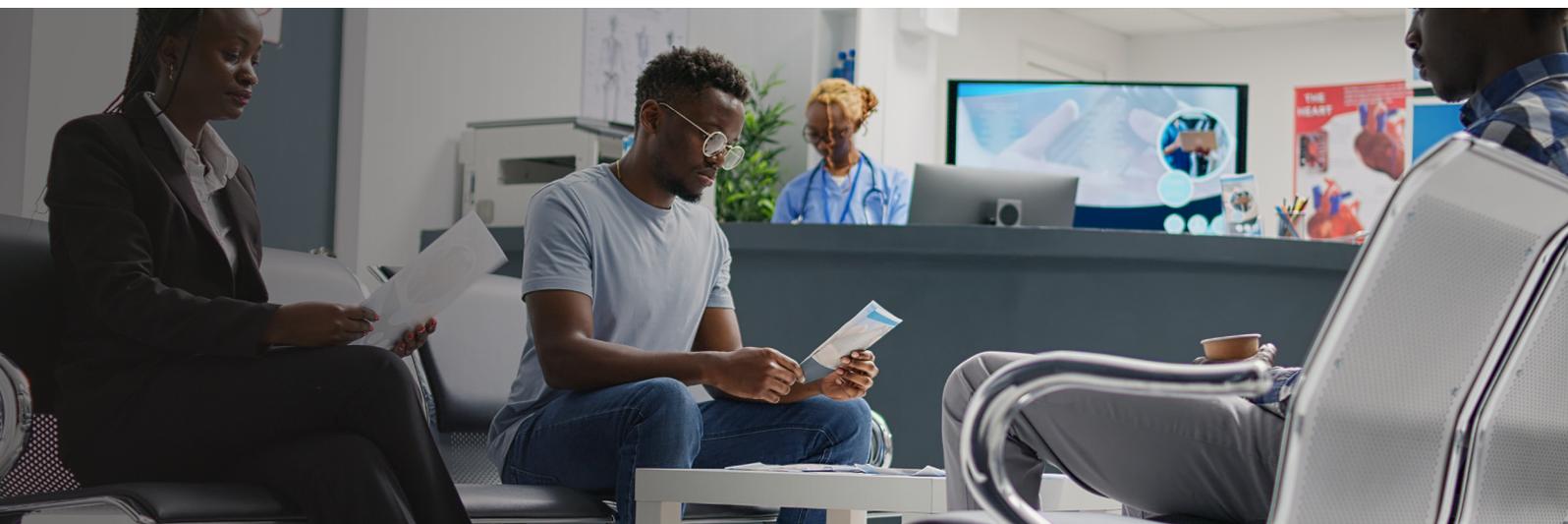
The CF prioritizes quality universal health care which is provided where needed and when needed. The CF will invest in infrastructure to ensure health service is provided close to the families in each ward and district, through health posts, health centers level 1 and District Hospitals with timely referrals to provincial and tertiary hospitals.

The CF will enhance the performance of the Ministry of Health to improve standards of care through quality dimensions in procurement of medical products, vaccines and technology, in certification of health care provider competences and in the service provision.

The CF will further prioritize the creation of the biomedicine industry and transforming Zambia into a medical tourism center of the region. The CF will implement Universal Health Care in line with the demands of the people in a particular community, while implementing competitive service. The CF will enhance the devolution of health care to districts and the district Councils.

The CF will bring about the following changes to enhance public health.

- 01 Introduce equitable distribution of health services, commodities and health care workers prioritizing the rural areas and and improving health worker/patient ratios.
- 02 Introduce Quality Dimensions in all areas of health care delivery
- 03 Enhanced support for neglected conditions including as mental health
- 04 Introduce community health insurance schemes across the country which will ensure that everyone has easy access to health facilities and qualified health workers.
- 05 Enhance primary and secondary health care to ensure reduction in preventable Maternal, Newborn and Child mortality rate.
- 06 Make NHIMA more efficient and effective
- 07 Put in place social policies and systems which will protect and assist the disadvantaged and vulnerable in our society and ensure equal access to quality health services, opportunities to education, wealth creation
- 08 Enhance partnerships with the private hospitals for improved health care delivery and competence building for health care staff including undertaking training practices and internships in private hospitals.
- 09 Establish partnerships with universities and hospitals in the developed countries to allow for sabbatical rotations prioritizing the Zambian citizens in the diaspora in order to enhance knowledge sharing and transfer.
- 10 Enhance community-based support for people with chronic disease
- 11 Matching of graduating medical students with the demand in public health.
- 12 Construction of more health facilities in each ward and districts



QUALITY EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR ALL

Education is an enabler of well being and productivity for an individual. It is also at the center of the country's functionality, growth and development. In today's fast and competitive world, it is imperative that the education system adapts to the dynamic demands and unpredictability of the world.

The Citizens First aims to provide an inclusive and quality education that secures the future of the learner's and positions them for productive and socially responsible adulthood. The CF will transform the education sector to promotion of quality education and skills development focusing on building a cadre of learners with right skills for the industry and a curriculum that trains them to be innovators, game changers, STEM industry leaders and employers by themselves.

01 Enhance access to quality early Childhood Education

10 Transform the JETS competition to programs with a potential to create competitive innovation to unlock industries.

02 Improve Learner/Teacher ratio and numbers of pupils per classroom

11 Introduce Special classes for learners with learning disabilities and special needs

03 Recruit more teachers

12 Enhance skills learning in primary and secondary

04 Build more school infrastructure.

13 Enhance anti doping and drugs clubs and workshops in schools.. Compulsory to all

05 Establish STEM and Innovation departments in all schools and mainstream them in the curriculum K-12 and colleges

14 Establish school psychologist positions.

06 Introduce innovation learning and incubation workshops form k-12 and colleges.

15 Introduce competences and etiquette testing for teachers at point of recruitment.

07 Enhance and make ICT classes compulsory for all from K-12

16 Introduce adult education education in primary and secondary schools.

08 Enhance access to quality technical, vocational/skills and higher education with a special focus on innovation

17 Reinforce re-entry policy.

09 Establish Innovation Fund to also cater for schools

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

The CF is committed to alleviating the livelihoods of the people of Zambia. CF is aware of the poverty that bad governance has exposed the nation to and in this realization is the understanding that food security is in prudent management of the welfare of the people.

Using the concept of 'food security for Zambians first' we will:

01 Prioritize stocking of the maize and staple food commodities for the people through the strategic reserves in the Food Reserve Agency (FRA).

02 Promote agricultural activities through-out the year as opposed to rain-season only farming.

03 Promote entrepreneurship programs prioritizing vulnerable households

04 Promote comprehensive subsistence farming at household level.

05 Establish Agricultural Technological and Inputs Support (ATIS) for all on equality and equity principles.

06 Promote land ownership and titling.



ACCESS TO ENERGY

Energy is critical for day to day living at individual and household levels. The current source of electricity for domestic and industrial use is generally hydro-electric power that is produced from the Zambezi river's Kariba dam, which was established to cater for a smaller population of less than four million people. Today with the population of 20 million, only 34% of Zambians have access to electricity. CF invests in the following to ensure increased population has access to electricity.

01 Establish solar energy farms for electricity in each province.

05 Enhance use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, pellets or briquettes to work towards SE4A targets.

02 Incentive solar power generation in institutions e.g health facilities, hospitals and houses.

06 Provide universal access to electricity

03 Incentivise establishment of companies manufacturing of mixed energy products e.g. fridges, geysers stoves, air conditioners and fans etc

07 Enhance the performance of Rural Electrification Authority (REA)

04 Develop and/or Enhance Regulatory Framework for Sustainable Cooking Technologies



ACCESS TO ICT

Access to internet connectivity and communication is a crucial enabler of communication and development. Zambia, like many other African nations, has seen significant growth in ICT access over the past decade. However, we are still a long way to reach universal access. We are currently at 23% of access. While Mobile phone penetration is higher, with a substantial portion of the population owning mobile phones, smartphone usage, which is crucial for advanced ICT access, is still limited. The cost of internet services and ICT devices as well as cost of bundles remains a significant barrier for many Zambians.

The ICT infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, is underdeveloped. Zambia requires huge investment and dedication to achieve 100% mobile network tower coverage countrywide.

The CF government will endeavor to have investment as below:

1. Expand Broadband Networks: Invest in expanding broadband infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved areas, to ensure nationwide coverage.
2. Establish Public Wi-Fi Hotspots in community centers, airports, major bus and train stations, schools and libraries etc.

3. Enhance Digital Literacy Programs:
4. Enhance Digital Literacy Programs:
5. Incentivise Innovation in ICT and Support the development of local content and applications that cater to the needs of Zambians, making ICT more relevant and useful.
6. Language and Culture: Promote content in local languages to make it more accessible and engaging for the broader population.
7. Develop and implement a comprehensive national ICT strategy that addresses infrastructure, access, affordability, and digital literacy.
8. Simplify regulatory procedures and create an enabling environment for private sector investment in ICT.
9. Public-Private Partnerships for ICT. Encourage partnerships between the government, private sector, and international organizations to pool resources and expertise for ICT development projects.
10. Establish a fund to ICT hubs as part of the Innovation fund for innovation hubs and incubators to support tech startups and foster innovation in the ICT sector.
11. Enhance E-Government Services:
 - 11.1 Online Services: Enhance e-government services to make government processes more efficient and accessible, promoting the use of ICT among citizens.
 - 11.2 Digital Platforms: Enhance digital platforms for education, healthcare, and agriculture to improve service delivery and accessibility

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection is a crucial component of the country's efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life for its citizens. The Citizens First hopes to improve upon the current Social Protection Systems to optimize coverage, improved and predictable financing and enhance efficiencies in delivery.



1. Social Cash Transfer (SCT) Program:

The CF will enhance the social cash transfer scheme for vulnerable populations, people with disabilities and the elderly over 65 years of age. The CF will increase social cash transfer to cover the cost of a 25kg bag of mealie meal, 2.5L cooking oil and 2 kg sugar every month as minimum.



2. Pension Scheme:

The pension system in Zambia primarily covers formal sector workers, leaving a significant portion of the population, especially those in informal employment, without retirement security. The National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) has made strides, but broader inclusion is necessary. The CF will

- Broaden and include people in the informal sector e.g marketeers.
- Link the pension scheme to business and housing loan schemes in order to allow citizens to get housing loans and business loans on the strength of the pension funds in their account.



3. Livelihood Programs:

Various livelihood programs aim to empower citizens through skills development, and entrepreneurship support. CF will incentivise skills and entrepreneurship by providing financing for business models to those with potentially economical viability.



4. Health Insurance:

Ensure everyone has health insurance cover and linking it to birth certificates and NRCs. Government will cover the cost for those under the SCT scheme.



5. Workers Compensation:

The CF values the contributions of the workers and believes that every worker deserves protection, dignity, and respect. The CF government will enact principles and commitments that will mandate our government to compensate workers for any injuries caused to them physically, mentally or financially. The compensation will fully cover medical expenses, rehabilitation costs, and lost wages as well as provide additional support for permanent disabilities and families of workers who suffer fatal injuries.

The CF will modernize Workers Compensation:

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** Ensure that the workers' compensation scheme covers all types of employment, including informal and Gig economy workers.
- **Integration with Other Schemes:** Integrate workers' compensation with other social protection schemes to provide a seamless safety net for all workers.

PRIORITY ACTION 2: GROWING THE ECONOMY

Zambia's economic growth has been sluggish in the last few years. This is despite Zambia having a lot of resources to spur sufficient economic growth. To promote economic growth the CF shall implement policies to enhance infrastructure development, promote trade, attract foreign investment and support key sectors where we have a clear competitive advantage. For Zambia to meet its Vision 2030 of being a prosperous middle income nation.

The CF will prioritize optimization of growth activities, expanding exports of processed goods and innovative technologies as enablers of industrialisation. The CF shall work on transforming the country from import dependent economy to an export led economy, thereby increasing revenue generation.



MINING

Zambia is richly endowed with various minerals in many parts of the country with copper being the foreign exchange earner and major export commodity. Mining has been Zambia’s backbone of the economy, predominantly copper production. The ministry of mines has done mapping of minerals yet to be finalized with full exploration and exploitation. The mining sector therefore presents potential for growth and job creation through complete value chains of the minerals. The CF will work on addressing key issues surrounding the mining industry and the export of metals. Tax incentives that rob our economy of the much-needed foreign exchange are detrimental to our economy will no longer be entertained.

Zambia produces the world’s best emeralds and yet the contribution to the national treasury and earnings is significantly poor. The CF will review the mining, processing and exporting of the high value minerals and ensure the nation gets value for its resources.

Here are some simplified policy measures that will be implemented:

- 01 Re-introduce windfall Tax,
- 02 Assign and place appropriate value on our natural resources
- 03 Depoliticize mineral development and exploitation e.g. Gold, Sugilite, Emeralds,
- 04 Introduce equitable Tax regime without segregative nor making taxes to be punitive
- 05 Establish processing plants in regions where minerals are mine.
- 06 Endeavor to process locally all precious and semi-precious minerals mined in Zambia.
- 07 Ensure that auction of precious mineral such as polished emeralds takes place within Zambia.
- 08 Enhance assessment, monitoring and evaluation of all minerals for the export market and ensure it correlates with the tax requirements.

09

Encourage proliferation of artisanal mining and facilitate graduation from artisanal.

13

Guarantee predictable mining and tax laws.

10

Take over all the shares in Zambia Gold Company and place it directly under IDC.

14

Ensure full compliance in tax payments by the mining sector

11

Enhance transparency in the allocation of land with mineral deposits and mining rights.

15

Open up other areas for exploration with a minimum of 30% Zambian ownership.

12

Strengthen the role of ZCCM-IH and make it run autonomously and independently.



AGRI-BUSINESS

Zambia boasts of below surface water of up to 35% in the SADC region. The CF government prioritizes agriculture as an important element of food security and economic growth. Furthermore, agriculture is a source of food, income and employment for 70% of Zambians with the rural areas engaging more than 80%. It is an important labor-intensive industry for jobs. The CF government will leverage the central position of Zambia to transform it into a regional breadbasket, exporting secondary agribusiness goods to the region and the broader international community.

The following are the points of action:

1. Prioritize agriculture as a means of job creation.
2. Promote mechanized farming for all farmers with Agricultural Technology and Input Support (ATIS)
3. Promote high growth and high demand crops and animals for farming
4. Promote comprehensive, sustainable and climate smart farming.
5. Incentive local industry for production of farm mechanized implements including tractors and irrigation machinery.
6. Enhance and universalize agricultural extension services for both peasants and those wanting to go into commercial farmers.
7. Enhance field science and applied research to enhance and maximize crop yields
8. Develop agriculture value chains with various players defining their specific roles.
9. Establish Value chain processes close to where the primary product is coming from.
10. Facilitate establishment of an Agricultural Fund by local investors for value chains.
11. Set up policies to discourage exportation of primary products

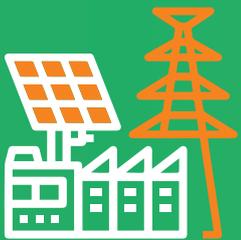


TOURISM

Zambia is richly endowed with many natural wonders both exploited and those yet to be. While successive governments have focused on the natural resource tourism in the Southern Part of the country, the CF will endeavor to designate tourism towns and circuits in other provinces. Interventions.

Among the areas of focus in enhancing tourism to include:

1. Opening up tourism circuit in non tourism traditional areas including the Northern circuit which boasts of over 15 waterfalls and major game parks.
2. Depoliticizing traditional ceremonies and ensure that they are a permanent fixture on the annual calendar
3. Work with tour operators in coming up with packages for both local and international tourists.
4. Setting up more game management areas in collaboration with traditional leadership.
5. Enhance the Tourism Council and work with international tour operators and the media to help package Zambia through such events as the regatta, fishing competition, white water rafting competition, for marketing in the international media as a means to increase visibility.
6. Create Tourism towns around water channels
7. Boost Water transport for tourism
8. Support Water sports
9. Encourage and incentivise development of waterfronts.



ENERGY

Zambia's energy Sector consists of three main sub-sectors, Electricity, Renewable Energy and Petroleum.

Zambia's Electricity generation capacity stands at 3700 MW comprising 83 percent of hydro, 9 percent of coal, 5 percent of heavy fuel oil and 3 percent solar PV.

The electricity market is structured as a single-buyer market model with ZESCO acting as the unique off-taker and bulk retailer of electricity on the national interconnected system. Independent Power Producers (IPPs) contribute to electricity generation and operate their own assets but sell the electricity to ZESCO through Power Purchase Agreements (PPA).

Zambia's electricity demand is at 2400 MW, which ideally entails that Zambia has sufficient electricity. However, Generation is not optimal due to main reasons including low water levels at the generation sites, resulting in massive deficiencies of electricity reaching up to over 40 hours of load shedding in 48 hours.

The cost of both petroleum and electricity keeps going up.

The Citizens First has prioritized Energy as the enabler of development. As Zambia's population grows even the energy demands grow. The CF plans to invest in Energy for citizens of Zambia with excess power exported to the neighbouring countries in southern Africa.

The CF will undertake the following actions:

1. Consider investment in dams for hydro power in the northern region of Zambia which has a lot of rain and water reservoirs.
2. Incentivise diversified energy production.
3. Consider dismantling ZESCO
4. Enhance the nuclear power project which was started with support from the Russian Federation.
5. Aggressively promote and incentivise private sector investment in renewable energy
6. Address barriers to private sector investment in the country's power.
7. Establish solar energy farms for electricity in each province.
8. Incentive solar power generation in institutions e.g health facilities, hospitals and houses.
9. Incentivise establishment of companies manufacturing of mixed energy product



PETROLEUM ENERGY

The CF shall review the structure of oil procurement and institute a more efficient, streamlined process for procurement and marketing.

1. Broaden sources of petroleum procurement including government to government purchases.
2. Introduce stable petroleum prices over a period of time.
3. Relook the taxing system for petroleum in order to reduce the costs of fuel and gas
4. Augment the petroleum supply by promoting the use of biofuels in the transport sector and increase the number of biofuel commercial producers.
5. Incentive investment by Zambian citizens in biofuels.
6. Enhance applied research for biofuels including blending with petroleum and establishment of blending facilities.
7. The CF shall enhance the management and function of all satellite fuel depots that the Ministry of Energy has put up in all provincial centres.
8. Promote efficiencies and remove bottlenecks of petroleum trans -shipping from the offloading bay to the tank farm.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION



AIR | RAIL | ROAD AND WATER TRANSPORTATION

Zambia is a landlocked country as it has no direct access to the sea, the route of most international trade. Zambia is in the middle of Southern Africa surrounded by 8 (eight) countries. Zambia therefore needs to have good linkages to these countries and leading to the sea ports.

Transport and Communication play a vital role in economic growth and development of the country. Transport infrastructure and effective communication which is fast, reliable and safe further enhances livelihood and promotes access to markets including online markets.

The CF will prioritize investments in the following areas:

- Ensure full access to all parts of the country and complete the Link Zambia project.
- Revive the Zambia Railways and ensure that it operates commercially with additional lines built.
- Explore opening up the Chipata – Mpika rail corridor to link into the Tanzania Zambia Rail line – TAZARA.
- Ensure full enforcement of the policy requirements to utilize Rail for all heavy cargo and abnormal loads.
- Acquire additional Ships for deployment onto Lake Tanganyika which is currently servicing the Great Lakes Region using foreign vessels. This is in line with our export growth ambition
- Open up North – South canals under stringent Green requirements.

- Set up a local authority led public transport system in cities and towns so as to decongest traffic in major towns.
- Re-enforce the CO2 footprint regulations as well as the public health regulations within the transport industry.
- Develop policies to restore confidence in the public commuter system inline with local authorities via PPP.
- Promote a culture of re-orientation of the Public Service Drivers as part of the change management process to help transition to the change brought about by an efficient commuter public transport system.
- Set up airport infrastructure in each province and major towns.
- Encourage establishment of domestic air transport.
- Open up ICT networks for the hard to reach and remotest part of the country.
- Review the mobile phone tariffs against other markets in the region



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GROWING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Entrepreneurship is a key driver of economic growth and development and contributes to job creation. Through creation of new businesses, entrepreneurship leads to an increase in individual income and to the gross national product.

The CF will prioritize entrepreneurship on the backdrop of innovation and creative ideas to create incremental wealth through business creation and development.

Programs for entrepreneurship include:

- Establishing Centers of excellence of multidisciplinary team to promote technological innovation and development with linkages to the provinces and districts

- Establish an office under the Secretary to Cabinet and work with Zambia National Service and universities to enforce knowledge and technology transfer for all works done in Zambia by international companies and expatriates.
- Establish multi-disciplinary research stations, incubators, science and technology parks.
- Establish a triple helix model of partnerships for entrepreneurial development with Private Sector and Academia
- Establish an innovation SME and Industry Fund according to the priority industries.



PRIORITY ACTION 3: CREATING SUSTAINABLE JOBS & INDUSTRIES

The Citizens First has prioritized Industrialization as an enabler of development and job creation in Zambia. The CF will maximize the value of Zambia's primary products through the process of value addition and ensure quality dimensions of both the products and the process. Leveraging the rich and wide variety of raw materials that Zambia produces, the CF has placed science, technology, innovation and industrialisation at the centre of development. The CF will prioritize value addition and job creation in key areas of comparative advantage and in areas that are critical for growth. These include Mining, Agriculture, Health, Engineering and Construction among many others.

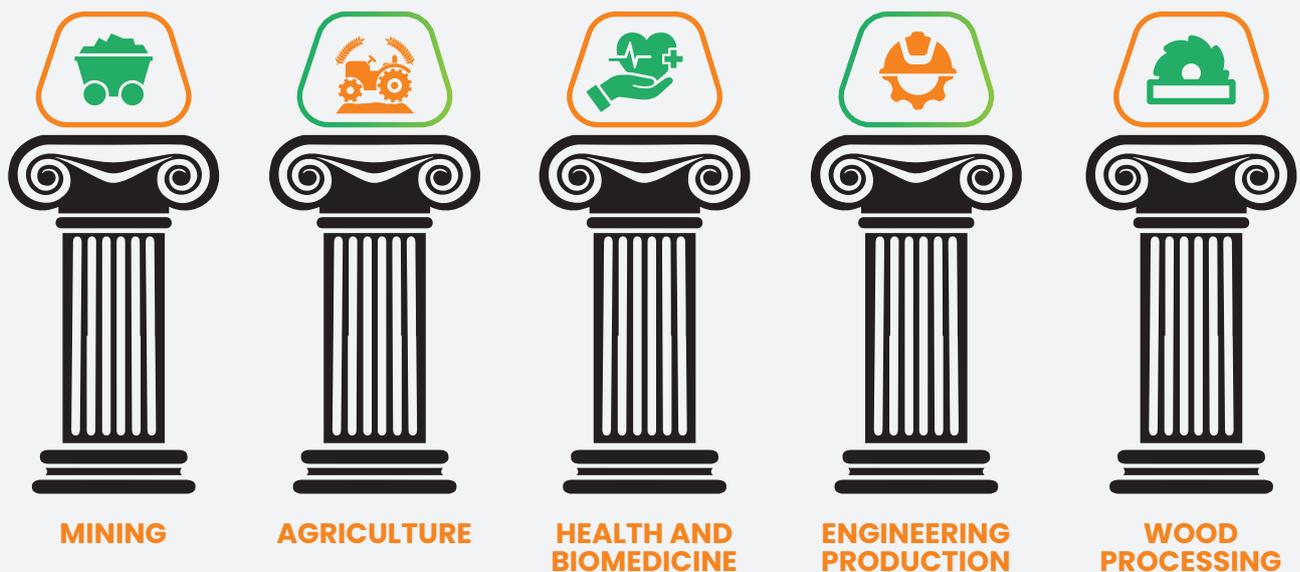
The CF government will enhance and fast track the industrialization policy implementation and ensure that Zambia's export of raw material is kept to a bare minimum of less than 30%. The CF will ensure the policy effectiveness and more efficiency with streamlined processes to quicken the ease of doing business, and further work on consolidation of licenses to the minimum to reduce the turnaround time for companies to start operating.

The following actions will be undertaken:

- Incentivise the establishment of manufacturing companies.
- Remove import duties on raw materials and machinery for production.

- Increase export tax for raw products.
- Establish an Industrial Development Fund
- Prioritize establishment of value chain in each region where the primary raw material is.
- Government to prioritize as well as guarantee the use of quality competitive Zambia Made products in all government institutions.
- Enhance the Zambia Bureau of Standards to provide effective support and adequate monitoring and standardization of products and further provide for certification for global markets.

AREAS OF INTEREST



PRIORITY ACTION 4: MAKING COMMUNITIES MORE EFFICIENT & SUSTAINABLE

The Citizens First has prioritized sustainable community development for both urban and rural areas to promote dignity of people and to build infrastructure and programs to enhance well being and human development and to enhance national development.

The Citizens First will undertake Community development efforts to build assets that enhance residents well being and further improve the quality of life. The CF will undertake to invest in the following:

- Affordable Sustainable Housing: adequate, safe and affordable housing
- Water and Sanitation: The CF will enhance functioning Water Supply facilities for communities and ensure safe and clean water is available for every community. The CF will further Increase access to adequate and appropriate, environmentally friendly sanitation facilities at household level through hygiene promotion, sanitation marketing, construction of facilities and legal enforcement;
- Infrastructure Development: The CF will invest in the development of infrastructure such as roads, markets, and other utilities, which provides easy access to basic facilities and paves the way for economic development.
- Education Amenities: The CF will work to have quality schools for k-7 within a radius of 5kms. The CF will further embark on constructing boarding facilities for secondary schools that accommodate learners from distant areas.
- Health and Nutrition: The CF will continue to invest in health facilities for communities and ensure that every radius of 5km has a health facility. The Communities will also have nutrition demos to help improve the nutrition of families and communities. The CF will ensure access to quality health service by all community members through promoting NHIMA uptake in communities.
- Livelihoods: The CF will promote skills, livelihoods and agriculture to enhance food security, combat poverty and reduce the inequality gap.
- Open up ICT networks for the hard to reach and remotest part of the country.
- Establishment of an Empowerment Fund for women, youth and people with disability and prioritizing rural communities
- Incentivise innovation for trade and savings for the hard to reach areas.
- Innovation, Skills and vocational programs to reduce unemployment.
- Establish Community ICT and book libraries
- Establish Sports and recreational centres.
- Promote, protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage in communities
- Enhance environmental protection and promote economic activities that safeguards the environment, and further enhances mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters,

PRIORITY ACTION 5: IMPROVING DEMOCRACY GOVERNANCE & RULE OF LAW

Good governance, enhanced democracy, and rule of law are prerequisites for creating a fair and just society where people enjoy political, social, and economic rights. They form a fundamental basis for a democratic society and set the bar for real justice and stability of the economy. In our country, we are witnessing a violation of the rule of law and infringement of democracy. As a result Zambia continues to suffer the looting of state resources, increasing inequality in appointments in public service as well as development of regions, and injustice.

The Citizens First realizes the importance of democracy, good governance and rule of law in developing the country in social and economic endeavors and will undertake the following measures:

01

Strengthening Democratic Institutions:

- Ensure the independence and effectiveness of the Judiciary.
- Enhance the capacity and independence of electoral bodies, the fourth Estate and other watchdog Organizations.
- Strengthen the legislative oversight function of Parliament.

02

Promoting Transparency and Accountability:

- Implement robust anti-corruption measures and enforce anti-corruption laws.
- Establish transparent public procurement processes.

03

Enhancing Citizen Participation:

- Facilitate greater public involvement in decision-making processes.
- Delimitation exercise
- Support and protect the freedom of the press and freedom of speech.
- Promote civic education to increase public awareness of democratic rights and responsibilities.

04

Ensuring Free and Fair Elections:

- Guarantee the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.
- Protect the rights of all political parties to campaign freely.
- Implement measures to prevent and address electoral violence and fraud.

05

Strengthening the Rule of Law:

- Ensure that laws are applied consistently and fairly to all citizens.
- Reform the legal system to reduce delays and increase efficiency.
- Provide adequate resources and training for law enforcement agencies.

06

Improving Governance and Public Administration:

- Enhance merit-based recruitment and promotion in the civil service.
- Streamline government operations to reduce bureaucracy and duplicity, and improve efficiency.
- Implement performance-based management systems in public institutions.

07

Protecting Human Rights:

- Safeguard the rights of all citizens, including minority and marginalized groups.
- Establish mechanisms to address human rights violations promptly.
- Promote gender equality and protect the rights of women and children.

08

Decentralization and Local Governance:

- Empower local governments with greater autonomy and resources.
- Promote community participation in local governance.
- Ensure equitable distribution of national resources to local authorities

09

Fostering a Culture of Integrity and Ethical Leadership:

- Promote ethical behavior and integrity in public office.
- Introduce mandatory ethics training for public officials.
- Establish integrity committees in all government institutions.

10

Strengthening Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

- Support the development and activities of CSOs.
- Actualise the NGO Bill.
- Create a conducive environment for CSOs to operate freely.
- Encourage partnerships between the government and CSOs for development initiatives.



PRIORITY ACTION 6: HEALING & UNITING THE NATION

Zambia is a country founded on respect for humanity and the oneness of its people. Peace and security have always been a source of pride for Zambia as we continue to receive accolades world over for our peaceful environment premised on the united endeavor for brotherhood, friendliness and care for the neighbour.

Zambia played a pivotal role in supporting the freedom struggle of the neighbouring countries, a reflection of Zambia's resolve to push for dignity and fairplay for all people.

Zambia has been a multiparty democratic dispensation since 1991 and has had peaceful general elections every five (5) years with legitimacy of government with peaceful transition of power and successive heads of state (Presidents) have embraced their role as peace-makers, always uniting the nation with actions and purpose.

Today Zambia stands to lose the benefit of peace and unity. The country is getting more divided than ever before, along major languages, tribes, and regions. The politicians and executive are at the core of divisions with political campaigns done on tribal and regional lines, while appointments to key government and parastatal positions are skewed towards people coming from the same province as those in power.

The Citizens First will work on healing and uniting the nation by

- Enacting a legal framework for peace and stability in line with the will of the people.
- Promote and enhance unity of purpose for all the 10 provinces of Zambia, and endeavor for equitable representation in government and diplomatic missions.
- Enhance the Zambian Centre for Inter Party Dialogue
- Enhance executive and traditional leaders dialogue through appropriate bodies
- Institutionalize Executive and Church Mother Bodies dialogue
- Introduce conflict resolution, tolerance across religion, tribe, race and embracing diversity as strength in schools, colleges and workplaces.
- Depoliticise universities and colleges, markets and bus stations and promote them for common usage.



The Citizens First recognizes that land is the basic wealth of each, and every Zambian held in trust by the Republic President and the Traditional Leadership Authorities. It is also a finite resource which must be preserved and guarded well.

In collaboration and consultation with the traditional authorities, the CF will

1. Work on policies that will ensure every Zambian family to access land and title deeds including allocating a piece of land and title deed to every Zambian from the age of 18.

2. Survey and Title all land in the country to make it easy to track possession and ownership
3. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of land administration and management systems to achieve harmonious growth and prosperity. It also needs an improved scope for handling land disputes.
4. Revise land policies to restrict allocation of large pieces of land to one individual as well as revising the Tazara Corridors act to restrict giving of large chunks of land to one individual.
5. Enact policies to restrict access of land to foreigners and investors, but encouraging investors to partner with Zambians who own land.
6. Work with Judiciary to shorten the duration of hearing and disposing of land related cases.
7. Stiffen the law and prison sentence for illegal land sales.
8. Strengthen forest management and protection of the environment.
9. Encourage reforestation of land and promote community forests for business and environmental protection.
10. Encourage and incentivize Private Game Management and Parks for citizens who already have large pieces of land.



The Citizens First (CF) Government recognizes the vital role that traditional leaders play in the cultural, social, and economic development of Zambia. These leaders are custodians of our heritage and have a profound influence on community cohesion and local governance. Integrate traditional leadership into the broader governance framework.

01

Enhance Collaboration:

Foster closer collaboration between traditional leaders and government structures.

02

Empower Traditional Leadership:

Provide traditional leaders with the resources and authority needed to effectively contribute to governance and community development.



03

Promote Cultural Heritage:

Safeguard and promote Zambia's rich cultural heritage through active participation of traditional leaders.

04

Establish a Dedicated Ministry:

Promote the utilization of the Traditional Leadership in Conflict Resolution and Mediation.



INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

In a complex, ever-evolving and competitive landscape of international relations and diplomacy, Zambia shall endeavor to promote friendly and peaceful relations with all countries of the world and participate as a sovereign entity with all rights of sovereignty and reciprocate to all countries of the global community. Zambia will navigate global interactions with a clear and steadfast commitment to its core values and national interests including economic diplomacy.

The CF government will strengthen political, economic and social relations through structured bilateral agreements and high-level engagements to advance Zambia's priorities.

- Zambia shall maintain the principle of non-alignment, except, in situations where taking a non alliance position will be detrimental to human life.
- We shall promote international socio economic diplomatic cooperation, peace and security; anchored on benefit to the Zambian people first and the world at large.
- We shall enhance respect for international law, treaties and obligations; and encourage dialogue for international dispute resolution .

The CF Foreign Policies will include the following:

01

Upholding of Zambia's Identity and Sovereignty:

- Safeguard Zambia's sovereignty and national interests in all international engagements.
- Promote and preserve Zambia's cultural heritage and national identity in the face of globalization.

02

Promoting Fairness, Equity, Human Dignity and Humanity:

- Advocate for policies that promote fairness, equity and practices that enhance human dignity and the humane treatment of all individuals, regardless of their nationality.
- Support international initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty, providing humanitarian aid, and protecting human rights.
- Promote equitable access to global resources and opportunities, challenging exploitative practices.

03

Advancing Justice and Equality:

- Support international efforts to combat injustice and inequality, working towards a more just and equal global community.
- Advocate for the reform of international institutions to better reflect the principles of justice and equality.

04

Strengthening Regional Cooperation:

- Enhance regional cooperation within the African continent, fostering solidarity and mutual support among African nations.
- Actively participate in regional organizations and initiatives that align with Zambia’s values and interests.

05

Engaging with the Global Community:

- The CF government will promote Zambia’s interests at the global level through continued membership in multilateral bodies (UN, AU, SADC, COMESA, Great Lakes Region, Commonwealth, the Non Aligned Movement as well as the Bretton Woods Institutions) and further:
- promote positioning of qualified Zambians in international bodies regardless of province of origin, tribe, region and political affiliation.

The CF government will promote policy coherence through enhancing the Ministerial committee on Foreign Relations and further use the platform to promote the interest of the country and that of Zambians abroad.



GOVERNMENT AND THE CHURCH



Historically, the Church in Zambia has played a significant role in shaping the political landscape. From voicing concerns during critical moments such as the lead-up to the 1991 elections, where then-President Kenneth Kaunda conceded to the Church's advocacy, to being a constant voice for the people, the Church has been integral in mediating and guiding the nation. The Citizens First (CF) Government recognizes and values this crucial role and aims to maintain a harmonious relationship with the Church while upholding the ideals of a Christian nation and respecting the rights of other religions.

The CF will:

- 1. Recognize the Church's Role:** Acknowledge the historical and ongoing role of the Church as the moral and spiritual conscience of the nation.
- 2. Maintain Independence:** Ensure the Church remains independent and free from government interference.
- 3. Promote Collaboration:** Foster a collaborative relationship between the Church and the government in addressing national issues.
- 4. Respect Religious Diversity:** Affirm the Christian identity of the nation while recognizing and respecting the rights of other religions.

Actions

01

Affirmation of Christian Nation Ideals

- **Support for Christian Values:** The CF Government reaffirms its commitment to the ideals of a Christian nation, ensuring that policies and actions reflect Christian values and principles.
- **Public Recognition:** Officially recognize the Church's contributions to national development, peacebuilding, and social justice.

02

Independence of the Church

- **No Government Interference:** Ensure that the Church operates independently without any government gagging or dictation.
- **Freedom of Expression:** Protect the Church's right to voice concerns, advocate for justice, and guide the moral compass of the nation.

03

Collaboration and Mediation

- **Regular Dialogue:** Establish regular dialogue mechanisms between the Church and government to discuss and address national issues collaboratively.
- **Mediation Role:** Encourage the Church to continue its role in mediating conflicts and fostering national unity.

04

Support for Religious Diversity

- **Rights of Other Religions:** Recognize and uphold the rights of all religious groups to practice their faith freely and without discrimination.
- **Interfaith Initiatives:** Promote interfaith dialogue and initiatives that foster mutual respect and understanding among different religious communities.

05

Social and Community Development

- **Partnerships:** Partner with the Church in social and community development projects, leveraging its extensive reach and influence to address issues such as poverty, education, and health.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage the Church in community outreach programs to ensure holistic development that includes moral and spiritual growth.

06

Support for Religious Diversity

- **Moral Guidance:** Seek the Church's input in formulating policies and laws that align with ethical and moral standards.
- **Accountability:** Encourage the Church to hold the government accountable, promoting transparency and integrity in governance.

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