



Newsletter of the
**CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE
DEVELOPMENT
AND PEACE-Lukulu, Mongu Diocese, Zambia**

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CCJDP ELECTIONS 2006 REPORT

The Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace of Lukulu would like to thank God and the people of Lukulu for a peaceful tripartite election held on 28th September, 2006. From July to September, 2006 CCJDP carried out an electoral civic education to the residents of Lukulu. The CCJDP visited most of the places in Lukulu East and Lukulu West constituencies. On 9th September, the people of Lukulu East had an opportunity, to meet with the aspiring candidates, at a forum called "Meet Your Parliamentary Candidate and Councilors Public Forum." The aspiring candidates present were Mr. Manengu (United Democratic Alliance), Mr. Kabila Lubasi (All People's Congress), Mr. Batuke Imenda (United Liberal Party) and Mr. Edwin Nkomesha (Independent). The Heritage Party candidate Miss Debby Akamana wrote a letter of apology as she was in Lusaka. No apology was received concerning the absence of the MMD candidate Mr. Alexis Luhila.

On 16th September, 2006 CCJDP held a similar forum in Lukulu West constituency. Present at the forum were aspiring Parliamentary candidates; Mr. S. Namakando (MMD), Mr. K. Kazhila (PF) and Miss E. Imbwae (ULP), Mr. N. Kamuti (UDA), who arrived 15 minutes before the end of the forum. At each forum aspiring candidates were given 15 minutes to address the assembled people. Among the issues raised were Lukulu road, HIV/AIDS, Agriculture, Health and Education. A question and answer session followed after each candidate had addressed the audience.

Some Findings by the Commission

In general the electoral civic education carried out by the CCJDP was successful. However, it was discovered that some political candidates took advantage of the electorate's ignorance. Some political candidates did not allow the potential voters to ask them questions during the campaign period. Relief food was politicized to win votes. Some political candidates told the people that if they do not vote for their political party, they will not receive any relief food from the government. The electorates were told that if they have attended one political meeting, they should not attend another held by a different party. Some political candidates openly told the electorates that if they voted for a Lozi candidate then the Luvale speaking people will be deported to Angola. The commission clarified for the people most of these and other issues.

Obstacles

The candidates, especially from the ruling party (MMD) were against the activities of the CCJDP citing that the commission was aimed at de-campaigning them. This led to a physical fight between the MMD candidate of Lukulu East and some members of the CCJDP. (The incidence was reported to Lukulu Police). The said candidate further wrote a letter to the parish priest at Sancta Maria Catholic Church demanding that CCJDP withdraws from carrying out its voter education exercise. He further threatened that all CCJDP members who are civil servants will be dismissed from their jobs. Some candidates accused the CCJDP of using Church funds for what they called “political activities”. CCJDP clarified the issue of funds assuring the general public that the funds were made available by well wishers for the purpose of CCJDP activities.

Challenges

The vastness of the district and impassable road network was a big challenge as it was difficult to move from one place to another. CCJDP was the only non-governmental organization in the district to carry out a civic education programme, hence it was over strained in terms of financial resources and transport.

Conclusion

The exercise was carried out in an orderly manner. In most areas visited by the commission the local people were very receptive. The civic education was well appreciated by the electorates and some political candidates. CCJDP would like to thank the people of Lukulu for making themselves available to attend programmes which were organized by the commission. We would also like to thank the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Diocese of Mongu CCJDP for their financial and moral support. Above all we thank God for a peaceful election year 2006.

ELECTIONS RESULTS FOR LUKULU CONSTITUENCIES

Lukulu East Constituency: Mr. **Batuka Imenda** is the new Member of Parliament for Lukulu East Constituency. Mr. Batuka Imenda belongs to the United Liberal Party (ULP). He defeated his closest rival Mr. Alexis Luhila who belongs to the ruling party, Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD).

Lukulu West Constituency: Miss **Eileen Mbuywana Imbwa** is the new Member of Parliament for Lukulu West Constituency. Miss. Imbwa becomes the first woman to hold the position as a member of parliament for Lukulu West. She belongs to the United Liberal Party (ULP). She also defeated her closest rival Mr. Simasiku Namakando who also belongs to the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD).

SOCIAL CONTRACTS WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

The CCJDP will soon be facilitating public forums at which the residents of Lukulu East and Lukulu West constituencies will enter into a social contract with the Members of Parliament. The signing of the social contract is between the electorate and the MPs. The document is not intended to be used for legal purposes. It is simply a social and moral bond between the people and the elected leaders. This document will help in providing checks and balances on the work of the elected leaders. A sample of the contract form reads as follows:

We the people, residents of a (particular) constituency in Lukulu District of Western Province, hereby outline the problems affecting us as follows: (issues are listed by the people). Our Members of Parliament hereby pledge to work with us, to facilitate addressing the above problems affecting our

communities, during his/her five year tenure in office and that he/she will be consulting us on various issues of governance affecting us. This social contract has been entered into between the MPs and the electorates.

We hope the residents of Lukulu district will turn up in numbers to support this initiative.

UPDATE ON LUKULU ROAD

In a letter to the Residents of Lukulu,, the District Commissioner for Lukulu, Mr. Edwin Kasempa, revealed that CHINA GEO ENGINEERING CORPORATION, has started working on the Katunda – Lukulu – Watopa road as of 18th August, 2006. So far the road has been gravelled from Katunda to Mankwanda. Mr. Kasempa indicated that more equipment will be brought for reinforcement when China Geo completes work in Kaoma district. He also said that the gravelling of the road will mean that Lukulu district will soon have a Bank and a filling station. These institutions refused to come to Lukulu because of the bad condition of the road.

However, CCJDP will not lay dormant; it will continue to press on for a better road network in the district.

Words of Wisdom: “The State (Government) has the authority to make final decisions but the people themselves have the right and duty to share in that authority.”

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