



National Assembly
of Zambia



European Union

National Assembly of Zambia



Support to the National Assembly of Zambia



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The Project in Brief



The National Planning and Budgeting Policy enhances the National Assembly's role in providing scrutiny and oversight of the budget preparation and implementation process. One of the Policy's key aims is to strengthen and broaden the scrutiny and oversight function of the Legislature through building the capacity of National Assembly staff and Members of Parliament and ensuring that the Legislature uses comprehensive, results-based information to scrutinise the budget.

The National Planning and Budgeting Policy will be implemented through the enactment of the National Planning and Budgeting legislation in accordance with Article 118 A of the Constitution.

The European Union's Support to the National Assembly Project intends to enhance economic governance in Zambia through improved public financial management, strengthened accountability processes and increased management for results.

A key element of the Project will, therefore, be supporting the creation of a Parliamentary Budget Office, which the National Assembly considers to be the appropriate organisational arrangement to host professionals and technical specialists that will support the National Assembly Committee system.

A Project implemented by Ecorys, in consortium with PMTC Zambia Limited and the Parliamentary Centre





The Project in Brief contd.



The implementation of this 3-year project commenced in September 2014 and will continue until August 2017. The European Union is supporting the Project with a total amount of €3.2 million.

The National Assembly itself is responsible for implementing the Project. Resources are available for interventions in the following areas:

- a) Knowledge and Information Management;
- b) Intensive Training for Budget Office staff;
- c) Professional Development for staff and Committee Clerking Officers;
- d) On-the-job coaching for staff and Committee Clerking Officers;
- e) Training for Members of Parliament;
- f) Capacity Building for the Committee on Estimates;
- g) Capacity Building for the Public Accounts Committee;
- h) Capacity Building for the Economic Affairs, Energy and Labour Committee; and
- i) Peer-assisted Learning, including study tours to other Parliaments.



What are the objectives of the Project?



The main objective of the Support to the National Assembly Project is to enhance economic governance in Zambia through improved Public Finance Management, strengthened accountability processes and increased management for results.

The specific objective of the Project is to strengthen the ability of the National Assembly of Zambia to perform its role as the apex of the accountability process in PFM and the Budget by way of:

- creating in-house technical expertise (Parliamentary Budget Office) to enable the provision of continuous professional support to the Estimates Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Economic Affairs, Energy and Labour and portfolio committees in matters pertaining to economic, fiscal and budgetary policy, and the management of public finances;
- enhancing the ability of the Committee on Estimates and the National Assembly to analyse the draft Budget during the formulation process leading up to appropriation, and make substantive and timely policy and financial allocation enquiries to the executive regarding proposed appropriations; as well as to enhance the Committee's capacity to scrutinise the management and implementation of the approved budget; and
- enhancing the ability of the Public Accounts Committee to scrutinise the implementation of the Budget following appropriation by the National Assembly, and ensuring that its recommendations, as well as those of the Office of the Auditor-General are systematically followed-up by the executive.



Project approach



- The Project will focus on an understanding of the National Assembly's mandate in public financial management, as enshrined in the Constitution and Standing Orders, and will work to strengthen the performance of the Assembly's constitutionally assigned roles.
- The Project will have an innovative approach to project delivery that emphasizes flexibility and quick responses to the needs of the National Assembly. Based on continuous interaction and brainstorming sessions with counterparts in the Assembly, the priorities for intervention will be agreed within the framework of the Project.
- Through on-the-job coaching and mentoring, the Project will ensure as much as possible that counterparts in the National Assembly become familiar with the mode of delivery and that they retain workable approaches within the Assembly. The Project Team will also work with national experts from reputable Zambian institutions like Zambia Institute of Certified Accountants (ZICA), Zambia Centre for Accountancy Studies(ZCAS), National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR) and others as a means of ensuring sustainability in the supply of trainers and to provide institutional homes for capacity building programmes after the Support for the National Assembly Project has been completed.



How is the Project managed?



The Project is implemented by the National Assembly. The Assembly's role is to guide and facilitate the implementation of the Project and is the main decision-making and Executive body concerned with the operations and activities of the Project.

The implementation of the Project is overseen by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the Clerk to the National Assembly. The PSC consists of: individuals representing both the administrative and political arms of Parliament; the National Authorising Office; and the European Union (in an observing capacity). The Committee is responsible for the overall direction of the Project.

Project management as well as technical and logistical backstopping support is provided by a Consortium consisting of Ecorys UK, the Parliamentary Centre and PMTC Zambia.



For more information, please contact



National Assembly of Zambia

Thokozani Kamanga

P.O. Box 31299

Lusaka

Tel: +260 211 292425-36

Direct Tel: + 260 (0) 211 291028

Fax: +260 211 292252

E-mail: info@parliament.gov.zm

www.parliament.gov.zm

Team Leader of the Support to the National Assembly Project

Anthony Tsekpo

Office Tel: + 260 (0) 211 292425 – ext 3226

Direct Tel: + 260 (0) 211 291685

Cell: + 260 (0) 963312027

Email: anthony.tsekpo@uk.ecorys.com

European Union

Sophie Autié

Plot 4899 Los Angeles Boulevard, Longacres

Lusaka

Direct Tel: + 260 (0) 211 25 07 11

Fax: +260 211 25 23 36

E-mail: sophie.autie@eeas.europa.eu

Senior Key Expert of the Support to the National Assembly Project

Ole Kragh

Office Tel: + 260 (0) 211 292425 – ext. 33 32

Direct Tel: + 260 (0) 211 291685

Cell: + 260 (0) 963314057

Email: Ole.kragh@uk.ecorys.com

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The EU in Zambia



European Union

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Zambia and COMESA is responsible for managing official relations between the European Union (EU) and Zambia, and with the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The EU Delegation's mandate covers a wide range of political and economic relations. One of its most important roles is to manage and promote development co-operation in accordance with the Cotonou Agreement, the aid effectiveness agenda, the internationally-agreed Millennium Development Goals, and the European Commission's new policy framework, the 'Agenda for Change'.

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zambia/index_en.htm