



**YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND
ITS IMPACT ON THE ELECTORATES IN LUANSHYA
DISTRICT, ZAMBIA.**

BY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Purpose of the Study	2
1.4 Research Objectives	2
1.5 Research Questions	2
1.6 Limitations of the Study	3
1.7 Operational Definitions	3
CHAPTER TWO	4
LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Africa	4
2.3 Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Zambia	5
2.4 Chapter Summary.....	7
CHAPTER THREE	8
METHODOLOGY	8
3.1 Introduction	8
3.2 Research Design.....	8
3.5 Population.....	8
3.6 Sample Size	8
3.7 Sampling Procedure	9
3.8 Instruments for Data Collection	9
3.9 Procedure for Data Collection.....	10
3.10 Data Analysis	10
3.11 Ethical Considerations.....	10
CHAPTER FOUR.....	11
PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS	11
4.1 Overview	11

4.2	Prevalence of Political Violence	11
4.3	Causes of Youth Involvement on Political Violence in Luanshya.....	12
4.4	The Position of Political Parties	14
4.5	The Effects of Youth Involvement in Political Violence on the Electorates	15
4.6	Measures in place to address youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya .	16
	District.....	16
4.7	Summary	17
CHAPTER FIVE		18
DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS		18
5.1	Introduction	18
5.2	Prevalence of Political Violence	18
5.3	Causes of Youth Involvement on Political Violence in Luanshya.....	18
5.4	The Position of Political Parties	19
5.6	The Effects of Youth Involvement in Political Violence on the Electorates	20
5.7	Measures in place to address Youth involvement in Political Violence in Luanshya	20
	District.....	20
5.8	Summary	21
CHAPTER SIX.....		22
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS		22
6.1	Introduction	22
6.2	Conclusions	22
6.3	Recommendations	23
6.4	Suggestions for Further Research	23
6.5	Summary	23
REFERENCES		24
APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR ECZ/ DISTRICT ELECTORAL OFFICIALS		25
APPENDIX 2: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE YOUTHS		27
APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRES FOR YOUTHS		28
APPENDIX 1.....		30
APPENDIX 2.....		30

ABSTRACT

The study aimed at assessing the youth involvement in political violence and its impact on the electorates in Luanshya District, Zambia. The persistent involvement of youths in political violence has been a major concern to stakeholders as it threatens the security of the nation. Despite national indabas held to solve the problem, every election time there are incidences of youths' involvement in political violence.

A case study design using qualitative methodology was used to collect and analyse data. The study used Marx's conflict theory that focuses on how power structures and power disparities impact people's lives. The theory states that all societies perpetuate some forms of oppression and injustice and structural inequity that power is unequally divided and some groups dominate others. The theory guided the researcher in collecting data by establishing how youths are involved and why they are used in political violence every election time bringing conflicts, with interrupting periods of stability.

In-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) and semi-structured questionnaires were the primary data collection methods used. While Secondary data collection involved relevant literature from the journal articles, internet, books, and newspapers. The study involved six wards from Luanshya District. A total sample of 50 participants was involved comprising 36 youths, six party officials, six District Electoral officials and two officials from Electoral Commission of Zambia. Random sampling procedure for youths and party officials and purposive sampling for District Electoral officials and officials from Electoral Commission of Zambia was used. 36 names from the voters register six from the six wards was randomly selected to make a total of 36 youths to participate in the study while purposive sampling was used for six District Electoral officials' two ECZ officials as informants.

The research findings were that, youths are involved in political violence during and after elections. The political violence includes youths beating innocent citizens to solicit for attention, attached opponents and vandalizing public property with the use of weapons like knives, machetes and to some extent guns. Political leaders recruit youths to be involved on a wage and strategically plot events. Poverty and unemployment was said to be the major recipes of youth's willingness to get involved in political violence. However, all party leaders claim youths should not be involved and those found wanting should be dealt with seriously. Suspending leaders found involved in political violence plots.

The research therefore recommends that the party in power should provide employment for youths regardless of political affiliation and strictly following the law in convicting perpetrators of political violence.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Youth is defined by the United Nations as the age between 15 and 24. This definition is provided by the UN General Assembly, and is not legally binding. Individuals aged 15 to 18 are also included in the legal definition of children, according to international treaties. In particular, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a ‘child’ as everyone under the age of 18 “unless, under the law applicable to the child, maturity is attained earlier.” Similarly, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) defines a ‘child’ as every human being under the age of 18. The underpinning rationale of this body of international legal norms is that children constitute a vulnerable category in need of special protection because of their physical and psychological immaturity (UNDP, 2006).

The United National Development Programme (2012) explains that today, young people face many obstacles in their transition from childhood to adulthood. In many parts of the world, lack of access to education, unemployment and the scourge of HIV/AIDS exacerbate these difficulties. For boys and girls growing up in conflict situations, the challenges are even greater, as violent conflict impacts negatively on all dimensions of their lives. At the same time, feelings of exclusion can contribute to the emergence or continuation of violence. These challenges cannot be ignored. Young people are growing in numbers across the world and, in many developing countries, they make up the majority of the population. Our effectiveness as development actors depends on our capacity to understand the complexity of youth in the broader context of their societies. Too often, young people are seen as a source of problems, yet their multiple roles in society and their potential to act as agents of change towards peace and development are vitally important.

Malu (2008) states that election violence is any act of violence perpetrated in the course of political activities including pre, during and post-election periods, and may include any of the following acts: thuggery, use of force to disrupt political meetings or voting at polling stations, or the use of dangerous weapons to intimidate voters and other electoral processes, or to cause bodily harm or injury to any person connected with electoral processes, all with the use of youths.

Bradfield (2013), revealed that many young people participate in violence because they are forced to, through techniques including abduction and indoctrination. The decades-long civil war in northern Uganda was artificially prolonged through the incessant abduction of children who were forced to fight in the Lord’s Resistance Army. Similarly, in the conflict in eastern DRC, the use of child soldiers remains an essential military stratagem by rebel groups.

Namakando (2016) revealed that usually youths who are largely unemployed, mostly politically ignorant on electoral processes and many who are illiterates are used to score violent political points by selfish

political elites. The lack of adequate knowledge or information, high levels of deprivation, unemployment etc. among youths in Zambia makes them readily available to take the job opportunity of implementers of electoral violence. Because of the horrible conditions youths are facing, they are easily deceived into the hands of selfish politicians who manipulate them by presenting them with irresistible baits so that they undertake electoral violence. The worst and sad part is that most promises made to the youths by the instigators are never fulfilled. Yet, youths still go back to the same instigators again over a small/ worthless sum and continue being tools of electoral violence.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Political violence is seen as an emerging issue with a number of cases recorded. Reports show that the youths are the mostly involved in political violence throughout Zambia. The lethal potential of Zambia's so-called "youth cadres" was illustrated during local by-elections in Rufunsa. In circumstances that were unclear, a member of the ruling Patriotic Front's (PF) youth cadre was gruesomely murdered, prompting an exchange of accusations (Namakando, 2016). Political violence appears to be part and parcel of the Zambian politics. However, there is little information on the youth involvement in political violence and its impact on the electorates.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to assess the youth involvement in political violence and its impact on the electorates in Luanshya District, Zambia.

1.4 Research Objectives

- i. To identify the causes of political violence in Luanshya District
- ii. To establish the position of political parties on youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya District
- iii. To establish the impact of youth involvement in political violence on electorates in Luanshya District
- iv. To ascertain the extent to which youth involvement in political violence can be addressed in Luanshya District.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What are the causes of political violence in Luanshya District?
- ii. What is the position of political parties on youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya District?
- iii. What are the effects of youth involvement in political violence on electorates in Luanshya District?

- iv. What measures are in place address youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya District?

1.6 Limitations of the Study

The study was restricted to the Luanshya District and therefore the findings may not be generalised.

1.7 Operational Definitions

Political Violence: the use of threats and physical force to injure somebody or damage something in relations to politics

Participation: taking part in an event or activity

Youth: the period of human development between childhood and maturity, a time when one is in his/ her teens

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Chapter one highlighted the introduction of the study on the involvement of youths in political violence. This chapter will review related literature from across the continent of Africa. It will start by reviewing literature from outside Zambia before focusing on the Zambian situation.

2.2 Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Africa

In Nigeria, Malu (2008) explains that Nigerians seems to have acquired a culture of political violence. Violence has become part of the political culture such that all elections since independence (Nigeria has conducted six general elections since independence in 1960. The elections were held in 1964, 1979, 1983, 1993, 1999, 2003 and 2007) are virtually violence ridden. All of these elections were substantially marred by various types of electoral violence or violence associated with party politics and conduct of elections. Thus, one of the major challenges of managing the electoral systems in Nigeria is how to prevent pre, during and post-election violence.

Malu (2008) states that there have been very few instances where these goals are fulfilled in Nigeria, yet election is one of the most significant features of democracy and the provision that citizens should decide for themselves who will govern them and represent their interests. Though the processes of selecting representatives and those who will govern have varied across times and societies, modern states have come to focus on elections as one of the most critical elements in the selection of leaders. Beyond this, elections are also considered a significant feature of democracies, for without them, competition for power would be much more chaotic.

Malu (2008) further explains that one of the most significant functions of elections is to legitimise a political system, ensure the accountability of leaders, and reinforce people's participation in the political system. More often, elections are battlegrounds where youths are used in political violent that occur because of electoral frauds that mar the legitimacy and erode the stability of the political system.

In Kenya, Corps (2007) revealed that widespread violence erupted following the disputed Presidential Election in December 2007. Incited and abetted by politicians and local leaders, gangs of armed Kalenjin and Kikuyu youth engaged in looting, rioting, and killing in parts of the Rift Valley. However, the small number of youth that did had a disproportionately high impact on the stability of their communities and country. The post-election violence resulted in the death of 1, 500 people, the displacement of 660, 000 others, widespread destruction of property and land, and a shattered national fabric.

However, young people's participation in peace dialogues did not influence their levels of trust of or interaction with other Kenyans. One possible explanation for this is that youth were most often included in larger community dialogues rather than stand alone, youth-led dialogues, which may have limited the impact of their participation on their trust levels. The contradictory findings raise questions about if and how efforts to build young people's conflict management skills and support peace dialogues contribute to greater stability (Corps, 2007).

In Zimbabwe, Bradfield (2013) states that history tells us that politically motivated violence occur in every society at some point during its existence. Be it in time of independence or rebellion, young people invariably play a role in perpetrating acts of violence. Indeed, in weak and emerging societies, political leaders sometimes play a subversive role in manipulating and mobilising young people to violently realise and further their own political objectives. Mobilising youth to commit political violence is not an inherently African problem, but is common in many societies around the world.

Bradfield (2013) further states that in order to maintain existing power structures, political bodies may employ strategies of recruiting marginalised young people and socialising them in norms of violence, incentivising them by appealing to their desire for status, identity and group cohesion. In previous elections in Zimbabwe, a standard tactic of the ZANU-PF political machine was to recruit and indoctrinate disaffected young people into its youth wing, mobilising them to intimidate and attack voters and political opponents.

Bradfield (2013) further explains that young men and women get involved in violence for diverse and context-specific reasons. Unemployment, insufficient educational opportunities, poor governance and social marginalisation can lead to the deep disaffection of youth in society, increasing the likelihood of them resorting to anti-social activity and engagement in violence. However, it is important to recognise that there are many contexts where youth suffer from high levels of exclusion but do not participate in violence. One may ask, what distinguishes those who are mobilised from those who remain on the periphery? Analysing other African contexts of political violence from which Zimbabwe may learn, there are a number of discernible factors that, taking into account the above-mentioned underlying conditions of social exclusion, can lead to youth being mobilised to engage in violence.

2.3 Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Zambia

Namakando (2016) explains that Zambia is one of the most peaceful countries in Africa. Historically, Zambia has not been plagued by the violence that has hit other countries in the region, but this year's general election has sparked an upsurge in violent incidents by some of the cadres "mostly youths" the activist supporter groups of the political parties. It is heartbreaking to see youth being used to perpetrate violence during elections instead of exercising their rights to vote and participate positively in the elections. It is evident that poverty is one of the main drivers of political violence. Poverty levels in many African countries like Zambia are quiet high and this gives room for the unemployed majority

mostly youths to be manipulated to perpetuate all forms of electoral violence. Poverty is a condition where people's basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter are not being met. An individual exposed to these hardships is more likely to engage in electoral violence than a rich person in society. When the economic hardships become too unbearable, the propensity for violence increases. Unemployed youths then become tools for electoral violence.

Simengwa (2015) states that some political parties in Zambia vying for political offices had seemingly perfected the art of wringing emotions of the youths during elections. They had manipulated the impressionable young people to attack opponents, mostly during campaigns, in what was referred to as 'youths for hire'. In recent years, it has not been unusual to see some parties ferrying their members, mainly young people, from different parts of the country to areas where elections were taking place. This was a gimmick to both bolster their numbers and to derail their opponents' campaigns through physical and verbal attacks.

Simengwa (2015) further revealed that President Edgar Lungu revealed that the United Party for National Development (UPND) was transporting its members from Lusaka to Lubansenshi, in Luwingu, and Solwezi West to intimate voters ahead of the September 24 parliamentary by-elections. The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) held a Non-Violence Political Youth Caucus in Lusaka, where the involvement of young people in political violence was discussed. Such were the initiatives applauded as they help to uphold Zambia's record as a peaceful country. Acting British High Commissioner to Zambia Sean Melbourne, during the YALI forum, urged youths not to be used as tools of violence by political parties. Mr Melbourne said the youth should instead be exposed to issue-based politics, and be given a platform to exercise their rights to vote.

Kasesefa (2015) revealed that a youth organisation in Luanshya urged young people to resist being used as tools of political violence ahead of the 2016 general elections. Roan Youth Development chairperson youths should refuse to be used as tools of political violence by selfish politicians as the nation goes to the polls next year. He said it is unfortunate that during political campaigns some political parties lure youths into excessive abuse of alcohol at the expense of telling them about real issues.

Zambia Daily Mail (2016) reported that there are deliberate attempts by some people to trigger violence at every opportunity. Reasons for wanting to do so may not be clear, but they seem to believe that violence will serve their purposes better than the peace Zambia has been enjoying for decades. How else would one explain the brazen disparaging of political rivals and right in front of them? This is the worst order of provocation. According to eye-witnesses, this is what United Party for National Development (UPND) cadres did at Youth Day celebrations in Lusaka yesterday. The insults triggered a reaction from Patriotic Front (PF) youths, who would not allow anyone denigrating their leaders. This spiraled into physical confrontation, which was eventually quelled by the police, but not after several injuries on either side of the political divide. What is of even greater concern is that this provocation was certainly not a spur of the moment action given the well-coordinated anti-establishment songs? This indicates that

the objective was to provoke the rivals. Whoever was involved in the planning must certainly have expected this kind of a reaction.2.4 Chapter Summary

This chapter reviewed related literature across the globe on the involvement youths in political violence. The studies revealed that cases of youth involvement in political violence are for self-gains for some political leaders. Youths have been called to refrain from such activities for the benefits of their future.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter reviewed literature from different scholars and nations. This chapter will now outline the methodology and methods that will be used in the study and these will include the research design, the population, sample, sampling techniques, research instruments used, data analysis and the ethical protection of participants used for collecting data.

3.2 Research Design

A case study research design using the qualitative approach will be used to allow the researcher to interact with the research participants in order to collect in-depth data. According to Ghosh (2004) a research design is regarded as an arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance with the research purpose.

3.3 Study Area

The study conducted in Luanshya District on the Copper belt Province of Zambia.

3.4 Pilot Study

A pilot study will be conducted in Ndola to ensure that items found in the questionnaires and other instruments in order to improve on validity and reliability. White (2005) points out that on the basis of the responses from the pilot study, interpretation of the questionnaires by participants ensures reliability of administering of the final study.

3.5 Population

Officials from the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), District Electoral Officers, party officials and youths will constitute the population.

3.6 Sample Size

For the purpose of this study, a total sample of 50 participants will be involved comprising 36 youths, six party officials, six District Electoral officials and two officials from Electoral Commission of Zambia.

3.7 Sampling Procedure

Random sampling procedure for youths and party officials and purposive sampling for District Electoral officials and officials from Electoral Commission of Zambia will be used. 36 names from the voters register six from the six wards will be randomly selected to make a total of 36 youths to participate in the study. While purposive sampling will be used for six District Electoral officials two ECZ officials as informants making a total sample of 50 participants.

3.8 Instruments for Data Collection

A research instrument is defined as a tool chosen by the researcher to collect required information (Kothari, 1997). In this study, three research instruments will be used which include: interview schedules, Focus Group Discussion guides, and semi-structured questionnaires to collect data from the participants.

3.8.1. Interview Schedule

A list of structured questions will be prepared by the researcher to collect in-depth data. According to Best (2006) structured questions are a list of questions prepared by the researcher to guide the participants and even help in making follow-ups on unclear responses during the interview. Interviews will be conducted to collect data from the ECZ and District Electoral officials from Luanshya District Council.

3.8.2 Focus Group Discussion Guide

Focus Group Discussion provides a huge amount of information in a shortest period of time and help triangulate with more traditional form of questionnaires, interviewing, and observation (Kombo and Tromp, 2006).

In order to collect a lot of data within the shortest period of time, a total of six Focus Group Discussions will be held with youths from the selected wards. Each Focus Group will comprise six youths both male and female. Seated on a round table, the researcher will use the interview schedule with a number of questions asked to participants. The researcher will ensure that each participant participate in the discussion and record all the responses from each participant. The same procedure will be employed in all the selected wards.

3.8.3 Semi Structured Questionnaires

According to Cohen et al. (2007) a questionnaire increases the external validity of the study done in the natural setting. A questionnaire will allow the researcher to use the same question items to all the randomly selected officials from ECZ and District Electoral office. This will help to gather data within a shortest possible time. 36 questionnaires will be administered to randomly selected youths.

3.9 Procedure for Data Collection

Permission will be sought from the Information and Communications University, District Electoral Officer and ECZ to conduct the study in the selected wards and constituency institutions as per attached appendix 8, 9 and 10 respectively. The researcher will introduce and explain the aim of the study to the participants before collecting data. A convenient random and purposive, non-probability sampling technique will be used to select the participants for this study and the researcher will target participants thought to give the data required. Both male and female participants will be involved. The ECZ, District Electoral Officials and party officials will be picked by virtue of their positions held. Head teachers in schools were asked for permission to administer questionnaires and conduct Focus Group Discussions with teachers randomly and conveniently selected.

3.10 Data Analysis

Data analysis can be described as the process of examining the collected information by deductions and inferences from it. Kombo and Tromp (2006) state that analysis of data can be done qualitatively or quantitatively, for this study, data will be compiled, checked and analysed using thematic analysis with simple tables, figures, and charts generated from excel.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The researcher will ensure that basic ethical principles guiding the research are observed. Honesty, openness, informed consent, privacy, and confidentiality were upheld.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 Overview

The previous chapter outlined the methodology and methods that were used in the collection of data for the study. This chapter presents the research findings on the involvement youths in political violence and its impact on electorates in Luanshya District in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. The chapter will start by outlining prevalence of political violence in Luanshya then present other findings in themes according to the following research questions which helped in the collection of data for the study:

1. What are the causes of political violence in Luanshya District
2. What is the position of political parties on youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya District?
3. What are the effects youth involvement in political violence on the electorates in Luanshya District?
4. What measures are in place to address youth involvement in political violence on the electorates in Luanshya District?

4.2 Prevalence of Political Violence

Asked how prevalent incidences of youth involvement in political violence were in Luanshya, Figure 4.1 illustrates the responses by the rate of prevalence.

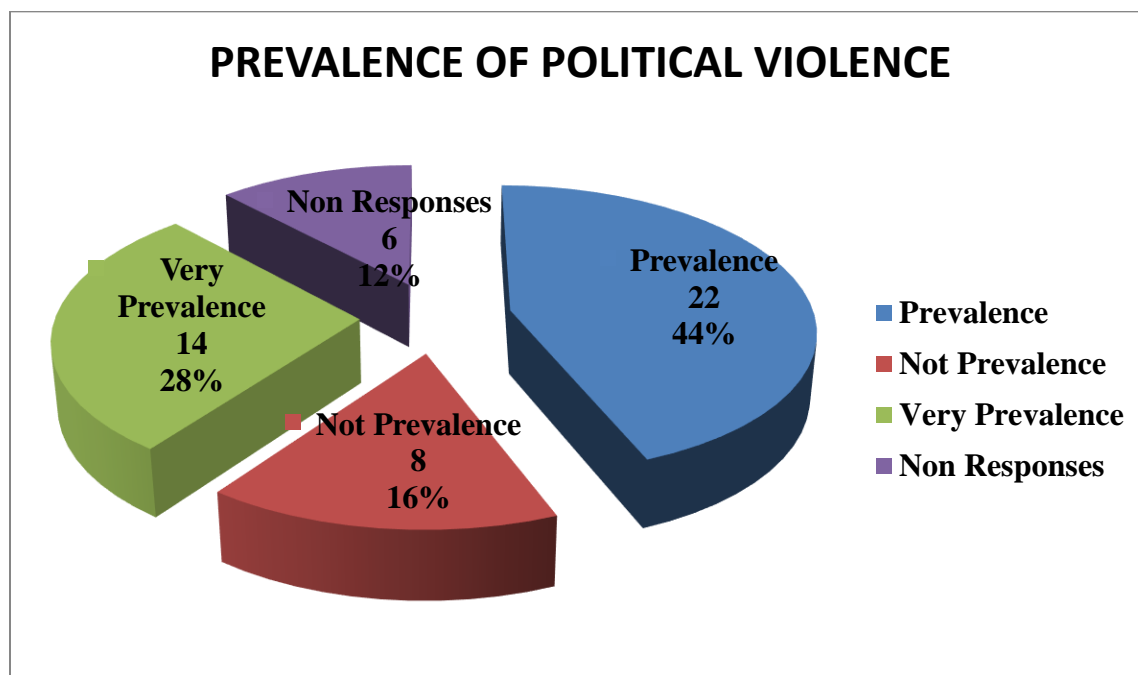


Figure 4.1: Prevalence of Political Violence in Luanshya District.

Of the 50 participants, 22 said youth involvement in political violence was prevalent in Luanshya with 14 saying very prevalent and only eight said the violence were not prevalent. Six participants gave no response on the prevalence. More participants said incidences of youth involvement in political violence were prevalent in Luanshya comprising mainly female participants.

4.3 Causes of Youth Involvement on Political Violence in Luanshya

Asked what the causes of youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya were, participants' responses were as presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Causes of Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Luanshya

<i>PARTICIPANTS</i>	<i>RESPONSES ON CAUSES OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN LUANSHYA</i>
YOUTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Unemployment • Showing off • Ignorance • Youths feel disadvantaged • Inequalities • Unfair electoral process
DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of reasoning • Party leaders taking advantage of youths • Struggle for power • Media reports
PARTY OFFICIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment • Poverty • Protection
ECZ OFFICIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate sensitisation • Voting pattern • Selfish leadership

Source: Field Data, 2017

The responses from participants varied according to category. While party officials and youths themselves alluded to poverty as one of the major causes of their involvement in political violence,

District and Electoral Commission of Zambia officials brought out issues of lack of reasoning, party leaders taking advantage of youths and lack of adequate sensitisation.

One male youth said:

Ala ifwe takwata fyakucita, so intungulushi shesu mu party ngashaisa ati tuleyani mutwafweko ukusunga icibote pa rally, naifwe kukonka- incinto mucalo muno tamwaba.

(We youths have nothing to do, so when our party leaders come soliciting for help in keeping peace at public rallies we just follow- there is no employment in this country).

Another youth said:

The youths in the country are not employed and poverty makes them to easily succumb to pressures so as to earn a living. This is so because when politicians come they promise us something at the end of the day.

On the contrary, one District Election Official said:

Party leaders take advantage of the youths and employ them to cause confusion by threatening and beating up those in the opposite camps.

Another District Election Official added and said:

Lack of knowledge on the functions of electoral process makes political parties use youths

While one party official said:

Youths are not involved in political violence, they just protect themselves from others when provoked.

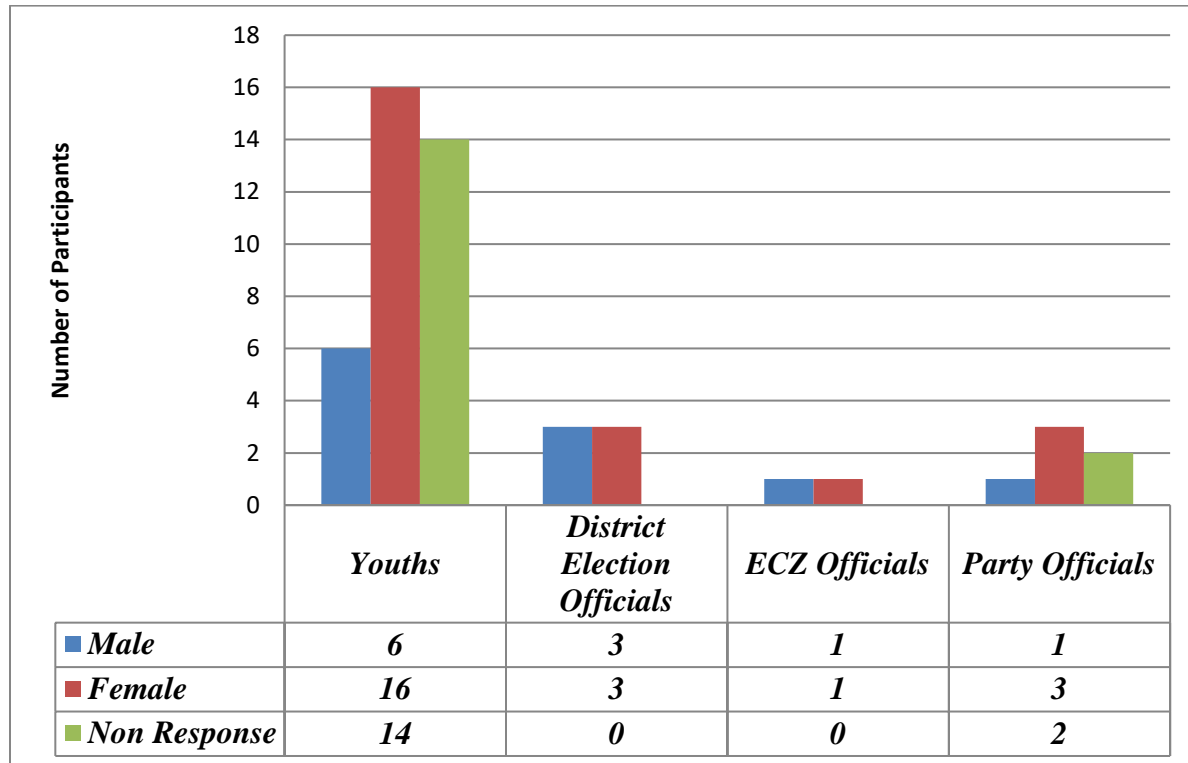
While an official from the Electoral Commission of Zambia said:

Struggle for power makes some political parties resort to all sorts of means to get into power and one of which is the use of youths in causing confusion and violence to threaten opposite parties and electorates who they strongly feel belong to other political parties.

The causes of youths involvement in political violence seemly borders of poverty and unemployment. Party leaders use the youths and promise them something at the end of whatever they could have planned.

Asked if youths contribute to incidences of political violence, figure 4.2 enlightens the responses from participants by gender.

Table 4.1: Responses on the Youth Contribution to Political Violence by Gender



Source: Field Data, 2017

Of the 36 youths, 6 male and 16 female participants said youths contribute to incidences of political violence in Luanshya with 14 of them saying nothing. All the three male and three female District Election Officers and the two (one male and one female) Electoral Commission of Zambia officials saying youths contribute to incidences of political violence. However, of the six party officials, one male, three female said youths contribute to incidences of political violence in Luanshya while 2 male participants said nothing. The majority who said youths contribute to incidences of political violence were female.

4.4 The Position of Political Parties

The following were the Participants view on the position of political parties on youth involvement in political violence:

- a. Fund opposition parties by the government in power

- b. Political parties to ensure they sensitise their followers and educate them on the electoral code of conduct
- c. Violence is seen as a component of personal security

One leader of a political party said:

Some political parties import youths elsewhere just cause confusion and in protecting ourselves, youth's fights back.

While another one said:

The ruling party has an advantage by using the national security wing which makes some opposition parties also to strongly reinforce the youths in security gymnastics for protection.

Participants were able to clearly point out what their position was but more by pointing out what other political parties were doing.

4.5 The Effects of Youth Involvement in Political Violence on the Electorates

On the effects of youth involvement in political violence on electorates, participants outlined a number of effects as follows:

1. Disfranchising electorates
2. Voter apathy
3. Fear to participate in nation decisions willingly
4. Loss of life
5. Elections results are not fair
6. Destruction of public and private property
7. Disruption of electorate process
8. Increase in crime

The effects of youth involvement in political violence on electorates were numerous.

During the Focus Group Discussions, one youth said:

Every time there are elections people leave in fear and cannot participate fully in deciding on their preferred candidate

Furthermore, the District Election Officer said:

The electoral process is disrupted and there is a lot of finger pointing accusing one another.

In addition a youth from one political party said:

Political violence leads loss of property and life and makes electorates unable to turn up for elections.

When the electorates are leaving in fear then they cannot exercise their voting rights freely.

The finding was in line with a study done in

4.6 Measures in place to address youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya

District

Asked how incidences of political violence could be addressed. The following were the responses given by the participants:

- i. Stakeholders meetings are organised to iron out political difference
- ii. Sensitisations youths on the electoral code of conduct
- iii. Encourage capacity building for all electoral

A District Election Officer added that:

In getting rid of political violence in Luanshya, the parties together with ruling party are usually called and hold consultative meeting together.

While the Electoral Commission of Zambia official said:

To curb political violence in Luanshya malpractices in Zambia, there was need to enhance the Act to make malpractices unattractive by stiffening penalties.

Curbing political violence in communities is the responsibility of not only the police and any other security wing but individuals and the community as a whole. Every citizen ought take it upon him or herself know the effects of political violence at community and national level.

Notably, Simengwa (2015) reported that the Patriotic Front was encouraging youths in the party to avoid clashing with other parties, but to instead focus their energy on productive issues. The use of young people in harmful activities was also acknowledged by UPND vice-president Canisius Banda, who said most political parties took advantage of the vulnerability of youths to engage them in violence. Dr. Banda said elections should reflect people's wishes and should not be a stage for settling personal scores.

All these are important messages that show political leaders are eager to reverse the violence that has become associated with every election across the country. They are aimed at turning the attention of Zambians to the quality of leadership being offered by those putting themselves forward for election as Republican President, Members of Parliament and councillors.

4.7 Summary

This chapter presented the research findings on the involvement youths in political violence and its impact on electorates in Luanshya District in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia according to the research questions. The chapter began by outlining the prevalence of political violence in Luanshya before presentation of the findings in relation to the research questions. The following chapter will therefore discuss the research findings in relation to the research objectives.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

The study aimed at assessing youth involvement in political violence and effects on electorates in Luanshya District of the Copperbelt Province in Zambia. Chapter four presented the research findings in relation to the research questions. This chapter will discuss the research findings to address the following objectives of the study:

- i. To identify the causes of political violence in Luanshya District
- ii. To establish the position of political parties on youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya District
- iii. To establish the impact of youth involvement in political violence on electorates in Luanshya District
- iv. To ascertain the extent to which youth involvement in political violence can be addressed in Luanshya District.

5.2 Prevalence of Political Violence

The findings of the prevalence of political violence in Luanshya revealed that the violence was prevalent. The majority of the participants said the issues concerning political violence were many and in most cases female participants were more free and open in illustrating the prevalence of political violence in Luanshya.

However, there was a category of participants who did not say anything but were always in the forefront arranging or organising political events. Of the 50 participants, six participants gave no response on the prevalence. More participants said incidences of youth involvement in political violence were prevalent in Luanshya comprising mainly female participants.

5.3 Causes of Youth Involvement on Political Violence in Luanshya

The causes of youth involvement were numerous with all the categories of participants alluding to mostly poverty among others. The participants claim that poverty was the major cause of youth involvement in political violence especially with the political leaders' aspect of taking advantaging by employing youths to cause confusion during elections.

The issue of high unemployment levels among youths makes them vulnerable and susceptible to political leaders who use them for their political gain. Every time there are elections in Luanshya and indeed the all nation, political violence where youths are involved becomes the talk of the day.

There is always a call for adequate sensitisations to all Zambians and youths inclusive to educate them on the importance and value for peace during elections. The youths are deemed not reasoning when they perpetrate violence beating up even innocent citizens who sometimes end up boycotting their participation in elections- disfranchising them.

Leaders of political parties struggle for power and are forced to use all any other means to get to power one of which is the situation where they use youths in causing violence mostly in other political party's strong holds.

The responses from participants varied according to category. While party officials and youths themselves alluded to poverty as one of the major causes of their involvement in political violence, District and Electoral Commission of Zambia officials brought out issues of lack of reasoning, party leaders taking advantage of youths and lack of adequate sensitisation.

The media was said to be one other cause of political violence and involvement of youths. Some youths would just for fun want to show off and look up to the media to cover them. On the other hand, media houses that are deemed not cover their political activities impartially are always threatened and beaten up when they come through to cover their programmes.

5.4 The Position of Political Parties

The position of political parties on the involvement of youths in political violence was both positive and negative. The positive aspect included the seeking of funding to the opposition parties to level playing fields because they complained that the ruling party mostly had an advantage by using government resources and man power.

Some political parties appealed for massive sensitisation of the youths educating them on the electoral code of conduct and the need to hold peace campaigns.

On the contrary, political violence was viewed as a component of personal security in which leaders asked their youths to protect themselves from provocation from other political parties by fighting back and show off their strength and muscle to fight. In reinforcing their security, there was a system of importing youths from other areas mainly to ensure their strong holds are not by any means infiltrated by other political parties.

All in all political parties clearly pointed out what other parties were doing than what they were. In a democratic nation people should be free to express their opinions and question those of others. This is an important personal freedom, and also essential to the very idea of governing by dialogue. Nonetheless the culture of insults and character assassination currently permeating Zambia's political arena should be discouraged. Some political leaders just be a habit of showering attacks on others and yet they have nothing to offer.

5.6 The Effects of Youth Involvement in Political Violence on the Electorates

On the effects of youth involvement in political violence on electorates, participants outlined a number of effects as namely: disfranchising electorates, voter apathy, fear to participate in nation decisions willingly, loss of life, elections results are not fair, destruction of public and private property, disruption of electorate process and increase in crime.

Doda (2005) states that in the process of competition for political power and resources, conflict is bound to take place. Conflict involves disagreement and disharmony, which results due to differences in ideology, living standard, and other social factors. It is a universal phenomenon, an ever-present reality, taking place both at micro and macro levels. Conflict involves clash of interest between individuals in a social group like in a family or between groups or societies. It results due to power imbalance, due to unfair distribution of resources. Conflict may be between males and females, youngster and older generation; between different religious, ethnic and, political groups.

The effects of youth involvement in political violence mainly made electorates leave in fear and that makes a good number of them not participating in elections. In the end, victorious leaders may not be the preferred ones.

One other issue raised was the disruption of electoral process when one particular party is seemingly losing. This is done to stop the process to allow maybe rigging or alteration of records in favour of their preferred candidate.

Arising from political violence is gravely the loss of life and property. People are beaten up, killed while destruction and destroying of property is unbearable.

5.7 Measures in place to address Youth involvement in Political Violence in Luanshya

District

In a bid to address the impact on electorates arising from the involvement of youths in political violence, a few measures were notably put in place. The following were the measures: holding of stakeholders meetings and sensitisation of youths on the electoral code of conduct.

Holding of stakeholders meetings was a good move as all parties were called to discuss how a level playing field could be laid down to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. Whenever elections were fourth coming all political parties were said to be called for meetings to look at election materials and how the very materials could be handled in transparent manner. Transparency also called for political party's agents' access or participation making them understand the electoral process. However, more of stakeholders meetings were organised only when there was a serious problem which in the end also created tension among themselves.

The other measure put in place was the aspect of sensitising not only the youths but citizenly around the constituencies. The youths were made to understand what it takes to hold elections, the essence of elections and the need for citizens to freely exercise their voting rights. Education is therefore key as it empowers everyone with knowledge and skills to handles disputes at their disposal. Education helps change behaviour by making citizens more engaged. People with more education tend not only to be more concerned about the political issues, but also to engage in activism that promotes and supports political decisions that protect the citizens. Due to political inequalities, youth who believe that their group has less influence in politics than others are more likely to approve of and engage in political violence while youth who take action to try to address governance problems are less likely to engage in or be disposed towards political violence (Doda, 2005).

There was need for more to be done if the issue of political violence with the involvement of youths was to come to an end. Youths were primary and key in addressing their involvement in political violence. The involvement of civic organisations such as the Anti-Voter Apathy Project, Zambia Civic Education Association, and Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Committee were to greatly help the scourge.

5.8 Summary

This chapter discussed the research findings to address the research objectives of the study. It firstly discussed the prevalence political violence in Luanshya District before discussing and assessing the impact youth involvement in political violence on the electorate. The following chapter will conclude and make recommendations based on the research findings.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

The previous chapter discussed the research findings according to the research objectives and this chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations arising from the findings of the study. The objectives were to: identify the causes of political violence in Luanshya District, establish the position of political parties on youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya District, establish the impact of youth involvement in political violence on electorates in Luanshya District and lastly to ascertain the extent to which youth involvement in political violence can be addressed in Luanshya District.

6.2 Conclusions

On the whole, research results revealed that the involvement of youths in political violence has an impact on the electorates in Luanshya. The findings revealed that the violence was prevalent. Year in year out whenever elections are conducted there are reports of political violence and worse is the involvement of youths.

The causes of youth involvement in political violence included poverty, unemployment, political leaders struggle for power and the media to mention but a few. Poverty was said to be one of the major cause of youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya. Leaders used that as a way of employing youths to threaten and cause violence. There is a direct link between poverty and high levels of unemployment as many youths are not in employment meant they do not have necessities that political leaders take advantage of.

This then called for the need to establish the position of political parties on the involvement of youths in political violence. The opposition mainly sought for funding from the central government to enable them operate fully. Their claim was to advocate level playing field with party in power. In addition, some political parties appealed for massive sensitisation of the youths educating them on the electoral code of conduct and the need to hold peace campaigns. However, political violence was viewed as a component of personal security in which leaders asked their youths to protect themselves from provocation from other political parties by fighting back. This made them import youths from other regions or places hired mainly to cause problems. Insults and character assassination were provocative to make opposite parties react and reiterate by fighting.

Effects of youth involvement in political violence on electorates were disfranchising electorates, voter apathy, fear to participate in nation decisions willingly, loss of life, elections results are not fair, destruction of public and private property, disruption of electorate process and increase in crime. The

effects made electorates leave in fear and not able to exercise their rights freely by choosing a candidate of their choice as electorates are beaten up their property destroyed.

Lastly, holding of stakeholders' meetings and sensitisation of youths on the electoral code of conduct were measures put in place to address the problem of youth involvement in political violence. The measures were not adequate to avoid the involvement of youths in political violence and a lot needed to be done.

6.3 Recommendations

With reference to the involvement of youths in political violence and its impact on the electorates, the following recommendations, based on the findings of the study, are made:

1. The Electoral Commission of Zambia should severely reprimand youths found wanting.

6.4 Suggestions for Further Research

The research further suggests some studies;

- i. To investigate how the cases of frauding electoral process are disposed off.

6.5 Summary

This chapter has made conclusions and recommendations based on the research findings and further suggested the future research.

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**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR ECZ/ DISTRICT ELECTORAL OFFICIALS

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a masters student at the Information and Communications University carrying out a research on the Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Luanshya District. You have been selected to participate in this research. The information you will provide is purely for academic use and will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality. You are, therefore, required to be objective in your responses and you are not required to disclose your identity.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Gender
A. Male [] B. Female []
2. What is your highest professional qualification?
A. Certificate []
B. Diploma []
C. Degree [] Specify.....
3. Number of years at ECZ/ Luanshya District
A. Less than 10 years []
B. Between 10 and 20 years []
C. Above 20 years []

SECTION B

Causes of Youth Involvement in political Violence

4. How prevalent are incidences of political violence in Zambia/ Luanshya?
A. Very prevalent [] B. Prevalent [] C. Not prevalent []
5. Does Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)/ Luanshya Constituency take record of incidences political violence in Zambia?
A. Yes ... B. No
6. If 'Yes,' how is the trend like for the past Presidential and Parliamentary Elections?
2016.....
2014.....
2011.....
7. What forms do these political violence take?

-
.....
8. Are Political Leaders involved political violence?
A. Yes ... B. No
9. If 'Yes', how are Political Leaders involved incidences political violence in Zambia?
.....
.....
10. Are youths involved in political violence in Zambia/ Luanshya?
B. Yes ... B. No
11. If 'Yes', how are they involved?
.....
.....
12. What are the effects of youth involvement in political violence on the electorates in Zambia?
.....
.....
.....
13. What is the position of political leaders on youth involvement in political violence in Zambia?
.....
.....
14. Who is to blame for political violence in Zambia/ Luanshya?
.....
15. How are issues of political youth involvement in political violence dealt with in Zambia/
Luanshya?
.....
16. Are there pieces of legislation guiding the involvement of youth in political violence in Zambia?
A. Yes B. NO
17. If 'Yes,' name the legislation
.....
18. What does the legislation say?
.....
19. In your view, what should be done to curb the involvement of youth in political violence in
Zambia/ Luanshya?
.....
.....

Thank you for your cooperation

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APPENDIX 2: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE YOUTHS

Dear Participants,

I am a postgraduate student at the Information and Communications University carrying out a research on the Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Luanshya District. You have been selected to participate in this research. The information you will provide is purely for academic use and will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality. You are, therefore, required to be objective in your responses and you are not required to disclose your identity.

Section A

Causes of Youth Involvement in political Violence

5. What are the causes of political violence in Luanshya District
6. What is the position of political parties on youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya District?
7. What are the effects youth involvement in political violence on the electorates in Luanshya District?
8. What measures are in place to address youth involvement in political violence on the electorates in Luanshya District?

Thank you for your cooperation

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIVERSITY
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APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRES FOR YOUTHS

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a masters student at the Information and communications University carrying out a research on the Youth Involvement in Political Violence in Luanshya District. You have been selected to participate in this research. The information you will provide is purely for academic use and will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality. You are, therefore, required to be objective in your responses and you are not required to disclose your identity.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Gender
 A. Male [] B. Female []
2. What is your highest professional qualification?
 A. Certificate []
 B. Diploma []
 C. Degree [] Specify.....

SECTION B

Causes of Youth Involvement in political Violence

3. How prevalent are incidences of political violence in Zambia/ Luanshya?
 A. Very prevalent [] B. Prevalent [] C. Not prevalent []
4. Does Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)/ Luanshya Constituency take record of incidences political violence in Zambia?
 A. Yes ... B. No
5. If 'Yes,' how is the trend like for the past Presidential and Parliamentary Elections?
 2016.....
 2014.....
 2011.....
6. What forms do these political violence take?

7. Are Political Leaders involved political violence?

A. Yes ... B. No

8. If 'Yes', how are Political Leaders involved incidences political violence in Luanshya?

.....
.....

9. Are youths involved in political violence in Luanshya?

A. Yes ... B. No

10. If 'Yes', how are they involved?

.....
.....

11. What are the effects of youth involvement in political violence on the electorates in Luanshya?

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12. What is the position of political leaders on youth involvement in political violence in Luanshya?

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13. Who is to blame for political violence in Luanshya?

.....

14. How are issues of political youth involvement in political violence dealt with in Luanshya?

.....

15. Are there pieces of legislation guiding the involvement of youth in political violence in Zambia?

A. Yes B. NO

16. If 'Yes,' name the legislation

.....

17. What does the legislation say?

.....

18. In your view, what should be done to curb the involvement of youth in political violence in Luanshya?

.....
.....

Thank you for your cooperation

APPENDIX 1

The duration of the study will be 6 months

	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Pilot study	===x					
Literature review		xxxx				
Data collection			xx==			
Data analysis			==xx	xx==		
Submission of first draft				===x		
Corrections					x===	
Submission of final draft					x==	
Examination and binding						xx==

NOTE:

==XX means weeks in a month

APPENDIX 2

Budget

MATERIALS	QTY	UNIT PRICE (k)	TOTAL AMOUNT
Lodging	4 days	150	600
Stationery			
a. Reams of paper	5	35	175
b. Note Books	4	2	8
c. Pens	10	1	10
d. Pencils	3	1	3
e. Rubbers	3	1	3
Photocopying and Binding			
1. Photocopying of documents	1000 papers	20 ngwee	200
2. Printing, photocopying and binding of study reports			
3. Photocopying of Reports	600 papers	-----	800
4. Printing of Reports	600 papers	20 ngwee	120
5. Binding of Reports	600 papers	50 ngwee	300
	4 copies	150	600
Transport			136
Incidental			250
Grand Total			3, 205