



RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN ZAMBIA

ACCRA, Ghana

2 - 4 March 2018

Acknowledging that:

1. As a nation, Zambia has a sense of national unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity, ideals which are in keeping with the forward-looking spirit of the African Union agenda 2063 of which Zambia is a signatory;
2. Citizens aspire to a Zambia of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law as enshrined in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance,
3. A peaceful and secure nation, which is with harmony and understanding among various communities and a nation where all the citizens will be actively involved in decision-making in all aspects of development including social, economic, political and environmental, inter-alia;
4. Observing that the current Zambian Government lacks commitment to the above stated national values as it promotes a programme of exclusivity whereby certain parts of the country are deprived of serious development, slides backwards to the days of the one party dictatorship as press freedom, human rights and freedoms of assembly, expression, movement, privacy and the rule of law are trampled upon day by day, and opposition parties are denied the freedom to operate due to repression, state brutality and political violence;
5. Aware of the Government's monopolization of state media, both print and electronic;
6. Concerned that the prevailing circumstances are fuelling tensions in the land, threatening peace and stability of the country, thereby exposing the country and all its values to the dangers of civil strife, displacement, ruin and misery.

Now therefore, the Africa Liberal Network and its member parties:

- i) Implore the Zambian government to depart from the dictatorship path and allow democracy to prevail;
- ii) Requests the Zambian government to amend the Public Order Act (POA) and free political activity in keeping with democratic principles to allow for peaceful and free contestation during elections;
- iii) Calls for the prevention of the escalation of tension, political violence and state brutality;
- iv) Condemns the cold-blooded arrests and incarcerations of opposition as was the case with UPND President, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema in April 2017, on trumped up treason charges;
- v) Commits to stamping out corruption for it has created unbearable conditions for the majority of the citizens;
- vi) Continue to uphold liberal values to level the political playing ground in line with competitive politics.

Submitted by Mulondwe Muzungu

On behalf of the United Party for National Development (UPND)