

KerrentEvents

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“The Best Election News”



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Dear Friends:

They said the chances of the incumbent losing this election were very slim. Despite a very dubious record and something like “fiscal wreckitude.” No one gave the opposition much of a chance.

Yet the people of Zambia had different ideas. They turned out in large numbers to turn Edgar Lungu and his Patriotic Front government out of office last week-end. Fortunately the vote was so one-sided there were no grounds to cry foul. This was a free and fair -- and decisive! -- election in a young African democracy!

So it didn't take long for the outgoing president to make a gracious concession speech: "Based on the revelation of the ECZ final results, I will comply with the constitutional provisions for a peaceful transition of power." The now former president congratulated Hakainde Hichilema, who he referred to as his “brother,” with the title “*President-elect*.”

"I want to thank you, Zambian people, for giving me a great opportunity to be your president. I will forever cherish that authority you vested in me." On his part, President-elect Hichilema said there would be no reciprocating for the ill-treatment he had received from the PF government. "There will be no tear gassing or jail terms," he said with a smile. Perseverance is one of HH's dominant qualities -- finally winning in his 5th presidential campaign! "Our Christian nation will continue to hold to our principles." Then they shared a social occasion and posed for a few outgoing photos.



It was a great moment for Zambia, to be sure. Not just because the former government was ripe for removal after "six years of alleged human rights abuses, corruption, a failing economy and massive unemployment." But because the election was exemplary and even a poster child for how democracy should function. Indeed, Zambia provided a lesson, not just to the backward, paranoid world of totalitarians, but to the great western democracies as well. Contesting election results gives democratic process a black eye. Magnanimity in defeat brings out the best in everyone.

Our students are among those most elated with the results. One of them writes, "I think that things are beginning to normalize here in Zambia, especially with the coming in of a new Government (UPND), there seems to be a lot of reforms in many different areas." Another posts, "This feels like a wedding day!" On WhatsApp we read, "Congratulations to us Zambians. Now they

know we got the power to Hire and Fire."

We join with our students in looking forward to a very good season ahead. And getting back to campus! It's not a sure thing quite yet, with daily infection rates standing at 600 and much concern with the Delta variant...

But if HH can win the election, most anything is possible!

"The Lord bless and keep you."

John & Ruth

