



PRESS STATEMENT

ZICTA HAS NO ROLE TO PLAY IN THE AUGUST 2016 ELECTIONS

The Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) wishes to inform the general public that it does not play any role in the electoral process in Zambia.

As regulator of ICTs, the Authority is mandated by law to regulate and facilitate access to ICTs as well as Postal services while protecting the rights and interests of consumers, manufacturers and service providers.

ZICTA does not have any role in the forthcoming elections apart from ensuring that the quality of service for both mobile and data infrastructure is superior as it will play a huge part in efficient dissemination of information by the relevant stakeholders before, during and after the election.

ZICTA has no role in development or managing of any mechanism for transmission of election results. As an ICT regulator, ZICTA regulates the mobile phone service providers through licensing. **The mobile service providers are the custodians of their respective subscriber databases and not ZICTA.** The Authority does not own any communication network platform for voice and/or SMS.

To this effect, the voters' register verification done through SMS is based on a commercial agreement between the mobile service providers and their respective clients. The Authority is not privy to such agreements but only grants approval of the short code for businesses to use the Mobile platform for marketing purposes and information dissemination.

As an example, pupils today are able to access examination results through SMS platform using a USSD short code. This does not mean that ZICTA has access to the database of examination results, but coming from a private agreement between the Examination Council of Zambia and the mobile service providers.

ZICTA's role is to create an enabling environment and ICT innovations where it becomes easier for businesses and consumers to do business and interact through ICTs.

Issued by:


Ngabo Nankonde (Ms)
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

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HEAD OFFICE