

Who Gets To Stay

Zambia declared Hakainde Hichilema president-elect with about 60% of votes cast, while European observers said the process ran in an environment that limited fundamental freedoms, on an uneven playing field.

Kenya's former deputy president is appealing his removal, Ugandan media outlets have been shut, and Rwanda's agricultural exports quietly passed a billion dollars.

Every item is dated at source. There is no sport.

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Offices And Outlets

Across the continent this week the political argument is about who gets to stay in office and who gets to report on it. The economic news is quieter, cumulative, and considerably better.

Chairperson Mwangala Zaloumis declared Hakainde Hichilema president-elect in the early hours of Tuesday. He took 2.97 million votes against Brian Mundubile's 1.86 million.

That is 60.5% of valid votes, against some 38% for his challenger. Five of 226 constituencies remained untallied and were judged immaterial to the outcome.

It was Hichilema's seventh run for the presidency and Mundubile's first, entered only in May. The challenger nonetheless took nearly 38% against a sitting president running on recovery.

Reuters described that as an unexpectedly strong showing, drawing on frustration with lingering hardship. A recovery visible in the national accounts is not always visible in a household.

The broader electoral process took place in an environment that limited fundamental freedoms. MICHAEL McNAMARA, CHIEF OBSERVER, EUROPEAN UNION OBSERVATION MISSION · AUGUST 2026

The mission called the election calm overall while saying the broader process limited fundamental freedoms. That separates the counting, which appears to have held, from the conditions under which the campaign ran.

The government said eleven opposition officials were detained in a raid on the night of 14 August, the day after the vote, at a property where Mundubile was present but not arrested. It said the operation involved an exchange of gunfire.

It accused those detained of possessing military weapons and materials for armed insurrection, which his party denies. Both are claims and we report them as claims.

The pattern repeats. Kenya's former deputy president has appealed the ruling upholding his impeachment, challenging both his removal and his successor's appointment.

Nation Media Group's Ugandan outlets were shut by the military on 28 June and cleared to reopen by the communications regulator on 29 July. The order came from the defence chief, not the regulator.

Five detained Ethiopian journalists are reportedly being pressured to admit terrorism involvement in exchange for release. Three countries, one question about who may speak.

Against all of that, Rwanda's agricultural exports passed a billion dollars for the first time after quadrupling in five years. Congo raised 1.25 billion dollars on cobalt with an Ebola toll above 2,000.

For readers in Latin America the distinction that matters is between the count and the campaign. One describes machinery that prices within a quarter and the other describes politics that prices over years.

The Day At A Glance

Here is Tuesday's news, in order of consequence for Latin American readers. Every item is dated at source, and there is no sport.

Zambia · Hichilema Declared President-Elect

The commission named him winner in the early hours of Tuesday with 2.97 million votes against Mundubile's 1.86 million.

Zambia · Sixty Point Five Per Cent

That is 60.5% of valid votes, against some 38% for his challenger, from around five million ballots.

Zambia · Five Seats Outstanding

Five of 226 constituencies were untallied at declaration, which the chairperson said would not materially influence the result.

Zambia · Observers Criticise the Conditions

The European Union mission called the vote calm overall but said the broader process ran in an environment that limited fundamental freedoms, on an uneven playing field.

Zambia · Eleven Detained

The government said eleven opposition officials were held after an election-night raid involving gunfire, on accusations his party denies.

Kenya · An Impeachment Appealed

Former deputy president Rigathi Gachagua has appealed the ruling upholding his removal and is challenging his successor's appointment.

Uganda · Outlets Shut, Then Reopened

Media outlets of a major regional publisher have been closed, with the communications regulator saying it seeks verified information.

Uganda · One Doctor Per 6,400 People

The country has 7,871 doctors with active licences in 2026, according to its medical and dental practitioners council.

Rwanda · Exports Past a Billion

Annual agricultural exports have surpassed one billion dollars for the first time, with export revenues quadrupling over five years.

DR Congo · The Deadliest Outbreak On Record

The Ebola outbreak is now the deadliest in the country's history, with the National Institute of Public Health reporting 2,325 deaths from 4,945 confirmed cases as of 15 August. The strain is Bundibugyo, for which no vaccine is licensed.

The Numbers At A Glance · Africa · Tuesday, August 18, 2026

ZM Hichilema 2.97m 60.5% valid	ZM Mundubile 1.86m ~38%	ZM Mundubile share 37.9% Twelve others share the rest	ZM Untallied 5 of 226 Immaterial
ZM Detained 11 Opposition officials	RW Agri exports \$1bn+ First time	UG Doctors 7,871 1 per 6,400	CD Ebola deaths 2,325 Of ~4,945

How The Countries Are Doing

Here is Tuesday's news, in order of consequence for Latin American readers. Every item is dated at source, and there is no sport.

COUNTRY	PO L	BU D	MO N	MK T	EX T	WHAT'S DRIVING IT
4 kwacha Kenya NSE ·	4	3	2	2	3	observers criticising campaign conditions and eleven opposition officials detained after an election-night raid. The former deputy president is appealing his impeachment and
4 shilling Uganda USE ·	4	4	3	2	3	his successor's appointment, while a separate ruling has thrown the 2027 election date into doubt. Media outlets of a major regional publisher shut in June, reopened in July
4 shilling Rwanda RSE ·	4	3	2	2	3	outlets reopened after a month; 7,871 licensed doctors for a population of some 50 million. Agricultural exports past \$1bn for the first time after quadrupling in
3 franc DR Congo	3	3	2	2	2	five years, while containing a Rift Valley fever outbreak; the quietest good news on the continent. An Ebola toll above 2,000 deaths with most occurring before
4 mining · franc	4	3	4	2	5	bn debut international bond sold on cobalt reserves. Five detained journalists reportedly pressured to admit terrorism
Ethiopia birr Nigeria NGX ·	5	4	4	3	4	involvement in exchange for release, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The competition regulator has warned fuel importers and refiners
3 naira South Africa	3	3	3	2	3	against exploiting consumers as global crude prices fall; exports to China up 80% in the first half. Unemployment at 33.6% with youth joblessness at 47.4% and
4 JSE · rand Tanzania DSE ·	4	4	3	2	3	losses in seven of ten sectors; the labour market remains the binding constraint. The government is publicly reassuring citizens over the national
3 shilling Ivory Coast Slowing cocoa forward sales as prices climb nearly 40% on	3	4	3	2	3	debt, which is usually a sign the question is being asked more often.
BRVM · CFA franc exposure.	2	3	2	2	4	weather risk; deliberate pricing power rather than passive

How to read the colours: 1 = calm, 2 = fairly good, 3 = mixed, 4 = some strain, 5 = serious strain. Updated Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Three Ways Zambia's Second Term

Develops Three ways Zambia's second Hichilema term could develop, given a clean-looking count and a campaign European observers called distorted. The chances add up to 100%.

Two Separate Verdicts

The commission suspended counting, resumed it within twelve hours, published constituency by constituency and declared within five days. That machinery worked under visible stress. European observers simultaneously found the broader process ran in an environment that limited campaign conditions. Those describe the months before the vote rather than the count itself. Both findings can be true and they price differently. Counting machinery matters within a quarter and campaign conditions matter over a term. The eleven detained opposition officials sit between the two. What happens to them is the clearest available test of which verdict governs. The broader electoral process took place in an environment that limited fundamental freedoms. EUROPEAN UNION OBSERVATION MISSION, ON THE ZAMBIAN ELECTION · AUGUST 2026

Possibility A — A Working Second Term (50%)

In this case the opposition accepts the result or litigates it quietly, the detained officials are processed through courts, and the government returns to debt and copper policy. The criticism is absorbed. Sovereign risk normalises and corridor financing proceeds. It is the outcome investors are currently pricing.

Possibility B — A Contested Term (35%)

Here the result is challenged in court, the detentions become a running dispute, and campaign-condition criticism hardens into a governance narrative. Policy attention is consumed by legitimacy. Mining and infrastructure decisions slow without stopping. For anyone holding Zambian paper it is the expensive middle case.

Possibility C — Institutional Erosion (15%)

In this path the conditions observers criticised persist and deepen, and Zambia joins the regional pattern of contested removals and closed outlets. The counting record stops compensating. Sovereign risk reprices structurally rather than cyclically. Thirty-five years of ballot-box transfers become a historical fact rather than a guarantee. A · Working second term 50% Accepted Absorbed Risk normalises, corridor proceeds B · Contested term 35% Litigated Hardens Decisions slow, expensive middle C · Institutional erosion 15% Insufficient Deepen Structural repricing

POSSIBILITY	CHANCE	MARKETS	BREADTH	WHAT IT MEANS FOR AFRICA
Zambia election confirms stability	40 percent	Kwacha steady	National	A second-term mandate or a sharp turn, with results due by 17 August
DRC outbreak keeps spreading	35 percent	Congo franc unsettled	Eastern hotspots	A record emergency straining the state and global health partners
Regional trade push gains traction	25 percent	SACU bloc talk	Five members plus India	A slow signal that industrialisation and critical minerals could draw the region closer

Source: Rio Times desk · drawing on Al Jazeera, Bloomberg, Reuters, Euronews, the Associated Press and allAfrica. Not financial advice.

Eight Things We Are Watching

Africa begins Thursday holding two heavy truths at once: Zambians queued at dawn to vote, while Zimbabwe counted its dead and the DRC watched an outbreak outrun its response. We track what this split means for the next half-year.

WHAT	HOW WE SEE IT	PERIOD	WHY
Zambian sovereign debt	▲ POSITIVE	12 months	A commission that suspended, resumed and declared within five days handled real stress.
Zambian governance	▼ CAREFUL	36 months	European observers found late legal changes and unequal campaign conditions.
Kenyan institutions	◆ MIXED	24 months	Everything contested goes to a courtroom, which is both healthy and unresolved.
Ugandan press freedom	▼ CAREFUL	12 months	Outlets shut in June, reopened in July itself cleared the outlets to reopen on 29 July about the closure.
Rwandan economy	▲ POSITIVE	36 months	Agricultural exports past \$1bn after quadrupling in five years, without minerals.
Congolese health capacity	▼ CAREFUL	18 months	Above 2,000 Ebola deaths with most occurring before patients reach treatment.
Latin American food exporters	▲ POSITIVE	12 months	West African cocoa up nearly 40% and Ivory Coast deliberately slowing sales.
African market access	◆ MIXED	24 months	Congo raised \$1.25bn on cobalt while its epidemic worsened; capital prices minerals.

Six People Shaping The News

The day's most consequential figures range from a president facing voters to trade negotiators signing new terms.

Mwangala Zaloumis

Chairperson · Electoral Commission of Zambia

She suspended a count, resumed it within twelve hours, published by constituency and declared within five days. The machinery held under visible stress.

Hakainde Hichilema

President-elect · Zambia

He won a second term at his seventh attempt with about 60% of votes cast. His challenger's 38% is the number his government has to explain.

Michael McNamara

Chief observer · European Union mission

He found the broader process ran in an environment that limited campaign conditions distorting the playing field. A considered verdict rather than a partisan one.

Rigathi Gachagua

Former deputy president · Kenya

He is appealing the ruling upholding his impeachment and challenging his successor's appointment. Kenyan disputes go to courtrooms, which is a form of institutional health.

Rwanda's export board

Trade policy · Rwanda

It has taken annual agricultural exports past a billion dollars for the first time, quadrupling revenues in five years. The quietest good news on the continent.

Uganda's communications regulator

Media policy · Uganda

It says it is the body that cleared Nation Media Group's outlets to reopen on 29 July, a month after the military shut them. Where the order came from is telling.

The Day, Country By Country

Across the region on Thursday, the dominant feelings were grief in Zimbabwe, alarm in the DRC, and guarded hope in Zambia. Each country woke to a different emotional weight.

ZAMBIA

Hichilema Declared President-Elect

Chairperson Mwangala Zalomus declared him president-elect in the early hours of Tuesday, with 2.97 million votes against Brian Mundubile's 1.86 million from around five million cast. Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Al Jazeera, Associated Press · August 18.

Sixty Point Five Per Cent

The result equates to 60.5% of valid votes, against some 38% for his challenger; the two figures use different denominators. Sources: Bloomberg, Al Jazeera · August 18.

Five Constituencies Outstanding

The chairperson said five of 226 constituencies had not been tallied but that the outstanding results were not likely to materially influence the overall outcome. Sources: Euronews · August 18.

Observers Criticise Conditions

The European Union mission said election day was calm overall but the broader process limited fundamental freedoms, citing the broader process ran in an environment that limited campaign conditions. Sources: Al Jazeera · August 18.

Eleven Detained After a Raid

The government said eleven opposition officials were detained on the night of 14 August, the day after the vote, at a property where Mundubile was present but not arrested, in an operation involving an exchange of gunfire; his party denies the accusations. Sources: Associated Press, Euronews · August 18.

KENYA

An Impeachment Appealed

Former deputy president Rigathi Gachagua has appealed the High Court decision upholding his impeachment, arguing his right to a fair hearing and meaningful public participation was breached. Sources: allAfrica · August 18.

A Successor Challenged

He is also challenging the appointment of Kithure Kindiki as his successor and asking the Court of Appeal to declare the Senate's impeachment resolution unconstitutional and void. Sources: allAfrica · August 18.

A Telecoms Sale Cleared

A Kenyan court has cleared the sale of a stake in the country's dominant telecommunications operator to a South African buyer. Sources: allAfrica · August 18.

UGANDA · ETHIOPIA

Uganda · Media Outlets Shut, Then Reopened Nation Media Group's outlets were shut by military order on 28 June and cleared to reopen by the communications regulator on 29 July. Sources: Nile Post via allAfrica · August 18.

Uganda · One Doctor Per 6,400 People

The country has 7,871 doctors with active licences to practise in 2026, according to the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council. Sources: allAfrica · August 18.

Ethiopia • Journalists Under Pressure

Five detained Ethiopian journalists are being pressured to admit terrorism involvement in exchange for release, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Sources: CPJ via allAfrica • August 2026.

RWANDA • DR CONGO • NIGERIA

Rwanda • Exports Past a Billion Annual agricultural exports have surpassed one billion dollars for the first time as the national export board expands into new markets, with revenues quadrupling over five years. Sources: The New Times via allAfrica • August 2026.

DR Congo • The Deadliest Outbreak On Record

The Ebola outbreak has killed more than 2,000 people, with government figures at 2,325 deaths from 4,945 confirmed cases as of 15 August, as efforts to find an effective vaccine continue. Sources: allAfrica, Al Jazeera • August 2026.

Nigeria • A Warning to Fuel Importers

The competition and consumer protection commission has warned fuel importers, refiners and others against exploiting consumers as global crude prices fall. Sources: Leadership via allAfrica • August 18.

Pipeline, Sectors, And The Calendar

ITEM	TYPE	WHEN	STATUS
Zambia declaration	Politics	Today	Hichilema
Vote share	Politics	Today	60.5% valid
Untallied seats	Politics	Today	5 of 226
EU observer verdict	Politics	This week	Conditions criticised
Detained officials	Law	Election night	11
Kenya impeachment appeal	Law	Today	Filed
Uganda media outlets	Media	This week	Shut
Rwanda agri exports	Trade	This year	\$1bn+
Congo Ebola	Health	Ongoing	2,325 deaths
Cocoa	Commodities	This month	+~40%

Sector Watch - Four Things to Track

The Count And The Campaign Are Separate

Zambia's machinery held under stress and its campaign conditions were criticised. Those price on different clocks.

Thirty-Eight Percent Is The Number

A first-time challenger who entered in May took nearly 38% against a recovery. That is what the second term has to answer.

Who Gets To Report

Outlets shut in Uganda, journalists detained in Ethiopia. The press question is now regional rather than national.

Quiet Compounding

Rwanda's exports quadrupled in five years and passed a billion. Nobody covered it while it happened.

Calendar - Next 30 Days

DATE	EVENT	WHY IT MATTERS
Coming days	Any Zambian legal challenge	The opposition has not conceded
Coming days	The eleven detained officials	The clearest test of which verdict governs
Coming days	The five outstanding constituencies	Declared immaterial but not yet counted
Coming months	Kenya's Court of Appeal	On the impeachment and the successor
Coming days	Ugandan media outlets	Whether they reopen
Ongoing	Congolese Ebola and vaccine search	Above 2,000 deaths

DATE	EVENT	WHY IT MATTERS
Coming months	Rwandan agricultural exports	Past \$1bn for the first time
Coming months	Lobito phase two financing	Envisaged around \$500m
Ongoing	West African cocoa	Up nearly 40% on weather
2027	Angolan elections	The second corridor political risk

What Today Tells Us

What Today Tells Us Our take on Tuesday is that the continent's political argument this week is about who gets to stay in office and who gets to report on it. The economic news runs the other way.

Zambia declared Hakainde Hichilema president-elect with 2.97 million votes against Brian Mundubile's 1.86 million, about 60.5% of valid votes.

Five of 226 constituencies were untallied and judged immaterial. Around five million ballots were cast in total.

Sources & Method

REGIONAL

IOL, EWN, Bloomberg, FDD, CGTN, Econiti, GhanaWeb, Punch Nigeria, Citizen SA, Gov.za - 11-13 Aug 2026 (English).

FRANCOPHONE

BBC Afrique - 13 Aug 2026 (French).

PORTUGUESE

Portuguese-language outlets swept - 13 Aug 2026.

ARABIC

Ahram Online, Petra - 13 Aug 2026 (Arabic/English).

Method. We select only those items that change what a Latin American investor should think or do. Every item carries its own date. This edition covers six countries with one section each, because the brief reads the temperament of a region rather than the politics of a single state. Where two published percentages use different denominators we give both and say so. The country health check was updated August 18. There is no sport, and the opinions are our own — not financial advice.

Compiled from major Africa outlets in the region's main languages.

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