

CHURCH AND POLITICS IN ZAMBIA 1950-1991

BY

MARGARET MUSONDA CHILESHE

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

LUSAKA

2014

DECLARATION

I **Margaret Musonda Chileshe** do hereby declare that this dissertation represents my own work and that it has not been previously submitted for a degree at this or any other university.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

©2014 by Margaret Musonda Chileshe. All rights reserved. No part of this dissertation may be reproduced or stored in any form or by any means without prior permission in writing from the author or the University of Zambia.

APPROVAL

This dissertation of Margaret Musonda Chileshe is approved as fulfilling the partial requirements for the award of the degree of Masters of Arts in History by the University of Zambia.

Date

Signed..... ..

Signed..... ..

Signed..... ..

ABSTRACT

The study is an investigation on how the Church was involved in the creation of democratisation of politics in Zambia up to the end of UNIP era. The term Church in this study represented the three Church mother bodies; the Christian Council of Zambia (CCZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ), and the Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC). Politics refer to the political governing bodies in the history of Zambia that used their power in public life to influence decisions which affected country; the colonial government, United Independence Party's Government and its Central Committee leadership and Parliament.

The study first focused on the introduction and historical background to the study and reviewed works by different scholars which were relevant to the study. It then went on to discuss the characteristics and activities of the colonial Church in the face of nationalism in the last decade of the colonial era before looking at how the Church-State relations changed after the attainment of independence in 1964. How the Church responded to the social (introduction of the ideology of Humanism), economic (nationalisation/Zambianisation) and political (the introduction of one-party rule) challenges brought about by black majority rule and to the crisis brought about by the Lumpa uprising have also been taken into account.

Lastly the study argued that the Church put up spirited fights when faced with challenges and brought to light the fact that the Church was a visible player in Zambia's political history and as a force behind Zambia's changing social, economic and political landscape from 1950 – 1991.

To my mother Mary Chibwe Musonda

Thank you for being supportive in prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to many people who made my study a success. I wish to thank all the lecturers in the Department of History for their academic inspiration during the course of my study at the University of Zambia. My special thanks go to Dr. W.S. Kalikiti for his timely and constructive criticism, guidance and supervision of this work without which this study would not be what it is. He was always pleasant, dedicated and hardworking. He was a major source of inspiration and a joy to work with.

My sincere thanks go to the staff of the three Church mother bodies, namely Christian Council of Zambia (CCZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ) and Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC) for their warm reception and for providing useful data. This also goes to Fr. John Moore SJ who availed very delicate archival materials and books for this study. He always made my moments of research in the Jesuits Archives educative to me as a researcher. Special thanks go to Mr. Zimba, a long serving staff of Multi-media in the printing section who also availed me with all the copies of the National Mirror Newspapers published from as far back as 1973 to 1991. This source had a lot of information on the Church political activities. To you all, I say thank you for the trust you gave me to handle and study very delicate material in your Archives.

Mention should be made of the staff at the National Archives of Zambia, the University of Zambia Library, FENZA, the National Assembly, Political National Museum and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) for their patience and tolerance during data collection. These were good sources of information for both

primary and secondary data. It is also important to mention that the Faith and Encounter Centre Library of Zambia (FENZA) has a lot of delicate memories of the past written in Cibemba and English which this research was advantaged to use.

I am also greatly indebted to the interviewees for their warm reception and for providing useful data for this study. To Dr. Lukas Soko, a lecturer at Justo Mwale Theological University College in Lusaka, Rev. Violet Musonda Sampa Bredt former Christian Council of Zambia General Secretary and all those who wished not to be mentioned. Your memories of the past have contributed to the success of this study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	iv
Dedication.....	v
Acknowledgements	vi
CHAPTER ONE	
Introduction and Historical Background.....	1
Statement of the problem.....	4
Objectives	5
Rationale.....	5
Literature Review	5
Methodology.....	13
Organisation of the study.....	13
CHAPTER TWO	
The Church in the Federation in Northern Rhodesia 1950-1963	
Introduction	18
The Federation Debate.....	19
The Varying Roles of the Church... ..	28
Political Role of the Church before the Federation.....	33
The Church in the Federation.....	38

Conclusion46

CHAPTER THREE

The Church and the First Republic 1964-1972

Introduction.....53

The Lumpa Church.....53

The Church’s Limitations and strength in the First Republic 1964–
1972.....63

The Church-State relationship in National Development.....67

The Church in National Politics.....77

The Church and Zambian Humanism as the National ideology..... 79

The Church in the Nationalisation/Zambianisation of industries.....82

The Church and 1972 Termination of Pregnancies Debates83

Conclusion.....87

CHAPTER FOUR

The Church and the Second Republic 1973-1991

Introduction.....95

The One-Party State.....96

The Church in the One-Party State.....104

The Church in the Chona Commission.....	105
The Church and Scientific Socialism.....	109
The Church in the Mass media:	114
National Mirror.....	115
<i>Icengelo</i>	118
Worker’s Challenge.....	119
Pastoral Letters/Diocesan Newsletters/Church Newsletter.....	120
The Church and the End of UNIP era.....	120
The Church Media and its coverage of Fredrick Chiluba of the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions.....	127
1990 Food Riots and the Attempted Coup.....	129
Conclusion.....	135
 CHAPTER FIVE	
Conclusion.....	143
Bibliography.....	149

ABBREVIATION

ANC.....	African National Congress
BSA Co.....	British South African Company
CCZ.....	Christian Council of Zambia
CMML.....	Christian Mission in Many Lands
ECZ.....	Electoral Commission of Zambia
EFZ.....	Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia
FENZA.....	Faith and Encounter Centre Library of Zambia
GMC.....	General Missionary Conference
GMCNR.....	General Missionary Conference of Northern Rhodesia
JCTR.....	Jesuits Centre for Theological Reflection
NAZ.....	National Archives of Zambia
NCEC.....	North Charterland and Exploration Company
SDA.....	Seventh Day Adventist Church
UCCAR.....	United Church of Central Africa in Rhodesia
UCZ.....	United Church of Zambia
UNESCO.....	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNIP.....	United Independence Party
UP.....	United Party
UPP.....	African National Congress
ZCTU.....	Zambia Congress of Trade Union

ZEC.....Zambia Episcopal Conference

ZEF.....Zambia Evangelical Fellowship

ZEMCC.....Zambia Elections Monitoring Co-ordinating Committee