



Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Empowering Women in Politics: Unleashing Our Potential

[Lusaka, October 2, 2023] - Today, as young women aspiring for leadership roles in politics, we stand united to send a resounding message to all women in politics and women in political leadership: it's time to grow our competence and skills.

In a world that's constantly evolving, politics is no exception. As we step onto this path towards political leadership, we recognize that the power to change the Zambia lies within us. It's not enough to just be present in the political arena; we must be effective, influential, and visionary.

We acknowledge the trailblazing women who have paved the way for us, breaking barriers, and shattering glass ceilings. Their determination and courage inspire us to seize every opportunity and embrace every challenge that comes our way. But we also understand that the journey to equity and equality is far from over. We must continue the fight, not just for representation, but for substantive leadership that brings about positive change.

Our core message today is as follows.

1. It starts with competence and skills. We must be well-versed in the intricacies of governance, economics, diplomacy, and social issues. We must strive to be experts in our chosen fields, capable of understanding and tackling the complex problems our societies face. Knowledge is our most potent weapon, and we are committed to sharpening it relentlessly.
2. Mentorship is key. We call upon women already in leadership positions to reach out and guide the next generation. Share your wisdom, provide opportunities, and create spaces for us to learn and grow. Together, we can bridge the generational gap and build a strong network of female leaders.
3. We urge all women who wish to take up leadership spaces to take advantage of the many development opportunities that are presented by NGO's. We further urge political parties and organizations to invest in training and development programs tailored for women in politics. These programs should address the unique challenges we face, from navigating gender biases to managing work-life balance. Investing in us is an investment in a brighter, more equitable future.
4. Empowerment comes through collaboration. Let us collaborate across party lines, unite under common causes, and support each other's endeavors. Together, we can amplify our voices and drive meaningful change.



5. It's time to embrace technology. The digital age offers us unprecedented tools to engage with constituents, share our vision, and mobilize support. We must harness the power of social media, data analytics, and online campaigning to connect with a diverse and tech-savvy electorate.

In conclusion, the call to action is clear. Women in politics and women in political leadership, let's rise to the occasion. Let's strive for excellence, empower each other, and use our positions of influence to uplift all women. Together, we can build a Zambia where gender equity is not just a dream but a reality.

Join us on this journey as we grow our competence and skills, because when women lead, we all win.

Thank you for watching and listening in.

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About Young Women in Politics Network (YOWOP)

YOWOP is a dynamic network of young women from academia, civil society and political parties who are aspiring and serving in leadership roles here in Zambia. Its primary objective is to amplify the voices of young women in the political landscape creating a platform for them to actively participate in decision-making processes and policy formulation. Our goal is to bridge the gender gap in politics, not only by increasing representation but also by equipping young women with skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to lead effectively. The YOWOP network is currently hosted by the Center for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA) Zambia.

About The Center for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA) Zambia

CYLA -Zambia is a non-governmental organization that champions the inclusion and representation of young people in political parties and decision-making spaces at all levels. Our vision is to see a Zambia in which empowered young political leaders, advance social transformation, peaceful coexistence, and the consolidation of multiparty democracy.

To achieve our vision, we advocate, educate, and inspire young people to effect meaningful change at grassroots, national and regional levels. For more information, please visit www.cylazambia.org.

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