

## Title: Decentralizing Politics: Fostering Inclusive Decision-Making in Zambia through Depoliticization

1. Introduction: The commercialization of politics poses a significant barrier to inclusive decision-making in Zambia, undermining democratic principles and perpetuating inequalities. This project proposes to tackle this issue by promoting depoliticization and decentralization of political processes, creating opportunities for more inclusive and transparent decision-making.
2. Background:
  - Commercial interests, patronage networks, and financial incentives often overshadow the democratic ideals of representation and public service in Zambia's political landscape. This leads to the exclusion of marginalized groups, including youth, women, and minority communities, from decision-making processes.
  - Depoliticization involves reducing the influence of commercial interests and partisan politics in governance, prioritizing the public interest, and promoting transparency, accountability, and equity.
3. Objectives:
  - Reduce the influence of commercial interests and partisan politics in decision-making processes in Zambia.
  - Promote transparency, accountability, and equity in political governance.
  - Increase the participation of marginalized groups, including youth, women, and minority communities, in decision-making processes.
4. Strategies:
  - a. Policy Reform and Institutional Change:
    - Advocate for policy reforms to regulate campaign financing, curb corruption, and limit the influence of money in politics.
    - Lobby for the establishment of independent oversight mechanisms, such as anti-corruption agencies and electoral commissions, to ensure transparency and accountability in political processes.
  - b. Civic Education and Awareness:
    - Conduct civic education campaigns to raise awareness about the negative impacts of commercialization in politics and the importance of depoliticization.
    - Provide training and capacity building programs to empower citizens to demand transparency, accountability, and integrity from political leaders and institutions.
  - c. Strengthening Civil Society and Media:

- Support the capacity building of civil society organizations and media outlets to promote investigative journalism, advocacy, and watchdog functions.
- Facilitate partnerships between civil society, media, and grassroots organizations to monitor political processes, expose corruption, and advocate for reforms.

d. Community Engagement and Empowerment:

- Foster dialogue and collaboration between communities, local leaders, and political representatives to identify priorities, address grievances, and co-create solutions.
- Empower marginalized groups, including youth, women, and minority communities, to participate in decision-making processes and hold political leaders accountable for their actions.

5. Expected Outcomes:

- Reduced influence of commercial interests and partisan politics in decision-making processes.
- Strengthened transparency, accountability, and integrity in political governance.
- Increased participation and representation of marginalized groups in political processes, leading to more inclusive and equitable decision-making.

6. Implementation Plan:

- Phase 1: Research and Needs Assessment (6 months)
- Phase 2: Advocacy and Policy Reform (12 months)
- Phase 3: Capacity Building and Community Empowerment (ongoing)

7. Budget:

- The budget will cover expenses related to research, advocacy campaigns, capacity building workshops, civic education initiatives, community engagement activities, and administrative costs.

By depoliticizing politics and promoting inclusive decision-making, this project aims to create a more democratic, transparent, and equitable political landscape in Zambia.