Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

23 – 28 June 2008

Technological Innovation in the Electoral Process

Voter Registration: Case Study - Zambia

By

Dylan Kasonde

ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA
Zambia

- Population - 12 million
- Gained Independence – 1964
- 9 Provinces, 150 Constituencies, 1422 Wards, 6456 Polling Districts
- 3rd Republic (1991)
- Elections conducted under the Office of the Vice President
- Independent EMB (ECZ) established – 1996
- Electoral System - FPTP
Voter Registration - Background

- 1964 – 2001: Periodic Voters Register
- 2001: Law enacted for ECZ to maintain a Permanent Voters Register
- 2004: New Commission appointed
Voter Registration - Background

- Consultations with stakeholders
- Key features of proposed new solution:
  - Immediate issuance of voter card.
  - Both the Voters’ Cards and the Register to bear voters’ portraits.
  - Strict registration duplicate checks (Biometric).
- International Public Tender
Voter Registration Background

Legal Requirements for Applicants

- Citizen of Zambia
- National Registration Card (NRC)
- Attained the age of 18 years
- Register in constituency of choice
The Solution

- Field Voter Registration exercise: 31st Oct – 31st Dec 2005
- Registration Conducted – at 6, 456 centers (same time)
- 4.1m Applications – (Projected 5.5m)
- Based on Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology
- Field Registration kit:
  - Polaroid Camera & Film
  - Accessories – Lamination Pouches, Photo Cutters, Photo fix, Pencils, Erasers, Pens, Ink pads
- Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) – for Duplicate checks
The Solution – DATA CAPTURE & PROCESSING

**SCANNING**

- Data & Images extracted
- Database
- Images – File Sys

**OMR PROCESSING**

**EXCEPTION & DUPLICATE HANDLING**

**PROCESSING & STORAGE**
# The Solution — **THE REGISTER**

- **3.9m Electors on the Final Voters Register**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Centre: 00308007 KAYEZI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00491438 Adult Female 00491419 Adult Female 00491410 Adult Female 00491440 Adult Female 00491429 Adult Female 00491420 Adult Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010400487/1 AGILINA TEMBO 0115254/52/1 ALICE MWAZA 0467576/52/1 ALINESSE PHIRI 0267209/52/1 BETINA BANDA 0134411/52/1 BRIDGET ZULU 0162023/11/1 DAMA MAVALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00491407 Adult Female 00491431 27/04/1970 Female 00491422 02/07/1961 Female 0100307/52/1 ELIAS ZULU 00491406 Adult Female 00491442 Adult Female 00491425 Adult Female 00491414 Adult Female 0130769/52/1 EUZA PHIRI 0038917/52/1 FELE MWANZA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0423840/52/1 DOLASE ZIMBA 0385573/52/1 DOREEN SAKALA 0103270/52/1 DORIS ZIMBA 0200340/52/1 ELIAS ZULU 0307295/52/1 ELIAS ZULU 0186973/52/1 ELIZA PHIRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00491404 10/05/1978 Female 00491433 14/09/1979 Female 00491432 16/10/1979 Female 00491448 13/07/1981 Female 00491427 13/07/1981 Female 00491417 Adult Male 00491417 Adult Male 00491417 Adult Male 00491417 Adult Male 00491417 Adult Male 00491417 Adult Male</td>
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<tr>
<td>00491430 08/09/1964 Female 00491414 11/09/1979 Female 00491420 14/06/1984 Female 00491433 14/06/1983 Female 00491436 14/06/1983 Female 00491401 02/03/1943 Female 00491401 02/03/1943 Female 00491401 02/03/1943 Female 00491401 02/03/1943 Female 00491401 02/03/1943 Female</td>
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<td>0240245/61/1 LINESH BWALYA 00491412 10/09/1979 Female 00491416 10/09/1979 Female 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male</td>
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<td>00491441 26/09/1954 Female 00491423 10/10/1976 Female 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male 00491447 Adult Male</td>
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The Solution

- 4.1m Applications
- 3.9m Registered Voters
- 0.2m Rejected Applications
- Cost of Voter Reg/ App ≈ USD $5
- Increased stakeholder confidence in Voters Roll and electoral process
POSITIVES

• Best fit at low cost. Registration in 6456 PDs countrywide
• Cost of Registration/voter \(\approx\) USD $5/Applicant
• Ease of operation – Registration Kits
• Easy Accessibility of Registration Centre - Go out into the communities
• Increased number of voters because voter card was issued upon registration
• Reduction in number of visits to the registration centre
POSITIVES

- Public Acceptance
- Increased Accessibility of the Voters Register
- Wider Coverage
- Quicker to compile
- Better planning for logistics of election materials
The Challenges

• Register maintenance – Amendments/Updates
• Quality of Civil Register
• Technology – Polaroid Cameras discontinued
• Issuance of Card on Registration – Provisional card
• Time constraints – Voter Reg, Training
Lessons Learnt

- Implementation of ICTs in the electoral process should have a strategic focus on the electoral cycle.
- Voter registration should be conducted well before the elections.
- Technical requirements specifications are cardinal when implementing/sourcing voter registration solutions.
- EMB Data is a subset of the Civil Register. Establish a relationship DNR. Computerise DNR. Computerised DNR system would improve the management of the voters register.
- Public Awareness – Massive campaign before and during Voter Registration.
Future Plans

- Permanent Voters Register
- Exploit Synergies with Civil Register
- Enhance quality assurance
- Digital solution for Portrait capture and transmission
- Integration of Electoral Information Management System with the Geographical Information System (GIS)
VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS

- Gender Distribution by Region
- Age Distribution
GENDER DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

Number of Voters

Province

Central
Copperbelt
Eastern
Luapula
Lusaka
Northern
North-West
Southern
Western

Male
Female
IN CONCLUSION .....

A CREDIBLE VOTERS REGISTER FOSTERS THE PROCESS OF DEEPENING A COUNTRY’S DEMOCRACY
THANK YOU