

# The Key Stakeholders' Perception about the Engagement of Zambia Army to Foster National Security before, during and Immediately after Elections in Zambia

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**Abstract:** The purpose of the study was to explore the Key Stakeholders' perception about the engagement of Zambia Army to foster National Security before, during and immediately after Elections in Zambia. The Study used a Convergent Design supported by pragmatism paradigm to respond to the questions. The sample involved 10 Brigadier Generals in decision making appointments who gave their views through Focus Group Discussions, the Deputy Army Commander and Army Commander who were engaged through targeted Semi structured interviews, 30 Army officers in the Middle Management category answered a Questionnaire, 2 from the Church mother body and 2 ECZ Commissioners were interviewed which brought the total Sample to 46 participants. The study found that the key role of the Army was to protect the sovereignty of the Country from both internal and external aggression and therefore threat to peace fell under internal aggression which is mandated by the constitution. It was also found that they had always engaged the Army using the correct procedure and the Army always came on board to help out only on limited scale to avoid intimidating citizens. The Stakeholders appreciated the way the Army was engaged in the Zambian Elections at all levels. They said the Army had clearly followed their constitutional mandate to maintain peace in the nation and to make use of the pieces of legislation to guide them and the other Stakeholders. The Study findings also established that the Zambia Army provided national intelligence especially to the ECZ and other Stakeholders on the boarder crossings. The study concluded that the collaboration should continue to enable the people to continue gaining confidence in the Electoral Process of the country as it will work to protect the citizens' rights to vote and choose a leader of their choice. The electoral Stakeholders should have trust in the Zambia Army so that it works to provide its services fully unlike them being viewed with suspicious eyes that they may take over the Country.

**Keywords:** Electoral Commission of Zambia, Zambia Army, Peace, Elections, National Security

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Goldring, Edward, Wahman, Michael (2016) stated that the Elections in Zambia were not without traces of violence and malpractices. Some notable examples of violence in 2016 included an event where a former UPND MP and her supporters assaulted a Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) MP Candidate in Namwala and an event in Lusaka where Police shot and killed a UPND Supporter (Lungu, 2017). Amid unprecedented levels of violence, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) took the drastic decision to suspend campaigning for 10 days in Lusaka and Namwala, two districts especially affected by violence. Although the decision to suspend the campaign was welcomed by parts of Civil Society, some smaller Parties questioned the fairness of the decision as it deprived them of the right to campaign even though they had not been guilty of perpetrating violence (Kapambwe, 2017). Many studies have also provided academic debate on the involvement of the army in the electoral process.

A study by McCormick (2016) noted that the State Department declared that the country did not involve the Army hence there was delays in the delivery of voting materials, reports of pre-checked ballots and vote buying, ongoing blockage of social media sites, and excessive use of force by the

Police, collectively undermine the integrity of the Electoral Process. He adds that the commonwealth observers stated that the 'Elections fell short of meeting some key democratic benchmarks' and noted 'the increased prevalence of money in politics as well as 'the misuse of state resources, which led to significant advantages for the incumbent, and this was achieved because they did not use the country's Army to help provide Security which was already compromised

While the debate on whether or not the Army should play a role during Elections rages, Africa Confidential (2015) state that its controversial role in past polls, coupled with the recent scandal over the alleged part of the Military in rigging the 2014 Election in favour of the PDP candidate, Ayo Fayose, for governor in Ekiti State, has added more potency to the discussions. It was also learnt that the Army were compromised and helped the candidate to secure a victory in an Election. The Nigerian electoral system is then subject to discussion as it allowed the Army to aid a victory to a candidate which was morally wrong. Meanwhile, Omotola (2013) stated that the AU and ECOWAS should show more interest in and commitment to the transition process and provide electoral Security through the block Army to supplement the local Security wings. Apart from providing logistical support to the INEC, the two bodies should facilitate peace processes, especially in the face of growing tensions because of heightened competitiveness around the Election and they should continue to send the Army to continue protecting the property and citizens since the local Police have limitations.

Further, Ngah (2016) observed that the violence which escalated from the small portions of incidences resulted into the government failing to take control and the Army bringing about unrest in the country and a topple of the Government through the Army. Therefore, it was concluded that failure by Police to handle such pockets of violence brings mass unrests and in most western countries, this has become a chance for Military takeover which all countries should avoid at all costs. In addition, Reif (2014) established that some electoral violence resulted into the Army being brought in to stop it as the state Police failed to do so for various reasons according to the country's constitutions. He argued that the electoral credibility in most African countries leads the country to have violence free Electoral Process which also strengthen the position of the Police and enable the Army to only provide support where need arises.

Elsewhere, Buhari (2015) noted that the Army in Africa is rather important in the fostering of National Security because they are above politics and that they have more patience and tolerance to a situation that they only come in when the leader is not following the country's constitution. He added that the Army in African nations have been involved in the electoral system just to ensure that the political followers for the main parties do not cause trouble and damage to public and private property and even intimidate the other voters. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army understood the fragile state of Security in the Country and offered unconditional assistance to the electoral commission of Pakistani (ECP) after gathering enough intelligence on the happenings in different parts of the country (Farhan, 2013). In response to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) about the Security challenges faced by the ECP, the Pakistan Army amended the Security plan in order to deploy troops to the sensitive polling stations

In addition, Army in south Africa is used in the Electoral Process in areas where Security is volatile like Soweto and others (Carey and Reynolds, 2011). These are areas where the Police are undermined, and the places have gangs who are armed. The presence of the Army makes the gangs and other notorious groups to behave themselves and the Elections becomes peaceful. The church also supports the involvement of the south African Army in such areas where crime is high as their presence make the citizens vote without intimidation. Sabaseviciute (2016) also stated that in Egypt during the revolution, the Army still represented a really important source of legitimacy with many political players trying to tap into it by claiming to represent the will and the unity of the people with their support.

Among other studies, Okpotor (2015) indicated that the Army have the mandate to keep peace in the nation through the constitution and they have to provide guidance to the Police on how to deal with violence during and after Elections in the Country. It was also noted that the Army should ensure that the constitutional rights and freedoms of the citizens are protected by politicians and their supporters by being respectful to humanity and the decisions they make. Other scholars have argued that in

addition to providing a secure environment for the Elections, IFOR assisted with planning, logistics and communications (Dayton Peace Accords, 1995). IFOR helped in identifying, mapping and checking Security at over 4,600 polling stations in the delivery and subsequent collection of Election materials and ballot papers; in the distribution of absentee ballot papers; and in the deployment and transportation of supervisors and observers.

In other countries, Farhan (2013) stated that it was decided that 70,000 troops were positioned throughout Pakistan to carry out Election-related duties, including the provision of Security and maintaining law and order and they also provided transport to ensure the Electoral Process was not tempered with by anyone. The Pakistan Army also played a crucial role to prevent fraudulent acts of tampering with ballot papers by supervising the whole printing process. and provided transport, Security to storage houses, circulation of ballot papers, during counting and transported the poll staff and electoral materials to the totalling centres.

ODIHR (2017) observed that credibility of Elections entails absence of harm or threats of harm, as well as support for an environment conducive to holding Democratic Elections. Otivelgbuzor (2004) noted that success or failure of National Elections depended on Security Agencies such as the Police, Defense Force and other Security Personnel. Zambia Army has never been actively involved in Elections, meanwhile, there are a lot of reported Security lapses and other flaws which could be handled if the Army were integrated in the Electoral Process, just like the Government has done to involve the Army in other disasters and pandemics which had been a threat to National Security before. It is for this reason that this Study will create a Model that could integrate the Zambia Army in the process of Elections. The primary responsibility for ensuring Electoral Security is most commonly vested with the host Country's Law Enforcement Bodies and in our case the Zambia Police. The Police generally carry a dual role of providing Security while concurrently ensuring that laws and regulations governing the conduct of an Election are followed. Additionally, other components like the Zambia Army, Zambia Airforce including other specialized Agencies like State Intelligence and, Zambia National Service may also be mobilized according to need.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

In Zambia, the Defense Forces have not been involved in the Electoral Process directly or actively. They have however, been involved only when the wings charged with Domestic Security have been constrained, such as in an epidemic or in quelling off Electoral Violence threatening National Security (SADC Report, 2018). This inactive involvement in the Electoral Process is partly because the Security Forces do not have clearly defined roles to perform and because there is no clear Legal Framework for their involvement. Considering rising trends of violence impinging on the Zambian Electoral System, there was a knowledge gap regarding the framework which is used to engage the Zambia Army in the electoral process in Zambia to deal with the threats to National Security. This study was aimed at exploring the Key Stakeholders' perception about the engagement of Zambia Army to foster National Security before, during and immediately after Elections in Zambia.

## **1.3. Research Questions**

- i. What do the Zambia Army and other Key Stakeholders in the Electoral Process feel about the engagement of Zambia Army to foster National Security before, during and immediately after Elections in Zambia?
- ii. What could be the possible Roles of the Zambia Army in fostering National Security before, during and immediately after Elections in Zambia?

## **1.4 Significance of the study**

The research findings may be beneficial as they may bridge the gap that is currently existing between Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and the Security Wings, in particular Zambia Army, with regards to the ensuring threat to National Security in Zambia are delt with. The study findings may result into policy reflection and change as it will provide evidence on how constitutionally the Zambia Army can be integrated in the Electoral Process, other than that of being a stand by Force to reinforce the Police in quelling any violence as a result of Elections. The study may provide a useful framework on the Electoral Policy, the role of Zambia Army in protecting the territorial integrity of the nation from both external and internal threat that may become a reality, because as it stands, more focus is on the external protection than internal.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

This study was falling in the pragmatism paradigm and adopted a mixed methods research approach while using convergent design. In this design the researcher simultaneously collected both qualitative and quantitative data, compared them, and then used the results to provide answers to the research questions (Creswell, 2012). The researcher's intention was to merge the results of the qualitative and quantitative data analyses in order to provide both a qualitative and quantitative picture of the problem. This is because both forms of data provide different insights and their combination contributed to seeing the problem from multiple angles and also multiple perspectives. Using the convergent design, quantitative results yielded general trends and relationships, which are often needed, while qualitative results provided in-depth personal perspectives of individuals. Both are equally important and their combination added up to not only more data but a more complete understanding than using only one approach. This enabled the research to even validate one data base with the other.

The total population of officers was 35 of which 10 were Brigadier Generals in Decision Making Appointments and gave their views through Focus Group Discussions. All the 10 Generals were males as there was no female General at the moment of this research. The next 02 males were the Deputy Army Commander and Army Commander who were engaged through targeted interviews. 30 were officers in Middle Management Category who answered a questionnaire. Interviews were held with 2 from the church mother bodies, 2 ECZ officials while the NGOs declined by not returning the questionnaires. The total sample was 46 participants.

Data was analysed by using SPSS version 23. Descriptive statistics was used to come up with frequency tables which described the data and what it meant. As for the qualitative data, textual material was done using a combination of content analysis and Husserl's phenomenological way of thinking about crystallization (term Husserl called reduction) to experience the phenomenon. The researcher analysed data phenomenological following three stages as informed by (Maulidin, 2003:19). These included (1) bracketing (epoché), which reveals the reality (phenomenon) without preconceptions; (2) crystallization eidetic: sorting out the essential aspects to be formulated into meaning, and grouping them into certain thematic codes; (3) the stage of synthesized themes into the narrative description. The researcher applied content analysis to determine the presence and meaning of concepts, terms, or words from written notes of interviews and focus group discussions.

The researcher ensured that ethical issues were adhered to throughout the process of data collection and the subsequent report writing. To carry out the research within the Army, which is evidently a closed organisation, the researcher sought permission from various authorities in order to secure all the participants. The researcher obtained a letter of authority from the University of Zambia Ethics Committee to carry out the research. Further, permission was sought from Zambia Army Command to allow the researcher to carry out research in the Army. All respondents included in this study were expected to participate willingly and without undue antagonism and those who want to withdraw for their known reasons, were free to do so. The respondents' rights to privacy, dignity and confidentiality were assured. Further, from all the respondents, consent was sought before interviews session to take voice recording. The researcher ensured that voice recording was done with respondent's permission and those not willing were free to refuse. The researcher also assured the respondents that the information collected from them was purely for academic use and was not shared to any other organisation for other intentions. A copy of the finished work would be handed to them at its completion. Anonymity of respondent's details was also assured.

## **3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1. The Key Stakeholders Perceptions about the Engagement of Zambia Army to Foster National Security before, during and Immediately after Elections in Zambia**

In order to present data and discuss the findings of this study, themes were used to present data and these included Protecting citizens and property and Protecting the constitution of Zambia and quantitative data is presented last.

### *3.1.1 Protecting Citizens and Property*

The study found that Stakeholders felt that the Army should be engaged in the Electoral Process with the view of fostering peace in the communities. Participants mentioned that the Police become overwhelmed with the duties that are given to them during the Election period hence they fail to deal with the cadres who become unruly. The study further found that the looting which the cadres are doing in the name of the party was worrying to the nation. Property was given to the cadres and the people from the opposition were grabbed land and trading rights in the market in the presence of the Police. If the soldiers can be stationed in such strategic places where such inhuman activities take place, we can have sanity for citizens, and this is the best thing to do. Omotola (2013) concurs with the findings that the AU and ECOWAS should show more interest in and commitment to the transition process and provide electoral Security through the block Army to supplement the local Security wings. Apart from providing logistical support to the INEC, the two bodies should facilitate peace processes, especially in the face of growing tensions because of heightened competitiveness around the Election and they should continue to send the Army to continue protecting the property and citizens since the local Police have limitations. Such involvement makes the citizens be alive to the fact that their government was a listening one and was willing to offer protection to life and property.

### *3.1.2. Protecting the Constitution of Zambia*

The study participants also revealed that the soldiers swear to protect the constitution of the Country and not individuals in power and that is where the difference lies between them and the Police where operations are concerned. During the discussion, the generals mentioned that the Zambia Army can be engaged to foster National Security before, during and immediately after Elections in Zambia when they are called upon through the right procedure. One participant revealed that:

Our role is to ensure there is peace in the country hence our allegiance is to the constitution and not to an individual. In fact, the key role of the Army is to protect the sovereignty of the Country from both internal and external aggression and threat to peace falls under internal aggression so if anything, we are already mandated by the constitution. We have a role to play in the Security of the nation during the Election period and we respect that calling any time. The ECZ has always engaged us using the correct procedure and we come on board to help out. But we do not go beyond our deployment plan as it may intimidate the citizens.

Another participant added that:

We are mandated to deploy few troops in areas where we are assigned so that there is peace in such areas. As we can all know, Chibolya and Kanyama are some of the areas where the Police fail to keep peace, and such areas we send few boys and then the communities become calm. So, we come in in certain places in order to enable the Police to be respected in such areas.

These findings are in line with McCormick (2016) who noted that the State Department declared that the country did not involve the Army hence there was delays in the delivery of voting materials, reports of pre-checked ballots and vote buying, ongoing blockage of social media sites, and excessive use of force by the Police, collectively undermine the integrity of the Electoral Process. He adds that the commonwealth observers stated that the 'Elections fell short of meeting some key democratic benchmarks' and noted 'the increased prevalence of money in politics as well as 'the misuse of state resources, which led to significant advantages for the incumbent, and this was achieved because they did not use the country's Army to help provide Security which was already compromised. We can then argue in this study that the Zambian Army is guided by the constitution and shall always ensure that the constitution is protected according to the oath they took. Their engagement in the Electoral Process is through the constitution and not for their selfish interests as seen in other countries. When such motivation continues, the Zambian Army and electoral system shall be more of a model to many countries in the world.

Other Stakeholders also provided their view that the Army was supposed to be involved in the Election so as to make the Elections credible in some areas in the country. The church pointed out that Stakeholders like the Zambia Army are key in ensuring that peaceful Elections are held in the country because the stories of exchanging ballot boxes cannot be heard anymore. The participant said:

As a church, we support that the Zambia Army is supposed be involved in the Electoral Process to avoid the unconfirmed stories we hear in the aftermath of the Elections about ballot boxes being exchanged and bringing in pre-market ballot papers in the polling stations. The Police may not handle the party cadres who bring such materials because the cadres do not respect the Police.

Further, when the Army is involved in Elections, the polling stations will be better places for both the ruling and the opposition to cast their votes since there will be neutral Security which both fear which will make them fail to even fight. If we continue using the Police, cadres from both camps will ensure they block others from voting in the rival strongholds which may set the county on fire.

Meanwhile, the ECZ was on point to state that they will be able to engage the Army at the appropriate time when the Security situation allows.

As a commission, we feel the Police are enough to handle the current happenings regarding Security in this Election. But when we see that the situation is not safe, we shall have no option but to ask for reinforcement from the Zambia Army as we have done before.

These findings are in tandem with the Africa Confidential (2015) who found that while the debate on whether or not the Army should play a role during Elections rages, its controversial role in past polls, coupled with the recent scandal over the alleged part of the Military in rigging the 2014 Election in favour of the PDP candidate, Ayo Fayose, for governor in Ekiti State, has added more potency to the discussions. It was also learnt that the Army were compromised and helped the candidate to secure a victory in an Election. The Nigerian electoral system is then subject to discussion as it allowed the Army to aid a victory to a candidate which was morally wrong. The Zambian Army has always been providing Security to the nation so that its sovereignty is cherished by every person. These are the principles to which they were sworn to, and they have to ensure that they continue making use of their constitutional rights. The terms of engaging the Army in Zambia are clear and the ECZ knows how and when which is a plus to our electoral system.

### **3.1.3 Quantitative findings**

Data from a questionnaire was entered into SPSS and descriptive statistics was used to describe the perceptions of the stakeholders as follows,

**Table1.** *The Zambia Army can be used to foster National Security in Elections*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	9	30.0	30.0	30.0
	AGREE	19	63.4	63.4	93.4
	NEUTRAL	1	3.3	3.3	96.7
	DISAGREE	1	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Results on that 1 are on the statement that Zambia Army can be used to foster National Security in Elections. Results in table 16 show that the majority of the participants 19 (63.4%) who agreed and 9 (30%) show strongly agreed that Zambia Army can be used to foster National Security in Elections. The minority of the participants 1 (3.3%) were neutral and 1 (3.3%) disagreed that Zambia Army can be used to foster National Security in Elections. The table conclude that the Zambia Army can be used to foster National Security in Elections in Zambia.

These findings are supported by Sabaseviciute (2016) who noted that in Egypt during the revolution, the Army still represented a really important source of legitimacy with many political players trying to tap into it by claiming to represent the will and the unity of the people with their support. The only hope was to side with the Army to make sure that the Security of the nation was not disturbed by any faction in the process.

**The Key Stakeholders' Perception about the Engagement of Zambia Army to Foster National Security before, during and Immediately after Elections in Zambia**

**Table2.** *The Zambia Army should be involved in fostering peace because they are a government wing responsible for Security too*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	3	10.0	10.0	10.0
	AGREE	23	76.7	76.7	86.7
	NEUTRAL	4	13.3	13.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Results presented in table 2 show the participants' view on the statement that the Zambia Army should be involved in fostering peace because they are a government wing responsible for Security too. The majority of the participants 23 (76.7%) agreed and 3 (10%) who strongly agreed that the Zambia Army should be involved in fostering peace because they are a government wing responsible for Security too while 4 (13.3%) were neutral. The results show that the Zambia Army should be involved in fostering peace because they are a government wing responsible for Security too.

From the foregoing results, Buhari (2015) concur that the Army in Africa is rather important in the fostering of National Security because they are above politics and that they have more patience and tolerance to a situation that they only come in when the leader is not following the Country's constitution. He added that the Army in African nations have been involved in the electoral system just to ensure that the political followers for the main parties do not cause trouble and damage to public and private property and even intimidate the other voters. The presence of the Army brings relief to the people in the Country and beyond and this is the practical situation in Zambia. If the Army was not involved in one way or the other, the Electoral Process would have failed to satisfy the people's aspirations.

**Table3.** *The Zambia Army should not be involved because they can carry out a coup d'état instead of fostering National Security*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	DISAGREE	17	56.7	56.7	56.7
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	13	43.3	43.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Results in table 3 are on the statement that the Zambia Army should not be involved because they can carry out a coup d'état instead of fostering National Security. The majority of the participants 17 (56.7%) disagreed and 13 (43.3%) strongly disagreed that the Zambia Army should not be involved because they can carry out a coup d'état instead of fostering National Security. The results meant that the Zambia Army should not be involved because they can carry out a coup d'état instead of fostering National Security.

Carey and Reynolds (2011) in their study agree that the Army in south Africa is used in the Electoral Process in areas where Security is volatile like Soweto and others. These are areas where the Police are undermined, and the places have gangs who are armed. The presence of the Army makes the gangs and other notorious groups to behave themselves and the Elections becomes peaceful. The church also supports the involvement of the south African Army in such areas where crime is high as their presence make the citizens vote without intimidation. The Zambian Security personnel with the help of the Army have also managed to deliver a credible Election through Security check in areas of concern. This should continue to happen so that people can live in peace in the Country.

**3.2. Possible roles of the Zambia Army in fostering National Security before, during and Immediately after Elections in Zambia**

*3.2.1. Protecting the Constitution*

The study participants indicated that the major role which the Zambia Army has to play is to ensure that they foster peace and National Security is the continuous protection of the constitution of Zambia. One participant said:

As you know, our mandate as Army is to ensure that the constitution is protected by all cost. This is making sure that the rights and overall peace of all citizens is guaranteed in the nation where movement should be free. During the Elections, we do not take sides and we shall never take sides because our loyalty is to the people of Zambia and not to an office whose occupant can change and at any time.

Another participant added that:

Our constitutional role is peace keeping for all citizens so that every person is free to conduct their daily activities in the Country during and after Elections. We ensure all the human rights and freedoms are looked into in such cases so that no one complains. As Army, we protect the nation as a whole from internal and external threats. This role starts where the role of the Police ends. This mean that the Army can come down to help the Police in maintaining law and order according to the constitution of the land.

Okpotor (2015) agree to the findings by indicating that the Army have the mandate to keep peace in the nation through the constitution and they have to provide guidance to the Police on how to deal with violence during and after Elections in the Country. It was also noted that the Army should ensure that the constitutional rights and freedoms of the citizens are protected by politicians and their supporters by being respectful to humanity and the decisions they make. The Army ensures all the human rights and freedoms are looked into in such cases so that no one complains. The Army protect the nation as a whole from internal and external threats. This role of the Zambia Army in this case starts where the role of the Police ends. This is in fact the overarching role they play in addition to the other secondary roles such as Aid to the civil Authorities in case of disasters and natural calamities.

### **3.2.2. Supporting the Police's Presence in Violence Prone Areas**

The other role that the Zambia can play in fostering national peace and Security is to ensure that they support the Zambia Police in areas and regions where violence is the order of the day. Participant established that some areas in the Country always have bloodshed during Elections and the presence of the Police does not stop such violence. The church said:

There is need for the Army to support the Police in areas and shanty compounds where the citizens do not respect the presence of the Police. Areas like Chibolya, Kanyama and some parts of Mandevu. I feel the Army need to come in once in a while to offer Security assistance to the Police so that the citizens are protected.

The ECZ added that:

The presence of the Army provides a bigger role in the provision of Security as much as the Police are also present. The citizens and cadres behave normally when they see the presence of the Army or even they are told that the Police are working together with the Army to provide Security. Previously, we have been seeking services of the Army to patrol compounds like Chawama, Matero and Kanyama where levels of violence are higher. This has helped improve the Security situation in such areas and this is the role we would like the Army to continue playing.

The findings are in tandem with Reif (2014) who established that some electoral violence resulted into the Army being brought in to stop it as the state Police failed to do so for various reasons according to the Country's constitutions. He argued that the electoral credibility in most African countries leads the Country to have violence free Electoral Process which also strengthen the position of the Police and enable the Army to only provide support where need arises. The Zambia Army should then continue providing back up support to the Police in areas perceived to be notorious to the public so that the public can be protected. Such measures will enable the citizens continue enjoying their freedoms and be able to vote in peace like ever before.

Meanwhile, the Army also indicated that they had a constitutional obligation to support the Police and the ECZ in ensuring that the Elections are peaceful by all means. One participant said:

I have to mention that we have been working with the Police to ensure that the communities do not experience violence and other bad vices during the Elections and after. We have always rehearsed with the ECZ and the Police on where we can make patrols according to the Security



intelligence gathered at that particular time. We have made routine patrols in Kanyama, the notorious Chibolya and other townships where violence is prevalent in the city. This role has helped the Security situation to stabilize and have credible and peaceful Election.

Another participant added that:

We have collaborated in the provision of Security with the Police to make sure the Country is at peace and not threatened by any violent activities. The Police have been used of course to make sure that Electoral Process is smooth and peaceful and where they feel they need our support, that is when we come in because we are always on standby every time and any time.

Ngah (2016) consent that the violence which escalated from the small portions of incidences resulted into the government failing to take control and the Army bringing about unrest in the country and a topple of the Government through the Army. Therefore, it was concluded that failure by Police to handle such pockets of violence brings mass unrests and in most western countries, this has become a chance for Military takeover which all countries should avoid at all costs. It is the reason that the Zambian electoral body has been providing solutions to such by engaging the Zambia Army early enough and be able to collaborate with Police. Such measures have resulted into the citizens have faith in the Security wings and be able to enjoy their freedoms without intimidation.

### *3.2.3. Providing Logistical Support to the ECZ*

The other role which was seen to be provided by the Zambia Army in fostering National Security before, during and immediately after Elections in Zambia was that of logistical support to the ECZ. Participants felt that the Zambia Army should continue assisting the ECZ with transport whenever they are called upon to ensure the Election is successful. The church said:

I have to mention here that the collaboration that exist between the ECZ and the Zambia Army should continue because they help in smooth delivery of democracy effectively. The land transport in impassable roads, the water as well as air transport should continue because without them, some areas would not conduct Elections. We just pray that the constitutional inclusiveness of the Army can be extended to also consider in townships where violence is beyond the Police. If this clause is well written, the Army would be of help to the nation and its electoral system.

These findings are in agreement with Dayton Peace Accords (1995) who revealed that in addition to providing a secure environment for the Elections, IFOR assisted with planning, logistics and communications. IFOR helped in identifying, mapping and checking Security at over 4,600 polling stations in the delivery and subsequent collection of Election materials and ballot papers; in the distribution of absentee ballot papers; and in the deployment and transportation of supervisors and observers. Providing logistical support to the ECZ has been a mandate for the Zambia Army and this could continue to ensure all is set or the Election period.

The Army also noted that the partnership that exist between the Army and the ECZ should not be limited to logistical provision and support like transport during the Election period because these have been long time cooperations. One participant said:

The Army has been providing its vehicles, boats and helicopters to the ECZ to ensure all areas in the Country are serviced during Elections. This has enabled the ECZ to deliver Elections at the same time countrywide.

Another participant added that:

I think we have said all that was supposed to be said but we still have to mention that we have made enough logistical preparation like for this Election. We have fuel on standby and we also have a number of our vehicles to come in and help the ECZ when they need us during this Election. So, we have prepared logistics to help in the coming Election. This is part of our mandate according to the constitution.

Farhan (2013) supports these findings in the study when he stated that it was decided that 70,000 troops were positioned throughout Pakistan to carry out Election-related duties, including the provision of Security and maintaining law and order and they also provided transport to ensure the Electoral Process was not tempered with by anyone. The Pakistan Army also played a crucial role to

prevent fraudulent acts of tampering with ballot papers by supervising the whole printing process. and provided transport, Security to storage houses, circulation of ballot papers, during counting and transported the poll staff and electoral materials to the totalling centres. Other countries also like Benin and many others have the Army provide logistical support just like the Zambian Army. This help in making the people be comfortable with the results since they have trust in the Army than the Police.

#### *3.2.4. Help provide Security Intelligence on Peace in the Country*

The other role that the Zambia Army played in fostering National Security before, during and immediately after Elections in Zambia was in the provision of Security intelligence to the Security wings and also to the ECZ on the situation in the Country. One participant said:

As the Army, we have made sure that we have provided the intelligence needed for the nation to have credible Elections. This data we provide is in addition to what other Security wings also provide to ensure that the Country is not put on fire by few individuals.

Another participant added that:

We cannot mention of course the type of intelligence, but we just have to make it known that we help in such areas as well to ensure all the places, boarder crossings and especially boarder towns are not affected by the influx of foreigners to either destabilise our nation or even to vote as part of rigging tactics.

The findings are similar to Farhan (2013) who established that the Pakistan Army understood the fragile state of Security in the Country and offered unconditional assistance to the electoral commission of Pakistani (ECP) after gathering enough intelligence on the happenings in different parts of the Country. In response to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) about the Security challenges faced by the ECP, the Pakistan Army amended the Security plan in order to deploy troops to the sensitive polling stations. Such intelligence provided by the Army help the Police to act swiftly and quell any suspected gathering which may bring about violence in the Country. Such collaborations have made the Country continue to deal with early signs of violence through being ahead of such plans.

The study findings also established that the Zambia Army provided national intelligence especially to the ECZ and other Stakeholders on the boarder crossings because they have permanent presence of their troops in these areas. This is specifically boarder towns to ensure that Elections are not affected by the influx of foreigners to either destabilise our nation or even to vote as part of rigging tactics. Okolo (2015) concur with the findings that of more concern is that the movement of people across permeable borders in the region could lead to post-Election violence starting in-Country, but then stretching all the way to various borders with neighbouring states. Scenes like these happened in Côte d'Ivoire in 2008, where running battles sparked by contestations about Election results were fought up to the country's borders with Burkina Faso, and in Rwanda, where *génocidaires* instigated clashes to settle scores right up to the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The role of the Army is to make sure that National Security is tight through the boarder crossings in boarder towns so that there is no illegal smuggling of weapons among others. The people in the Country should be more active and safer to deter any bad and unplanned unrest by selfish motivated individuals.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

They have a role to play in the Security of the nation during the Election period and they respect that calling any time. The ECZ had always engaged the Army using the correct procedure and they came on board to help out. But they do not go beyond our deployment plan as it may intimidate the citizens and Zambia is not a failed state for the Army to take over Electoral Processes. It can be concluded that the Stakeholders were sceptical in engaging the Zambia Army while the Zambia Army only engaged itself according to the constitutional mandate which guides their conduct and level of engagement. The study concludes that the Zambia Army provided national intelligence especially to the ECZ and other Stakeholders on the boarder crossings. This is specifically boarder towns to ensure that Elections are not affected by the influx of foreigners to either destabilise our nation or even to vote as part of rigging tactics. It can be concluded that the current roles are important to the progress of the electoral act and the Army has worked within its mandate to achieve logistical and other support to make the Election credible.

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