

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED DURING
PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE RT. HON JUSTICE DR PATRICK
MATIBINI SC, MP, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
ZAMBIA ON THE JUST ENDED 132ND ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN
HANOI, VIETNAM,**

28TH MARCH TO 1ST APRIL, 2015,

**AND ZAMBIA' S PREPAREDNESS TO HOST THE 134TH IPU
ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA,**

18TH TO 23RD MARCH 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Good morning and welcome. I have called for this press conference to brief you on the just ended 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and related meetings which was recently held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 28th March to 1st April, 2015, and Zambia's preparedness to host the 134th IPU Assembly and related meetings in Lusaka, Zambia from 18th to 23rd March 2016.
- I led a delegation of MPs, staff of the National Assembly representatives from Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC), the Zambia Tourism Board (ZTB), and Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS).
- The 132nd IPU Assembly was held under the theme ***“The Sustainable Development Goals, Turning Words into Action.”*** With the new sustainable development agenda, the world once again had an opportunity to meet and debate three main pillars of global development. Namely, the eradication of extreme poverty by 2030; the protection of the environment; and promotion of social inclusion and economic opportunities for all.
- The Assembly was attended by over 1400 Parliamentarians from 163 different member Parliaments of the world and 10 associate members.

What is the IPU

- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the world organization of Parliaments established in 1889; - 215 years ago.
- It is the "focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue" and its main focus is the promotion of peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment for representative institutions
- The IPU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- IPU Assemblies, are held twice a year and focus on a particular subject matters
- The IPU was established to meet the following objectives:
- Foster contacts, co-ordination, and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- Consider questions of international interest and concern and expresses its views on such issues in order to bring about action by parliaments and parliamentarians;
- For example at the 131st Assembly held in Geneva were Zambia moved a motion expressing concerns of the effects about the Ebola disease;
- Contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights - an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development; to this end the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians does from time to time consider cases that are brought before it;
- Contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

Other Key Activities during Assemblies

- Meetings in Standing Committees focus on specialised topics such as effects of terrorism, role of Parliament in promoting water governance and cyber warfare and risks of nuclear war, which were discussed in Hanoi;
- meetings of the Women Parliamentarians where all Women Parliamentarians exchange ideas on a variety of subjects;
- meetings of Young Parliamentarians to discuss matters affecting them;
- meetings for Clerks and Secretaries General i.e. Chief Executive Officers of Member Parliaments, who meet under Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments. As a matter of fact, the current President of the Association is Mrs Doris Katai K Mwinga, the Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia.

Preparations for Hosting the 134th Assembly

- Zambia became a member of the IPU in 1976, and will for the first time host the 134th IPU Assembly from 18th to 23rd March, 2016.
- Zambia will be the third to host the IPU assembly in the SADC region, after Namibia in 1998, and South Africa in 2008.
- The idea to host the 134th Assembly was conceived during the United Nations General Assembly held in New York, September, 2012, when the late president of the Republic of Zambia, his Excellency, Mr Michael Chilufya Sata, who during his parliamentary career was a member of the executive

committee of the IPU, met with the then IPU Secretary-General, Mr Anders B Johnsson;

- The Assembly is expected to receive more than 1,400 delegates from 166 countries and territories comprising Members of Parliament and staff.
- Many bilateral meetings and activities are also expected to be conducted between officials of the host country Zambia and their international guests.
- 26 hotels have been earmarked to accommodate the delegates to the assembly, some of which include:

- 1 The Radisson Blu Hotel;
- 2 Taj Pamodzi Hotel;
- 3 Intercontinental Hotel;
- 4 Protea Hotels;
- 5 Golden Peacock Hotel; and
- 6 Southern Sun Hotel.

- the National Assembly will be collaborating with line Ministries such as Foreign Affairs, Works and Supply, Tourism, Arts and Culture, and Home Affairs;
- the inaugural ceremony will be at the New Government Complex and will be officially opened by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia;
- Mulungushi International Conference Centre is the main venue for the meetings and would need refurbishment of the conference facilities in order to meet the minimum required international standards; and

- meetings of Association of Secretaries General will be held at the Radisson Blu Hotel.

In conclusion, I would like to seize this opportunity to invite the media, in publicising and covering the event in order to ensure the success of the 134th IPU Assembly in March, 2016.

I thank you and I now invite questions of clarifications.
