



Music as a Political Expression in Transitions: An African Perspective on Zambia

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Abstract

Music has long served as a powerful medium for political expression globally. In Africa's diverse cultural landscape, Zambia exemplifies how music can be both a reflection and catalyst of socio-political changes during transitions. The research adopts a survey approach, utilising both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. Interviews with musicians, policymakers, and community leaders were conducted to gather insights into the political implications of music in Zambian contexts. Participant observation was also employed to capture real-time interactions between artists and their audiences. Music has emerged as a significant tool for articulating political dissent and solidarity across various socio-political groups in Zambia, particularly during times of economic hardship and policy reforms. This study contributes to the understanding of how music can serve as a vehicle for both resistance and advocacy in transitional settings, highlighting its potential role in fostering social cohesion and democratic engagement. Public policy should consider integrating musical initiatives into civic education programmes to enhance political literacy and community engagement. Future research could explore longitudinal studies to track long-term impacts of politically engaged music on socio-political landscapes.

Keywords: *African, Pan-Africanism, Ethnomusicology, Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Theory, Afrofuturism, Soundscapes*

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