



UNITED PARTY FOR  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# MANIFESTO

## 2026

ZAMBIA **FORWARD**  
**TOGETHER**

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VOTE UPND FOR MORE JOBS, CONTINUED ECONOMIC  
GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## **A MESSAGE TO THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE: MOVING ZAMBIA FORWARD, TOGETHER**

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### **Fellow Citizens,**

When we asked for your trust five years ago, we did so with a clear vision: to fix the country, rebuild a better economy, and bring real and lasting change. We saw the challenges confronting our nation, and we knew that together we could build something better.

Today, looking across our great country, we can say with humility and pride — Zambia is moving forward, together.

While the road has been difficult, we have turned the corner, and the signs of progress are visible everywhere.

We committed to investing in our children — and today, free education is a reality for every child in Zambia. We are committed to restoring order — and today, our markets, bus stations, workplaces and communities are free from the cadre violence that blighted public life just a few years ago. We committed to empowering our communities — and we have delivered record Constituency Development Fund support and new jobs across the country.

We began by laying the foundations for change. Progress is real. You trusted us to follow the process, and today those foundations are strong enough for us to begin realising the full potential of our great nation. Yet this is only the beginning. There is so much more to do.

This Manifesto sets out our commitments for the next five years — the next chapter of our shared journey towards a better and more prosperous Zambia. Just as we delivered on free education, peaceful streets and empowered communities, the commitments contained herein are not merely words on paper; they are concrete deliverables we are making to you, the Zambian people.

Together, we will build a stronger economy, create new jobs, ease the cost of living and expand opportunities so that every Zambian can share in the progress we are making. This Manifesto presents an ambitious jobs agenda, underwritten by sound economic management, stable policies and lower costs of doing business. By continuing to implement steady reforms, we will raise productivity and transform the economy. We are acutely aware of the daily pressures and the pain of high prices that many families and businesses still face. We are committed to lightening those burdens — whilst also unlocking the great untapped potential in every community, amongst our women and men, our boys and girls.

Through this Manifesto, we recommit ourselves to a strengthened social contract with the Zambian people — one that places citizens at the centre of every decision, as an expression of our deep concern for the burdens each person carries and our firm belief in the power of collective effort.

With continued unity, patience and hard work, we will achieve the lasting progress, peace and prosperity our country has always deserved. Let us therefore join hands and commit to working as One Zambia, One Nation,

**Hakainde Hichilema**

President of the Republic of Zambia

# OUR VISION AND MISSION

## OUR VISION

A united, inclusive, prosperous and equitable Zambia

## OUR MISSION

To empower Zambians by harnessing our resources for transformative economic growth and sustainable development.

# OUR VALUES AND GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

These are not just words. They guide how we govern: with unity, humility, discipline, accountability and love for the Zambian people.

## OUR VALUES & GOVERNING PRINCIPLES



HARD WORK



EQUITY



RIGHTS & FREEDOMS



TRANSPARENCY



UNITY IN DIVERSITY



ACCOUNTABILITY



INTEGRITY



SOCIAL JUSTICE

These are not just words. They guide how we govern: with unity, humility, discipline, accountability and love for the Zambian people.

# RELIGION, THE FAMILY AND THE STATE

Zambia is strongest when families are strong, communities are peaceful, and every citizen is treated with dignity and respect. The UPND Government will preserve Zambia's Christian heritage whilst firmly protecting freedom of religion for all — promoting unity in diversity, dignity and equal treatment under the law.

We recognise the family unit as the first school for good morals, values, discipline and responsibility. Government policy will actively support family unity, promote family-friendly workplaces, strengthen social protection for vulnerable households, and ensure that public institutions respect and safeguard the stability of families.

## UPND GOVERNMENT - KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2021 - 2026

The first UPND term was about rescue, repair and rebuilding our country's foundations. The next term is about delivery at scale: more jobs, lower costs, and better lives for Zambian families

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
Free Education: 2.5 million learners returned to school	Global Credibility: Zambia restored to full international credibility
Peace Restored: Cadre violence eliminated; public spaces reclaimed	Jobs: Tens of thousands of teachers and health workers hired
Debt Restructured: IMF programme completed	Single-Digit Inflation: Inflation reduced to single digits
Record CDF: Historic expansion of the Constituency Development Fund	Best Grade 12 results in Zambia's history

## UPND Agenda - 15 Clear Targets

 <p><b>Jobs and Opportunity</b></p>	01 Create 2 million new jobs by in the coming years, with a deliberate focus on youth and women
	02 More than double TEVET enrolment, supporting 100,000+ young people with industry-linked training
	03 Position Zambia as a regional manufacturing and industrial powerhouse
 <p><b>Food, Farming and Lower Costs</b></p>	04 Position Zambia as a regional manufacturing and industrial powerhouse
	05 Raise maize production to 10 million metric tonnes; wheat and soya beans to 1 million MT each
	06 Bring 500,000 additional hectares under irrigation and modernise agriculture
 <p><b>Power, Growth and Industry</b></p>	07 Target US\$1 billion per year in beef exports and grow the cattle herd to 11 million
	08 Double the size of Zambia's economy (GDP) creating stability, prosperity and jobs
	09 Expand electricity generation from around 3,400 MW to over 10,000 MW
 <p><b>Opportunities in Every Province</b></p>	10 Grow copper production to 3 million metric tonnes by 2031
	11 Establish a public university in every province
	12 Strengthen decentralisation so growth reaches every province and district
 <p><b>Cleaner, Faster Government</b></p>	13 Designate a specialist economic identity for each province
	14 Digitise government services, national identity, land registry, business registration and tax administration
	15 Advance economic diplomacy, making Zambia a preferred investment destination

## PILLAR 1: GROWING THE ECONOMY

Jobs • Skills • Entrepreneurship • Agriculture • Mining • Manufacturing • Tourism



JOBS & SKILLS



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY



MINING & MINERALS



ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION



TOURISM



MANUFACTURING & DISTRIBUTION

### Jobs, Skills and Entrepreneurship

The next phase of Zambia's development will be defined by one overriding priority: jobs, skills and enterprise for our people. In partnership with the Zambian private sector, the UPND Government will work to create two million new jobs by 2031, driven by investment, skills and enterprise across every sector and every province.

Over 100,000 students in universities, TEVET institutions and professional colleges will receive training support through industry-linked programmes. Every beneficiary will be linked to a work placement, internship or enterprise opportunity. Entrepreneurship will be a national pillar for job creation — including establishing a Youth Enterprise Growth Fund. Youth- and women-owned businesses will be accorded preferential access to public procurement.

### Agriculture, Agri-Business, Food Security and Rural Prosperity

Agriculture sits at the heart of our economy and at the centre of family life. Zambia has the land, water, climate and people needed to become a regional food basket. Key targets include:

- Maize production to 10 million MT (including 3M MT under irrigation)
- Wheat: 1 million MT; Soya beans: 3 million MT
- 500,000 additional hectares under irrigation
- Cattle herd to 11 million head; beef exports of US\$1bn per year by 2031

The UPND Government shall mobilise capital and create enabling policies to increase agricultural production by investing in agro-processing hubs, storage facilities and market infrastructure in every province, turning agricultural output into lasting economic value for farmers and communities.

### Mining and Mineral Development

The mining sector will remain a key catalyst for Zambia's economic transformation, with a target of 3 million metric tonnes of copper production by 2031 — more than tripling current output. Beyond copper, a homegrown Critical Minerals Strategy will prioritise value addition and domestic processing of gold, cobalt, lithium, nickel and rare earth elements.

### Manufacturing

With eight countries bordering Zambia and approximately 300 million consumers within its immediate neighbourhood, the country is poised to become the next great manufacturing centre in Africa. The UPND Government will review tax regimes, create minimal bureaucracy, leverage AfCFTA, COMESA and SADC, and invest in industrial parks with reliable power, water and digital connectivity.

### Tourism

UPND policies increased tourist arrivals by over 300% between 2021 and 2025. The Government will grow tourism into a USD 2 billion-plus sector attracting over 5 million visitors by 2031, develop Zambia into a regional aviation hub, and intensify country branding and marketing campaigns.

## PILLAR 2: CONNECTING THE NATION

Energy Security • Infrastructure • Digital Economy • Connectivity



Energy Security



Infrastructure



Digital Economy



Connectivity

### Expanding National Power Capacity

Working with the private sector, the UPND Government will increase electricity generation capacity to support rapid growth across industries including mining, agriculture and tourism. This will involve diversifying the energy mix across all sources of power generation. The UPND Government will drive this expansion through:

- Large-scale solar generation projects across the country
- Expansion of hydropower capacity
- Development of wind and other renewable energy sources
- Accelerated private sector investment in new power generation projects
- Promotion of thermal power plant development

Rural electrification will be central to inclusive development — prioritising Rural Growth Centres, farming blocks, schools, health facilities and water systems.

### Infrastructure, Connectivity and National Productivity

Zambia's next phase of development requires infrastructure that directly supports production, trade and investment. Key programmes include:

- Upgrade key national road corridors linking mining regions, agricultural zones and export markets
- Rehabilitate and expand key rail networks, increasing freight capacity for mineral and agricultural exports
- Strengthen regional rail corridors linking Zambia to international ports — the Lobito and Nacala Corridors
- Modernise border infrastructure to accelerate regional trade flows
- Invest in solar-powered water pumping systems and upgrade water infrastructure to reduce non-revenue water

### Digital Economy

Zambia's digital economy is growing rapidly, with mobile network operators now covering over 95% of the population. The UPND Government will deliver:

E-GOVERNMENT	DIGITAL INCLUSION
All Government services on Zamportal	Mobile Money expansion nationwide
National Digital Transformation Policy	Village Banking services in rural areas
Artificial Intelligence Strategy	Content creators enabled to monetise their work
Faster, transparent, lower-cost public services	Smart Village Programme: 100+ rural communities

## PILLAR 3: SERVING THE PEOPLE

Cost of Living • Health • Education • Water • Housing • Social Protection



COST OF LIVING



HEALTH



EDUCATION



WATER



HOUSING



SOCIAL PROTECTION

### Cost of Living and Living Standards

We hear the cry of families struggling with the cost of living clearly. The next phase of our shared development will make life more affordable, ensure incomes hold their value, and make the family economy stronger. The long-term answer is not dependency — it is more family members in decent, productive work. We commit to:

- Fostering stabilisation and modernisation of food and essential commodity markets
- Facilitating increased agricultural productivity at scale through irrigation, reliable inputs and improved agro-processing
- Sustaining disciplined macroeconomic management to keep inflation low and stable, protecting purchasing power
- Enabling private sector investments in energy, transport and ICT to reduce the cost of doing business and everyday life
- Protecting the most vulnerable through strengthened social protection

#### Education

Government will safeguard and strengthen free education so that no child is denied the right to learn because of poverty. We will expand classroom infrastructure, recruit additional teachers and improve the quality of learning. Government will transform technical and vocational education — establishing employer-led centres of excellence and ensuring every graduate has a clear pathway into employment, internship or entrepreneurship. A public university will be established in every province.

#### Health

Government will continue strengthening Zambia's health system by expanding access to health services, building localised infrastructure, recruiting medical personnel and ensuring the consistent availability of essential medicines. Prevention and healthy living will receive greater emphasis, with particular focus on non-communicable diseases. Maternal and child health remains a national priority — accelerating efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.

Water, Sanitation and Housing

Access to clean water and safe sanitation is a fundamental human right. The UPND Government will expand water supply infrastructure, protect water sources and strengthen sanitation systems in both rural and urban communities. More affordable, well-planned and properly serviced housing development will be facilitated through public-private partnerships.

### Inclusion: Women, Youth and People Living with Disabilities

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
Actively work to increase women in leadership positions	Expand real pathways from education to economic life
Strengthen legal protections for women	Youth Fellowship Programme — work experience and soft skills
Support women-owned enterprises to grow	Entrepreneurship as a national pillar for job creation
Remove barriers to accessing land, finance, and markets	Youth-owned businesses: preferential public procurement access

## PILLAR 4: A CAPABLE PUBLIC SECTOR

Strong Institutions • Rule of Law • Accountable Government • Decentralisation • Foreign Affairs



### Strong Institutions, Safe Communities and Accountable Government

Since 2021, the UPND Government has restored order and rebuilt confidence in the rule of law. Cadreism has been significantly reduced, and we commit to eliminating it entirely. The next phase will deepen and institutionalise governance reforms — fostering a 'triangle of hope': political will, private sector dynamism and public sector efficiency working together.

Over the next five years, the UPND Government will further strengthen democratic institutions and reinforce the rule of law, including:

- Revising the Public Order Act to guarantee freedom of assembly whilst maintaining public safety
- Strengthening the independence and operational capacity of the Judiciary and the Anti-Corruption Commission
- Expanding digital procurement and transparency systems to reduce corruption
- Strengthening the autonomy and capacity of the Electoral Commission of Zambia
- Enacting the Business Facilitation Act, empowering the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA)

#### Public Safety

Families must feel safe in their homes, communities and workplaces. The UPND Government will modernise policing by investing in modern investigative technology and forensic capabilities, strengthening community policing, expanding street lighting and safe public transport, and increasing police staffing in high-crime areas. Gender-based violence remains one of the gravest threats to the dignity and security of women and families. Government will strengthen enforcement of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, expand survivor support services and establish fast-track courts for GBV cases.

### Foreign Affairs and Economic Diplomacy

Our foreign policy rests on two key anchors: peace, security and stability as the foundation for development; and economic diplomacy as the engine for growth and partnership. The UPND Government will:

- Commit to maintaining cordial, peaceful and non-aligned international relations for mutual benefit
- Assert and advance Zambia's leadership within COMESA, SADC, the African Union and the United Nations
- Advance an open, investor-friendly visa and entry policy, positioning Zambia as a welcoming destination
- Position Zambian diplomatic missions as active economic and commercial platforms
- Strengthen consular services to encompass labour mobility support and diaspora investment mobilisation

### Delivery Accountability: A Renewed Social Contract

The commitments in this Manifesto are deliverables that will be met through disciplined execution, measurable targets and clear public accountability. Our delivery approach is anchored on four pillars:

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### 1. CLEAR GOALS

All major commitments translated into specific, measurable targets with clear timelines and responsible institutions

### 2. PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS

Senior officials operate under performance contracts tied directly to national priorities and sector targets

### 3. EFFECTIVE COORDINATION

Cabinet Office, Presidential Delivery Unit and PPDF streamlined to operate as one coherent national delivery system

### 4. DECENTRALISATION

Local authorities supported with stronger planning capacity, financial management and transparency

# GREEN ECONOMY, SPORTS AND CREATIVE ARTS

## Green Economy and Environment

The UPND Government prioritises the effective and sustainable use of Zambia's natural environment. We are committed to facilitating support for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change through low-carbon development pathways. Agriculture and energy policies will embed climate-smart practices, renewable energy and efficient irrigation — building a resilient economy that does not come at the expense of our natural heritage.

Zambia is richly endowed with natural resources — forests, wildlife, water systems and biodiversity — that underpin tourism, agriculture and the wellbeing of our communities. The UPND Government will strengthen environmental governance, invest in conservation and ensure that economic development does not come at the cost of the natural assets that sustain our people and our future. We will work with international partners to access climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building to support Zambia's low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathway.





## Sports

Zambia is globally recognised for the prowess of its outstanding sportsmen and women. Building on this proud tradition, the UPND Government will:

- In collaboration with the private sector and other key stakeholders, mobilise investment to develop a wider range of sports to international standards, beyond Zambia's traditional areas of excellence
- Strengthen ministerial talent identification teams and improve youth training facilities
- Increase funding, and encourage private sector collaboration, to support sporting activities and provide community-level sporting facilities
- Use tax incentives to stimulate private sector investment in sports, tourism and creative arts infrastructure

## Creative Arts

A thriving creative economy creates jobs, generates wealth and empowers young Zambians to build careers in film, music and the arts. The UPND Government will:

- In partnership with the private sector, establish a streaming and digital management platform for Zambian content creators
- Strengthen the institutional framework for the film, music and dance industries so that the creative sector can grow itself and create sustainable employment
- Enable content creators to monetise their work — fostering a new generation of Zambian innovators and digital entrepreneurs who can compete regionally and globally

## PILLAR 5: FINANCING OUR FUTURE

Capital Markets - Public-Private Partnerships - Strategic Investments - Regional Integration



CAPITAL MARKETS



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS



REGIONAL INTEGRATION

### Strong Institutions, Safe Communities and Accountable Government

To achieve the ambitious targets outlined in our first four pillars, Zambia requires robust financial engines and collaborative investment models.

The next phase of our national transformation will unlock the immense potential of our capital markets and leverage the operational dynamism of the private sector through highly structured Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). We are committed to moving beyond traditional state funding to build a globally competitive, investment-led economy.

#### Capital Markets Development

Deepening our capital markets is essential for long-term domestic wealth creation and securing the massive capital required for Zambia's industrialisation.



## The UPND Government will:

**Deepen Local Bourses:** Modernise the regulatory framework to encourage more corporate and SME listings, improving liquidity and allowing ordinary Zambians to own stakes in highly profitable enterprises.

**Strategic Equity Participation:** Promote citizen empowerment by facilitating broader retail and institutional participation in state-owned enterprises and strategic investment holding companies, ensuring that the wealth generated from our natural resources, among other strategic sectors directly benefits the Zambian people.

**Innovative Financing Instruments:** Introduce and scale green bonds and sustainability-linked financial products to fund climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, low-carbon development, and specialised agribusiness ventures.



## Fostering Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Government alone cannot build the infrastructure required to double the size of our economy. By working hand-in-hand with private capital and technical experts, we will accelerate project delivery across key strategic sectors:

**Energy Infrastructure:** Mobilise private capital to rapidly scale large solar power pipelines, thermal power plants, and commercial grid-scale energy storage systems. This collaborative approach will definitively address regional power deficits and guarantee the 10,000+ MW capacity needed to power our mines and industries.

**Transport & Trade Corridors:** Accelerate PPP concessions to upgrade and revitalise critical freight and rail networks. By prioritising strategic transport links such as the Lobito Corridor and the TAZARA railway, we will position Zambia as the premier logistics hub for Southern Africa, drastically lowering the cost of cross-border trade.

**Mining & Mineral Processing:** Foster strategic joint ventures and aligned investment models to aggressively drive towards our 3 million metric tonnes copper target and beyond. Leveraging on our high resolution geophysical survey, PPPs will be utilised to develop new mines, domestic processing facilities, ensuring optimal tax revenue and local value addition.

By securing smart capital and building durable partnerships, we will ensure that every developmental target is fully funded, professionally executed, and built to last.

# THE FIVE PILLARS: A COHERENT PROGRAMME FOR ZAMBIA'S TRANSFORMATION

The UPND Agenda 2031 is structured around four pillars that together address every dimension of Zambia's development. These pillars form a coherent and mutually reinforcing programme for national transformation.

<b>PILLAR 1</b>	<b>GROWING THE ECONOMY</b> Jobs creation, agricultural transformation, mining expansion, manufacturing and tourism.
<b>PILLAR 2</b>	<b>CONNECTING THE NATION</b> Energy security, infrastructure and the digital economy that make growth possible.
<b>PILLAR 3</b>	<b>SERVING THE PEOPLE</b> Lower cost of living, stronger health and education systems, housing, water and social protection.
<b>PILLAR 4</b>	<b>A CAPABLE PUBLIC SECTOR</b> Institutions, accountability frameworks, governance systems and foreign policy that underpin everything else.
<b>PILLAR 5</b>	<b>FINANCING OUR FUTURE</b> Capital markets development, public-private partnerships, strategic investments and regional integration to fully fund national transformation.

## KEY TARGETS AT A GLANCE

ECONOMIC TARGETS	SOCIAL & DEVELOPMENT TARGETS
2 million new jobs by 2031	100,000+ TEVET students supported
10,000+ MW electricity generation	500,000 ha additional under irrigation
10 million MT maize production	Public university in every province
3 million MT copper production	100+ rural Smart Village connections
US\$1 billion per year beef exports	All Govt. services on Zamportal by 2031
5 million tourists by 2031	GDP doubled by 2031

# FINAL THOUGHTS: MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

Five years ago, Zambia was in crisis. Today, Zambia is stable, respected and moving forward.

But the job is not finished. There is still much work to be done. Globally, life is still hard for many families and Zambia is no exception. Too many young people are still searching for opportunities and we will not rest until every member of every household feels the benefit of Zambia's growth and development.

That is why this next chapter in Zambia's story matters so much.

**The task before us is clear: turn stability into opportunity, growth into jobs, and national progress into better lives for every Zambian.**



We have the resolve, discipline and capability to grow agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism and enterprise — and to make sure that progress reaches families, communities and young people across the country.

We pledge to govern with humility, discipline and love for the people we serve.

Zambia's future will not be built by Government alone. It will be built by farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, teachers, miners, innovators, young people and families across this nation.

We have started the change.

Now let us finish the job — together.

Together, we will create more jobs.

Together, we will reduce the cost of living.

Together, we will build a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Zambia.

**Bally loves. Bally cares. Bally delivers.**

MOVING ZAMBIA  
FORWARD, TOGETHER

**VOTE UPND 2026**

**THERE IS MORE WORK  
TO BE DONE.**

VOTE UPND 2026