

FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED ON 16TH JANUARY, 2008

Consisting of:

Mr J B Chongo, MP (Chairperson); Mr S Katuka, MP; Mr S Chitonge, MP; Mr L J Ngoma, MP; Mr R S Mwapela, MP; Mrs J H N Phiri, MP; Mr S Chisanga, MP; and Mr E M Sing'ombe, MP.

During the course of the year, the composition of the Committee was reduced to six Members as two Members of the Committee, namely, Mrs J H M N Phiri, MP and Mr S. Chitonge, MP, lost their seats in the House as a result of court decisions on election petitions filed in court against them.

THE HONOURABLE MR SPEAKER
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
LUSAKA

Sir

Your Committee have the honour to present their First Report for the Second Session of the Tenth National Assembly.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

2. Under the Standing Orders of the House, your Committee are mandated to scrutinise all assurances and undertakings made by Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers on the floor of the House with the objective of ensuring that these are implemented.

As your Committee is a General Purposes Committee, their mandate is not confined to any specific ministry as the issues that they consider are applicable to all ministries, depending on situations and the issues involved.

PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

3. Your Committee examined all contributions made by Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers as recorded in the *Daily Parliamentary Debates* and extracted all statements which, in their view, amounted to assurances. These were then referred to the Government ministries concerned to find out the actions taken to implement the assurances.

Upon receipt of submissions from the ministries and government departments on the assurances, your Committee invited the respective Permanent Secretaries and Chief Executives to appear before them and give updates on the implementation of the assurances under their respective portfolios.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

4. Your Committee held seventeen meetings during the period under review to consider latest assurances. These are the assurances extracted by your Committee from the *Daily Parliamentary Debates* between the period January 2006 to February, 2008.

**CONSIDERATION OF NEW ASSURANCES
SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

05/06 - Curbing Corruption among Traffic Officers

On 6th February, 2006, the Hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs assured the House as follows: -

"Mr. Speaker (a) sensitisation seminars among traffic officers against engaging themselves in corruption are underway. There is a training of traffic officers with a bias for Anti-Corruption lessons. A course is to be undertaken at Lilayi Police Training College, sponsored by the Anti-Corruption Commission. We have put an in-house mechanism of monitoring corruption spearheaded by the Police Public Complaints Authority."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the from 4th to 29th February 2008, the Zambia Police Force, in conjunction with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA), conducted three in-service courses for eighty-five traffic police officers. Resource personnel were drawn from ACC, Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC), Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), RTSA and Zambia Police Force.

During the course, officers were sensitized on the dangers of corruption. It was hoped that the training would help officers to refrain from engaging in corrupt practices.

An integrity committee had been established in the Police Force as an in-house mechanism for monitoring corruption. In addition, the Police Public Complaints Authority had been handling cases of corruption reported by members of the public.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that adequate measures have been put in place to curb or reduce corruption among traffic officers and officers in other units of Zambia Police Force. This is commendable.

In view of the above observation, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

12/06 - Reducing Human Trafficking Cases

On 24th February, 2006, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House: -

"The Zambia Police Force through cooperation with SAPCCO member countries, including INTERPOL is doing its best to reduce the prevalence of this crime to the lowest levels."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Coordinating Organisation (SARPCCO) member countries, in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), had established a human trafficking desk at the INTERPOL Sub Regional Bureau (SRB) in Harare, Zimbabwe. As a requirement by SARPCCO, Zambia Police Force had established a human trafficking desk at Interpol, Lusaka, to deal with human trafficking cases.

The Zambia Police Force INTERPOL human trafficking desk, in conjunction with IOM, had conducted capacity building courses for officers under Victim Support Unit (VSU) in the following areas:

- i) eight Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) courses had been conducted and 877 law enforcement officers from Zambia Police Force, DEC, Immigration, ZRA, National Airport Security and Zambia Intelligence Security Services were trained in identification and handling of trafficking in human beings cases;
- ii) nine VSU offices in Siavonga, Chirundu, Sesheke, Livingstone, Chililabombwe, Mufulira, Nakonde and Lusaka have been renovated and furnished to provide conducive interview/ counselling rooms for victims of human trafficking;
- iii) a human trafficking data base had been established at Police Headquarters and officers had been trained to use it; and
- iv) seven community sensitisation programmes were conducted in Nakonde, Chipata, Mumbwa, Livingstone, Sesheke, Lusaka and the Copperbelt Division aimed at raising awareness and encouraging reporting of human trafficking cases.

VSU worked in partnership with the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Partnership (SGBVP) in the provision of shelter and other basic requirements to victims of human trafficking. This was done in the course of investigations and in capacity building through counselling and gender based violence courses.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that adequate measures have been put in place to combat the scourge of human trafficking. This is commendable.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed

13/06 - Establishment Of Forensic Laboratory

On 6th February, 2006, the Hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs assured the house as follows:

"It is the intention of the Zambia Police Force to establish a modern fully equipped forensic laboratory to train officers, both locally and abroad so as to prosecute such cases successfully."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that a site had been allocated at Lusaka West where a laboratory was yet to be established. However, the structure had already been designed. Construction of a laboratory and procurement of laboratory equipment would be budgeted for in 2009.

Basic training was undertaken locally and, so far, five forensic ballistic officers had been trained in Russia.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee are happy that, so far, forensic ballistic officers have been trained in Russia. However, they are saddened that the construction of the laboratory and procurement of laboratory equipment have not as yet taken place.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

16/06 - Replacing Unserviceable Vehicles

On 7th February, 2006 the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs assured the House as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, before we replace them, we have to repair them as soon as the budget is through our repair mechanism will start, then we can continue to replace the vehicles as the year elapses. "

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that during 2007, seven hundred and sixty one (761) motor vehicles were repaired at the Police Force garage. Fifty one could not be repaired and had been boarded for auctioning.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with satisfaction that some motor vehicles were repaired while others which were not repaired were boarded for auction.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

03/07 - Procurement of Motor Vehicles to Control Crime Levels.

On 20th November, 2007, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the house: -

"I must hasten to add here that motor vehicles are required to service the nation. It is the intention of the Ministry to procure more motor vehicles in the coming year to make the presence of the Police, Immigration, Drug Enforcement Commission and all other agencies under the Ministry felt in every district of the Republic"

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that during the year 2007, one hundred and six (106) motor vehicles were purchased for the Police Force in order to improve on transport for crime control. These were distributed as follows;

Lusaka	12
Copperbelt	7
Central	3
Western	4
Eastern	3
Luapula	..4
Northern	4
NorthWestern	7
Southern	5
State House	10
Paramilitary	2
Mobile Unit	2
Protective Unit	2
Airport	1
Tazara	1
SARPCCO Programmes	40

The forty SARPCCO vehicles would be distributed to divisions after the programmes. Further, forty vehicles had been purchased for distribution to revenue collection departments (Fingerprints, Interpol, Forensic and Traffic).

In the same year, the Ministry of Home Affairs purchased fifty-six vehicles and these were distributed as follows: Prisons, twenty-three, Immigration, thirteen, Ministry Headquarters, four; National Registration, Passport and Citizenship, fourteen; and Police Public Complaints Authority, two.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with satisfaction that the exercise of purchasing motor vehicles for the police and other agencies under the Ministry Home Affairs commenced as assured.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

04/07 - Recruitment of Police Officers

On 13th November, 2007, the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House: -

"Mr. Speaker, my Ministry will not be able to recruit this year because our strategic plans have just been approved and it can be implemented in 2008. Starting next year, we will recruit to meet the capacity of 27,000 Police Officers by the year 2011."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that, currently, there were 14,478 police officers. There was a shortfall of 12,522 to reach the required establishment of 27,000 by the year 2015. This year, 1,500 applicants had been selected for recruitment to replace wastage (deaths, retirements, dismissals and resignations). Training would commence immediately funds in the budget were released.

The recruitment to meet the establishment shortfall was earmarked to commence next year, 2009, with an initial recruitment of 3,000 police officers.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with disappointment that the recruitment of one thousand, five hundred (1, 500) applicants who have been selected to replace wastage has not taken off.

Your Committee urge the Government to urgently release the budgeted funds to embark on the recruitment exercise. A progress report is being awaited on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

02/06 Repatriation Package for Retired Teachers

On 16th June, the Hon Deputy Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, in this year's budget, we have over K3.6 billion which has been earmarked for such as an exercise and when we have full information, we receive budget allocation from the Treasury, we will embark on the exercise."

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that in the 2006 Budget allocation to the Ministry of Education, 3.6 billion Kwacha was budgeted for repatriation packages for retired teachers. In May 2006, the Ministry of Finance and National Planning released K445, 035,960. In September, 2006, another K445, 035,960 was released and in November, 2006, the same year, K890, 071,921 was released. In December K1, 260,047,946 was released bringing, the total to K3, 040,191,787. All funds released were disbursed to the provinces to address the issue of repatriation of retired teachers.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with happiness that the Government is doing everything possible to ensure timely releases are being made to pay off the retired teachers. This is commendable.

In view of this undertaking, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

10/66 Verification of Standards in Schools with Poor results

On 17th March, 2006, the Hon Minister of Education assured the House as follows:

“Mr Speaker, a number of schools recorded very poor pass rates in the 2005 grade 12/GCE Examination. These schools will be visited by standards officers to investigate the cause of the poor results and assist them to improve their performance and pass rates.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that a number of schools recorded very poor pass rates in the 2005 grade 12/GCE Examination. The following provinces had less than 50% pass rates:

- (i) Northwestern Province 46.6%
- (ii) Northern 46.5%

In 2006 Examination Results, Northern Province had an increase of 4.8% and Northwestern had an increase of 1.2%.

The standards officers visited schools in all provinces and established the following causes of poor results:

- lack of qualified teachers at high school level. Senior classes were being taught by over-stretched secondary school diploma holders.
- inadequate teaching and learning facilities, especially science materials and libraries in schools; and
- lack of effective supervision of teachers by Heads of Department at school level.

The Permanent Secretary reported that, to improve their performance and pass rate, the Ministry had put up the following measures:

- posting the few available trained teachers at Degree level to those schools;
- stepping up teacher professional development at teachers' resource centers throughout the country in all subjects areas;
- increasing degree courses offering institutions. For example, Nkrumah and Copperbelt Secondary College of Education (COSECO) would be transformed into University Colleges soon;
- The registration of Private Universities;
- head teachers, deputy head teachers, senior teachers and teachers were being guided to constantly by standards officers and advised to improve in their areas of operation;
- enhancing supervisory short courses for Education Managers in education management. These supervisory courses were for head teachers, deputy head teachers and heads of Departments;
- procurement of teaching and learning resources for all schools including those which were performing poorly; and
- constructing Kapiri Mposhi Technical High School.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that schools with poor pass rates were mainly found in Northern and North-Western Provinces. They, further, observe that measures have now been put in place to improve the performance of these schools in those provinces.

Your Committee resolve to await an update report on the matter.

18/05 -Teacher Graduates

On 9th February, 2006, the Hon Minister of Education made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker, according to the 5th National Development Plan, we have planned that we shall absorb all the teachers that will be graduating.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that authority was sought from Cabinet office to replace teachers who had left the system through resignation, retirement or death. Between 2006 and 2007, authority was sought to recruit 10,300 teachers and 6,300 replaced those that had left the service, through retirements, resignations and deaths while 4,000 were new entrants into the service.

Of the 4,000 new entrants 3,000 were for basic schools and 1,000 were for high schools.

The Ministry was due to advertise for the recruitment of 5,000 teachers to address the shortfall at basic school and high school levels this year 2008.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that there is still a shortfall of teachers for the basic and high schools.

Your Committee request the Government to embark on recruitment of teachers for both basic and high schools to fill the gaps. An update report is being awaited on the matter to ascertain whether the measures put in place were yielding positive results.

19/07 -Teachers' Houses Renovation - Nalubamba and Chiwema - Mumbwa District.

On 20th November, 2008, the Hon Deputy Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker, the said schools, Nalubamba and Chiwema, will be considered in 2008 infrastructure rehabilitation budgets.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the two schools had been considered in the 2008 infrastructure rehabilitation budget. Four staff houses would be rehabilitated at Nalubamba and four houses at Chiwema.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with concern that schools have not yet been renovated.

They urge the Government to honour the assurance and renovate the schools with due urgency attached. A progress report is being awaited on the matter

15/07 -Teachers' Houses Construction - Mubende Basic School - Mwense District

On 20th November 2007, the Hon Deputy Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker, it is Government’s policy to provide quality and decent accommodation to both teachers serving in urban and rural districts. Mubende Basic School has a total number of seven teachers housing, three houses have been included for construction in the 2008 work plan.

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that according to the infrastructure operational plan for 2008, one staff house would be constructed at Mubende Basic School.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with concern that there is nothing at all being done to construct the teacher’s houses at Mubende Basic School.

Your Committee request the Government not to relent on their work of constructing teachers’ houses at Mubende Basic School. A progress report will be awaited on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

08/06 Data base on employment skills in Zambia

On 7th March, 2006, the Hon Minister of Labour and Social Security made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Sir, on the issue of having a data base for the information on the skills available in Zambia with regard to employment, I must state that when the employment policy is properly implemented, it will take care of this.”

In his progress report, the Permanent Secretary stated that the Ministry had put in place a mechanism for handling the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of labour market information. A database containing sixty-three indicators including employment figures, demand and Supply of Labour, skills availability had been set-up. However, even though the database was hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, it must be noted that the data for the management of the indicators in this database would be generated from different sources. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security, for instance, generates a large part of this data through the Labour Force Survey conducted every two years in conjunction with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) (last survey was done in 2005 and the next one commenced in 2007 and would be finalised mid 2008). Some data was generated by the trade unions. Skills development fell under the mandate of the Ministry of Science and Technology, which institution had been discussing the conducting of a skills survey with the assistance of the CSO.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the Ministry has already set up the skills data base with the help of the Central Statistical Office.

In view of the above observation, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

09/06 Benefiting from the brain drain

On 7th March, 2006, the Hon Minister of Labour and Social Security made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"What we need to do is turn the brain drain to brain gain. This is why we are working on policies of how we should work with the receiving, exporting and importing nations of labour."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that, according to the study conducted by the International Organisation for Migration 10M together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in 2005, international migration of skilled and highly skilled Zambians showed a marked increase in the decade after 1990. The health sector was the most affected. Institutions of higher education also experienced important skills losses. The major factors behind the skills emigration was the economic crisis at that time. During that time, the country was burdened by a large external debt coupled with economic stagnation.

However, the situation had since changed. The debt problem was no longer there. Inflation which was over 20% in the 1990s had come down to below 10% and economic growth, which at some point in the 1990s registered a negative growth rate, had improved to 6.2% (2007).

The Permanent Secretary, further, reported Government's response as set out below.

Improving migration data collection and analysis

The 10M gave support to the Ministry of Home Affairs to computerize all border points as a way of improving migration data collection which was an important step to migration policy formulation. Currently, the Ministry of Home Affairs did not have data on how many skilled Zambians were living outside the country.

The Government had also committed itself to involving the Zambians in the diaspora to participate in the economy through investing in the country or inviting them to remit their earnings to Zambia. The Government, through bilateral frameworks of cooperation such as the Joint Permanent Commissions (JPC), was increasingly addressing the issues of migrant workers.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the involvement of the diaspora in the private sector has not yet started.

They resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

06/06 Review of Current Labour Law

On 7th March, 2006, the Hon Minister of Labour and Social Security assured the House as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, I must state that we are in the very final stages of reviewing the current Labour Law and the Technical Committee is working on its final draft. It is my sincere hope that we shall bring it to this House if there is another sitting within this year."

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that work on the revision of the *Employment Act Cap 268* and the *Industrial and Labour Relations Act CAP 269* was finalised.

The Industrial and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill was presented to Parliament and was being studied by your Committee on Economic Affairs and Labour. The *Employment Act* (Amendment) Bill was also due to be presented to Parliament.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the review of the current Labour Law has been done and it was presented to Parliament.

They resolve to have the matter closed.

07/06 Privatization of Ndola Lime Vis-a-Vis Workers' Dues

On 7th March, 2006, the Hon Minister of Labour and Social Security assured the House as follows:

“Mr Chairman.....privatization of Ndola Lime Company is going on and we expect that when privatized, the workers will get what is due to them according to the law of the land.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Zambia Development Agency had put the privatization of the company on hold and the company was running normally.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the privatisation of the company has been put on hold and, as such, no workers dues are outstanding. They resolve to await progress report on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES

15/06- Opening up of New Farm Blocks

On 2nd March, 2006, the Hon Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives assured the House as follows:

“Mr Speaker.....among the recent development, the Government has identified and is opening up new farming blocks (of not less than 100,000 hectares) in each of the nine provinces.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that due to resource limitations, the nine proposed farm blocks had to be phased in groups of three per period of three years starting 2005. Out of the nine proposed farm blocks, therefore, three were considered to be of first priority, namely, Nansanga in Serenje (Central Province), Kalumwange in Kaoma (Western Province) and Luena in Kawambwa (Luapula Province).

Since inception, the programme had been financed with K30billion against an estimated cost of K114 billion per farm block.

Further, the Permanent Secretary reported that, as noted in the 2008 financial year, the Ministry had been compelled to concentrate its efforts on the completion of the Nansanga Farm Block, rather than spreading the resources thinly with low impact on the ground due to insufficient resources.

The Permanent Secretary pointed out that feasibility studies to establish the suitability of land, including negotiations with the respective Chiefs for acquisition of land in the affected areas of

the five other farm blocks in five provinces (Copperbelt, Eastern, Southern, Lusaka and North-Western) had however, commenced and were on-going.

Observations and Recommendations

The Committee observe with happiness that the Government is attaching due importance to this programme.

They resolve to have the matter closed.

20/06 -Fish Farming and Restocking of Fish in Lakes and Rivers

On 9th February, 2006, the Hon Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives assured the House as follows:

“The measures taken by Government are as follows:

(a) Fish Farming

A national agriculture strategy has been prepared through the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives to guide the development of fish farming. Support to promote fish farming has been given in form of funding through poverty reduction programme.

(b) Restocking of Fish in the Rivers and lakes

.in executing the fish restocking programme, the Government places great emphasis on good management efforts by all stakeholders to ensure stocks build up.”

(a) Fish Farming

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the focus for the Ministry was to increase fish production through fish farming from the current 8,000 metric tonnes to 16,000-20,000 metric tonnes by 2015. Measures undertaken to achieve this projected increased production included incorporation of aquaculture in the amended *Fisheries Act*. The amended Act has provided for the drafting of an Aquaculture Management Plan. The process of developing the Aquaculture Management Plan had commenced. The main technical problem identified that had slowed down the expansion of fish farming was the low productivity (weight of fish produced per unit area) from ponds. The major factors contributing to the low productivity of the ponds had been due to lack of quality fish seed. In 2007, a total of seven Government Fish farms were rehabilitated: these were Chapata, Solwezi, Kaoma, Mwenda, Fiyongoli, Chilanga and Serenje. These Government Fish Farms would multiply fish seed. The programme to develop quality fish seed was being developed at the National Aquaculture and Research Centre (NARDC) and was on-going. Once the seed was multiplied at Government Fish farms, it would be distributed to farmers.

The other factor contributing to low productivity from ponds had been poor farm management. The extension and training division had embarked on training farmers in farm management at NARDC. The recruitment of aquaculture extension officers had recently been done. In 2007, one hundred (100) farmers from five provinces, namely, Copperbelt, Lusaka, Central, Western and North-Western, had been trained. The training programme was currently being evaluated. Thereafter, more farmers would be trained using an updated or upgraded programme.

Further, the Permanent Secretary reported that in the past, concentration had been on fish production from ponds. It was evident now that the huge increase in fish production from fish farming would come from intensive fish farming from cage culture, such as the tilapia cage culture which was emerging on Lake Kariba. The constraint limiting the expansion of Tilapia

cage culture had been the stringent requirements for the production of Environmental Impact Assessments, the costs of which were exorbitant to the would-be farmers to afford.

b) Re-stocking Fish in the Rivers and Lakes

The Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry constructed a pen and re-stocked Mweru-wa-Ntipa by providing breeders of Pale (*Oreochromis macrochiri*). A number of small water bodies, which were initially constructed for watering domestic animals, had been stocked with fish in Southern Province.

For the larger lakes and rivers, the Ministry was enforcing fisheries regulations that would allow for fish to breed and had successful recruitment. Research results showed that although the fishing pressure was very high, a breeding stock still existed in all the fisheries, which when allowed to breed and had successful recruitment, the fisheries would be restored. To this effect, the fisher communities were being involved in the management of these fisheries, following the passing of the *Amended Fisheries Act* in September, 2007. The *Amendment Act* provided for community participation in Fisheries management.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with satisfaction that fish farming and restocking in Lakes and Rivers was being done in a vigorous manner. This is commendable.

In view of the above observation, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

17/06-Posting of Veterinary Officers to Chief Moomba and Chief Nyanga

On 9th February, 2006, the Hon Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives made the following assurance on the floor of the House.

“Mr Speaker,There are plans to post veterinary staff to all vacant posts in the country, including the ares of chief Moomba and Chief Nyawa, Kazungula District.

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that in 2007, one Veterinary Assistant was posted to Nyanga while the one for Moomba would be posted this year (2008) after the newly recruited Veterinary Assistants had been posted to provinces.

Observations and recommendations

Your Committee observe that only Moomba has one Veterinary Officer posted there while Chief Nyanga has none.

Your Committee resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

10/07 - Vaccination Programmes against Contagious Bovine Pleura-Pneumonia (CBPP)

On 1st November, 2007, the Hon Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives made the following assurance on the floor of the House.

“Mr Speaker, vaccinations against Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP) are being carried out along the cordon line in the western and North Western Provinces and the programme will continue in order to maintain the buffer-zone along the Zambia Angola Border.

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the vaccination programme against CBPP in Western and North-Western Provinces was on-going and was done annually to prevent outbreaks in these areas. In 2007, about 390,000 out of 600,000 cattle were vaccinated in all the Districts of Western Province, representing 65% success/coverage. This low

coverage could be attributed to many factors, but the most important ones being resistance by local farmers to take their animals to the crush pens for vaccination and failure to access some areas due to floods. In North-Western Province, about 42,035 out of 50,000 cattle were vaccinated in five districts, namely, Chavuma, Zambezi, Kabompo, Mufumbwe and Mwinilunga. This represented 84% coverage. Cattle in Solwezi and Kasempa were not vaccinated because the disease was not present in those two districts.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with happiness that the programme of vaccinating cattle against contagious Bovine Pleura-Pneumonia (CBPP) is ongoing in the country. This is commendable.

They resolve to have the matter closed.

08/07-Control of Fish Disease in the Zambezi River and Lake Kariba

On 9th November, 2007, the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives made the following assurance on the floor of the House.

“Mr Speaker, as a follow up to the findings of the study, my Ministry will carry out the following interventions.

- (a) continue monitoring the diseases routinely in Zambezi River to determine the pattern of occurrence in time and space;*
- (b) ascertain the disease status of the Kariba Dam and the stretch of the Zambezi River and the Zambezi District in the North Western Province and continuously monitor them for environmental deterioration for early intervention if necessary;.....”*

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that:

- (a) monitoring had continued and officers in the Ministry had been trained in identification of the disease and also operations of gadgets (PH and O2 Metres) for collection or environmental parameters that had been identified as precursors to the outbreak of the disease;
- b) an extensive survey was carried out in February, 2008, in Basins III, II and I of the Lake. Basin I was the entry point of the Zambezi River into the Lake. No occurrence of the disease was found in all the three basins; and
- c) part of the technical team’s report had been translated into Silozi and communities were being sensitised through extension visits and the use of the Community Radio Stations.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with satisfaction that the Ministry has already put in place measures to ensure that the fish disease is put under control.

They resolve to have the matter closed.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

06/06 – Sensitization on the Implementation of Human Resource Plan Retention and Attraction of Health Personnel Scheme

On 23rd March, 2006, the Hon Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Therefore, for this plan to be implemented, there is need for sensitization. We, therefore, think that this is a great opportunity for Zambia.”

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Zambia Health Workers' Retention Scheme initially catered only for Medical Doctors when it commenced in 2003. However, in 2007, a decision was taken to expand the retention scheme to include other cadres and this was included in the Zambia Health Workers Retention Scheme (ZHWRS) Scale-up plan. The main objective was to ensure that the Ministry of Health had staff at the most remote rural health centres and that the district hospitals (in the designated areas) had sufficient staff to provide health care services.

Further, the Permanent Secretary reported that the second phase of the plan included medical licentiates at district hospitals, and clinical officers, Zambia enrolled nurse, Zambia enrolled midwives and environmental health technicians at rural health centres. During 2007, the information on the scale-up of the retention scheme was provided to the provincial health directors and copies of the ZHWRS scale-up plan and all of the relevant documents were handed over to them.

The Permanent Secretary also reported that the task of the provincial health directors was to disseminate the information on the scale-up of the retention scheme to the district health directors and the human resource specialists who would ultimately sensitise all workers in their catchment areas. Any change to the scale-up plan, revisions to documentation and additional information was always given to the provincial health directors for dissemination at provincial and district levels. During the Annual meeting of provincial health directors in April, 2008, the participants from the province were again sensitized on the scheme.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the Ministry has put good policies for the health workers working in rural areas as a way of making them work there. This is commendable.

In view of this, they resolve to have the matter closed.

25/06 - Engagement of Countries in Receipt of Zambian Health Workers, Particularly the British Government

On 23rd March, 2006, the Hon Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker, yes, Zambia has actually began to engage some of the countries that are receiving some of our health workers, in particular, the British Government.”

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that in January, 2007, the Ministry of Health, led by the Permanent Secretary, undertook a visit to the UK to hold discussions with the British National Health Services, the Tropical Health and Education Trust and Crown Agents UK. The purpose of the meeting was to engage in dialogue with the UK counterparts on how the UK National Health Services could contribute to development in Zambia's public health sector as a way of paying back to the Zambian Government for draining its valuable human resource to the UK National Health Service.

The visit was undertaken at a time when the then British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, had commissioned Lord Nigel Crisp to carry out a review of how the UK's experience and expertise in health could be used to best support developing countries and draw up recommendations on the

same. The delegation from the Ministry of Health therefore used this opportune visit to make a presentation to Lord Nigel Crisp on what type of support the UK health system could contribute to the health sector in Zambia. This meeting took place at the House of Lords on 16th January, 2007. In addition, the Ministry of Health delegation held discussions with the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), an organization which was established to facilitate and manage links between health facilities and training institutions in the UK National Health Service(NHS) and those in underdeveloped countries. A key output of the meetings was that the Ministry of Health in collaboration with THET must undertake a mapping of existing links between foreign institutions and facilities in Zambia's health sector and also indicate priority areas and institutions that could benefit from UK support.

The mapping exercise was undertaken during the fourth quarter of 2007 and had since been presented to THET. On the basis of the mapping report, THET would contact relevant institutions in the UK National Health Service and health training institutions to begin placing health experts in the health sector. The experts would contribute to the following:

- (a) training in teaching, research, administrative support services, management and leadership in the tertiary and second level hospitals;
- (b) teaching clinical and other skills to doctors, nurses, paramedics and undergraduates. Focus would be on the School of medicine, UTH, Ndola and Kitwe Central Hospitals;
- (c) service planning and design; and
- (d) some targeted support through equipment and learning materials.

During the course of the year 2008, the Ministry would begin to receive experts from the UK visiting the health sector. It was expected that through this support, the UK NHS would contribute to strengthening the health system in Zambia that had been weakened through the brain drain mostly to the UK.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the British Government is trying to pay back in kind to the Zambian Government over the brain drain of health personnel to Britain. They are sending health personnel experts either for research work or to train Zambian health workers on a voluntary basis.

In view of the above, your Committee urge the Government to ensure that the brain drain from our health sector is reduced by giving good incentives to the health workers particularly those in rural areas.

13/07 – Expansion of Urban Clinics in an effort to Decongest University Teaching Hospital (UTH)

On 13th July, 2007, the Hon Deputy Minister of Health made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker, Government.....will instead expand some other urban clinics like Chawama, Chilenje, Kanyama and Matero to mini hospitals which will provide laboratory, x-ray, dental, in-patient, theatre and blood transfusion services.”

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry of Health and the Lusaka District Health Management Team had upgraded eight centres which included four big centres namely, Chilenje, Kanyama, Matero Reference and Chawama Health Centres.

These four health centres operated like mini hospitals because they were able to provide the following services:

- admission or in-patient capacity of thirty Beds or more;
- maternity services which included ante-natal, labor and delivery and post-natal services;
- Dental Health Services;
- laboratory services which included full blood counts, Malaria testing, urine and stool testing, and testing for sexually transmitted infections;
- undertaking x-match and provide blood transfusions except for Chawama Clinic which would soon be able to provide those services too, as assessments had already been conducted for suitability; and
- X-ray and ultrasound services were also readily available at all those four Clinics.

Further, the Permanent Secretary reported that with the expansion of the services in the district clinics, there was need to improve staffing across all departments. Lack of adequate staff in the clinics had also been cited as a reason for high referrals (both clinics and self referrals) to UTH.

In 2008, the Government would commence the construction of the Lusaka Provincial Hospital. The construction of the hospital would decongest the University Teaching Hospital in that it would provide 2nd level referral services to Lusaka, Kafue, Chongwe and Luangwa Districts.

Further, the Permanent Secretary reported that, this year, the Government of Zambia would also commence the construction of Chongwe District Hospital. Chongwe currently had no District (1st level) Hospital. The construction of the Hospital would assist in the decongestion of UTH as all 1st level referral cases under Chongwe District that were previously referred to UTH would now be handled by Chongwe District Hospital.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the Ministry of Health through Lusaka District Health Management Team has already upgraded eight big health centres, including, Chilenje, Kanyama, Matero, Chawama and Chipata. This was in an effort to decongest the University Teaching Hospital.

In view of the above observation, your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

14/07 – Expansion of Chinama Hills Hospital into second level provincial hospital

On 13th July, 2007, the Hon Deputy Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House.

“Mr Speaker...The Government will also expand Chainama Hills College Hospital into a fully fledged second level provincial hospital to deal with all referrals from the four districts, namely, Lusaka, Luangwa, Chongwe and Kafue.”

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry of Health had embarked on a programme to construct a second level hospital in Lusaka. The proposed site was at Chainama Hills College.

The Provincial hospital was intended to deal with all referrals from the Lusaka, Luangwa, Chongwe and Kafue Districts.

The Government had secured support from the Chinese Government to finance and provide technical assistance with regards to construction of the hospital.

The Chinese Government had so far sent two technical teams to Zambia to undertake feasibility studies towards construction of Lusaka Provincial Hospital. There was a team in the country which was undertaking the surveys in order to finalise the design drawings for the Hospital. The design team would be leaving the country on 18th April, 2008.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the actual works leading to the expansion of Chainama Hills College Hospital into Second Level Provincial Hospital has not yet commenced.

Your Committee resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

05/07 - Adaptation to Climate Change

On 30th November, 2007, the Hon Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources assured the House as follows:

“Sir, in the areas of adoption, I am happy to inform you that the Zambian Government, through my Ministry, with support from the United National Development Programme (UNDP) has just completed the formulation of the National Adoption Programme of Action (NAPA). The Government through my Ministry recently launched this programme.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the formulation of the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) was completed in 2007 with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). During the same year, the Ministry launched this programme. This year, a total of three thousand (3,000) copies of the NAPA Document were printed and the dissemination process to key stakeholders had since commenced.

The NAPA provided the road map for the Government's implementation of adaptation strategies to address the adverse effects of climate change, with special focus on critical sectors of Agriculture and Food Security, Natural Resources (forests and wildlife), Water and Energy and Human Health. The Ministry intended to use the NAPA guidelines to promote and co-ordinate implementation of all adaptation activities in the Nation.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the Ministry has produced the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and are already working on the matter.

They resolve to have the matter closed.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, GENDER IN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (GIDD)

21/6- Bill on gender based violence

On 14th February, 2006, His Honour the Vice President made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

“The Government has, in fact, embarked upon a comprehensive and consultative process with major stakeholders such as Women in the Law Development Association and UNICEF as

cooperating partners to come with a Bill on gender violence which will further address any discriminating practices based upon sex and gender.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Gender in Development Division (GIDD) initiated consultations with the Ministry of Justice on how best to develop the legislation on Gender Based Violence. During the course of the consultations, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia also directed the Ministry of Justice to start the process of consultations on the development of legislation on Gender Based Violence. The Government had shown commitment to this development and would want the Bill on Gender Based violence to be presented to Parliament during the current session of the National Assembly.

The Ministry of Justice directed the Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC) to start the process of consultations and come up with a draft Bill on Gender Based Violence. In January, 2008, GIDD, in collaboration with the Zambia Law Development Commission, set up a Technical Committee of experts whose mandate was to develop legislation on Gender Based Violence. The Committee had since developed a concept paper which would facilitate the collection of information that would feed into the legislation on Gender Based Violence.

In addition, a National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence had been developed which would further enhance the draft legislation. Consultations with stakeholders would commence in April 2008. The Zambia Law Development Commission had since drawn up a road map indicating the milestones up to the time when the draft Bill would be ready for submission on 28th November 2008.

Observations and Recommendations

In noting the submission, your Committee observe that the process of consultation on the formulation of the Bill is underway, particularly that a directive was issued by the Republican President to come up with a law on Gender Violence.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee urge the Government to expedite the formulation of the law on Gender Violence to avert the increasing gender violence as cases of wife battering, including deaths, are rising daily.

20/07- Sensitisation tours to Women Clubs Countrywide

On 20th November 2007, the Hon Minister of Gender and Women in Development assured the House as follows:

“In this regard, my office has already planned to undertake tours to various parts of the country especially in rural areas where information on development tissues often is lacking.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that Parliament had approved the budget for the Gender in Development Division. That meant that three tours would be undertaken to Western, Luapula and Northern Provinces in 2008.

Observations and Recommendations

In noting the submission, your Committee observe that sensitization tours to women clubs countrywide on development issues are cardinal as women are key in spearheading development due to their central role in the management of home and family affairs.

In view of this observation, your Committee urge the Government to facilitate these sensitization tours to women clubs countrywide as a way of empowering women to spearhead development programmes.

21/07 - Empowerment Programmes for women in rural areas

On 20th November, 2007, the Hon Minister of Gender and Women in Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker... this is the reason why we have taken it up ourselves in the Ministry to come up with programmes that will facilitate the empowerment of women in the rural areas.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the economic empowerment of women was a priority for the Gender In Development Division (GIDD). In this regard, the Division had developed the Joint Gender Support Programme (JGSP) that would seek to support the implementation of the national priorities in the area of gender as encapsulated in the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP - 2006-2011). The main objective of the JGSP was to reduce gender imbalances and attain gender equity and equality in Zambia. Some of the outputs in the JGSP were to develop strategies for addressing economic and social vulnerabilities at household levels. This activity was about initiating or supporting existing initiatives for the economic empowerment of women, especially in rural areas. A consultancy to conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of agro processing projects and operational mechanisms would be commissioned. GIDD would work with other line ministries to provide technical and financial support for capacity building in enterprise development and self-employment; training in skills and entrepreneurship; access to micro-credit; and promotion of small businesses and micro-industries.

The JGSP had been presented to Cabinet Office for tabling before Parliament. Once it was approved, implementation would start.

In conclusion, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Division would continue to play an influential role in the development of programmes and policies aimed at addressing the current gender imbalances and prevent the recurrence of such imbalances in the future.

Observations and Recommendations

In noting the submission, your Committee observe that GIDD’s stake in this matter lies in facilitating policy formulation with regard to women programmes. The implementing Ministry is the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.

In view of the above observation, your Committee implore the Government to support the various empowerment programmes for women in rural areas. GIDD should ensure that they make appropriate policies for the implementing ministries which are conducive for them to achieve.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETEARY, MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

01/07 - Devolving of functions to local authorities

On 30th November 2007, the Hon Minister of Local Government and Housing assured the House as follows:

“Mr Speaker ...it is important we decentralized some of the functions to the local authorities and the communities so that they can undertake such jobs as supervising the contractors in an effective manner.”

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government was being cautious in the way the Decentralisation Policy was being implemented. The functions would be devolved by various ministries to all the councils at an appropriate time so that they could be able to provide services to the people. However, the Decentralisation Implementation Plan, which was the roadmap in the implementation of the National Decentralisation Policy, had not yet been approved by Cabinet.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with dismay that the Decentralisation Implementation Plan, which is a roadmap in the implementation of the National Decentralisation Policy, has not yet been approved by Cabinet. Therefore, devolving of functions to local authorities is not yet happening.

Your Committee resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

02/07 - Demolishing of structures built over sewerage/water pipes

On 30th November 2007, the Hon Minister of Local Government and Housing assured the House as follows:

“Mr Speaker, this Government and this Hon Minister.....have directed the Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company, all local authorities and all water utilize in the country to ensure that any structure that is standing on sewerage or water pipes and is not line with the development plan of any local authority, town or city must be demolished.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government had already directed councils to demolish all structures that had been erected on sewer lines. Lusaka, Ndola and Kitwe City Councils had already responded to this directive by demolishing some of the structures that had been built on sewer lines. Your Committee were also informed that the problem of building structures on sewer lines was not common in rural district but only in selected urban districts where the rate of urbanisation was high. Further, the Government, in its quest to make Zambia clean and health, had procured vehicles for all the councils that would be used to for the ‘Keep Zambia clean’ campaign and also to monitor the development of structures in all districts to ensure that only approved structures were built in designated areas.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that the councils in the urban areas, Lusaka, Ndola and Kitwe, where the problem is rife, have already responded to the Government directive to demolish all the structures built over sewerage/water pipes. This is commendable.

Your Committee resolve to have the matter closed.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETEARY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

06/07- Rural Development Policy

On 13th November, 2007, the Hon Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Industry assured the House as follows:

“Sir, my Ministry is working on the rural development policy, that we have decided that it is important to address the supply constraint first and this means that we must provide infrastructure.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in collaboration with the Capacity Building for Private Sector Development of the European Union (CBPSD - EU) was currently conducting a study on Assessment of Economic Potential of Rural Districts. The assessment of economic potential of rural districts was required as a prerequisite to the development of the policy. To this effect, the Ministry through the Ninth European-Union Development Fund (EDF9) had engaged a Consultant who was required to undertake an assessment of the economic potential of rural districts. The Consultant was yet to submit a Report.

The Ministry of Finance and National Development, through the Central Statistical Office, was carrying out an Economic Census to provide the much needed input. The Economic Census would have baseline information for accurate national economic planning, including the rural development policy. The Ministry was currently awaiting the Economic Census to be finalized so as to obtain the much-needed information.

It was expected that these two studies would provide an input into the development of the Policy. The Government of the Republic of Zambia believed in evidence based policy formulation and the two studies would provide the necessary input to the development of the Rural Development Policy. A well-founded policy for rural development would serve as a guide to the implementation of the Rural Industrialization Programme by creating employment and wealth, reducing poverty in rural areas and reversing the rural-urban migration.

Observations and Recommendations

In noting the submission, your Committee observe that the process of developing a Rural Development Policy is still underway. They recognize that the Rural Development Policy once, in place, will bring about economic empowerment in rural areas.

In view of this observation, your Committee urge the Government to urgently develop a Rural Development Policy to make the rural areas attractive as investment destinations.

They wait for an update on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETEARY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

09/07 - Monitoring mechanism on the use of 545 hammer-mills distributed country-wide to clubs

On 1st November, 2007 the Hon. Deputy Minister of Community Development and Social Services assured the House as follows:

“Mr. Speaker, there is a unit to monitor the use of hammer mills ... Nevertheless, since it has been brought to our attention, we will actually look into it..”

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that by unit it meant the structures that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services had from headquarters and provincial centres down to sub district level, where activities for community development were implemented.

As regards the hammer mill programmes, the Permanent Secretary reported that it was being treated like any other programme that the Ministry was mandated to implement through the community development policy.

Apart from the hammer mill programmes, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services also implemented the following:

Non-formal education, public welfare assistance scheme, self help initiatives, food security pack and social cash transfers, to mention but a few. Monitoring of those programmes was done by officers from the province, district to sub-centres and, from time to time, officers from headquarters.

The Permanent Secretary further stated that it was important to note that despite those monitoring measures and structures, the Ministry faced the challenge of reaching out due to limited resources. The budgetary allocation did not allow them to procure adequate vehicles or to conduct regular monitoring of the same programmes.

Further, the Permanent Secretary submitted that the Ministry had made progress on the assurance made to the House. For instance, eight vehicles were to be stationed in provinces to enhance the monitoring of the programmes. Six motorbikes were also bought for the districts. In this year's budget, K100 million had been earmarked for monitoring women's development programmes that also included the hammer mill programme. The restructuring exercise that had seen adequate and qualified staff into the Ministry was also almost completed. All those were measures put in place to enhance monitoring of all the ministerial programmes, including the hammer mill programme.

On whether there were records to monitor the 545 hammer mills, the Permanent Secretary reported that they did have a record. He, however, lamented that people did not maintain them. On whether they experienced any theft in their monitoring programmes of the hammer mills, the Permanent Secretary agreed and reported that in Mwense and Nchelenge, the hammer mills were sold. The Communities in those areas did not claim ownership of the programme.

Observations and Recommendations

In noting the submission, your Committee observe that the 545 hammer mills have been distributed country wide. Your Committee commend the Ministry for the job well done.

In view of the foregoing, they resolve to have the matter closed.

18/07 – Integrating rehabilitated street children into their families

On 7th August, 2007, the Hon. Minister of Community Development and Social Services made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr. Speaker ... These Children are currently undergoing rehabilitation and will soon be integrated into their families. Families for most of these children have been traced and are being prepared to receive them."

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Street Children Programme was an on-going intervention, and generally involved the removal of children from the streets and the re-integration of those children into families or childcare institutions. Families were also empowered with skills in income generating activities (IGAs) to assist them sustain their lives and those of their children.

The Permanent Secretary then explained the Street Children Programmes as set out below.

1. **Removal of Children**

From August, 2007, to date, there had been a total of four hundred and ninety six (496) children removed from the streets countrywide. One hundred and ninety seven (197) of them were removed from Lusaka alone. Out of the total of four hundred and ninety six (496), three hundred and sixty seven (367) were male while one hundred and twenty nine (129) were girls.

2. **Re-integration**

During the same period, three hundred and sixty eight (368) children were re-integrated back into their families. Out of these, two hundred and ninety five (295) were males and seventy three were females.

3. **Rehabilitation**

A total of one hundred and sixty four (164) children were rehabilitated in skills training and rehabilitation centres. One hundred and forty five (145) of those rehabilitated were males while nineteen were girls.

4. **Family Empowerment**

During this period, seventy-nine families were trained in various skills and given start up capital aimed at empowering them.

5. **Child Protection Unit**

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services was working closely with the Child Protection Unit in the scaling up of child protection programmes (street children) in all provincial and district centers in the country. So far, North-Western, Southern and Copperbelt Provinces had been assessed and very soon, offices for the unit would begin functioning in those provinces. The other remaining provinces were currently being assessed and operations of the Child Protection Unit in those provinces were also expected to commence soon. In the same vein, the Ministry was currently in the process of putting in place work plans, which would assist District Child Protection Committees to access and utilize funds as they received them from the MCDSS headquarters.

6. **Challenges**

The Permanent Secretary reported that in carrying out the Street Children Programme, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services was faced with a number of challenges, one of them being the lack of spaces in Childcare Institutions to admit some of the children being withdrawn from the streets. In this regard, the Ministry was currently scouting for disused structures to refurbish and turn into child care centres. One area which had been identified for this purpose was Chikumbi in Chibombo District which was undergoing rehabilitation and construction.

One other "push" factor for the current seemingly increase in the numbers of street children was that, with the flooding being experienced in some areas where crushing of stones was being done by children and parents, the children had now been pushed back to the streets to earn a living. The Ministry was in the process of empowering such parents within the Street Children Programme in order to encourage them to undertake alternative forms of livelihood instead of stone crushing.

The other challenge was that despite the Ministry having put up billboards discouraging the giving of alms to street children, some members of the public continue to give money to the children thereby encouraging them to be on the streets. The Ministry's view was that a street was not a home. Therefore, members of the public were being informed that they would assist by referring such children to the District Social Welfare Offices or Child Protection Offices in the respective areas.

Finally, the Permanent Secretary submitted that the MCDSS wished to assure the nation that everything possible was being done to ensure that the Street Children Programme succeeded and it was hoped that by June, 2008 there might be fewer children on the streets of Lusaka and indeed in the nation at large.

On whether rehabilitated street children were given jobs after receiving training in certain skills, the Permanent Secretary reported that most of the street children were not being handled by his Ministry but by the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development. He further reported that those children were imparted with life skills for self employment. However, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services sent children to school who were of school going age so that they became useful members of society.

On whether Social Welfare Officers did interact with children in rural areas in order to empower such children as well, the Permanent Secretary reported that they did and it was for that reason that the Ministry acquired thirty-eight vehicles.

Observations and Recommendations

In noting the submission, your Committee observe that there are no costs reflected to indicate how much it entails to empower families where rehabilitated children are being integrated.

Your Committee, therefore, wish to urge the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to indicate how much has gone into empowering the families. This will make your Committee appreciate that the programme of integrating the rehabilitated street children into their families is being honoured.

SUBMISSION BY THE ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY

16/07 Replacing pontoons with Bridges

On 20th November, 2007, the Hon Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance on the floor of the House.

“Mr Speaker, it is the Government's policy that all pontoons must be replaced with bridges eventually. At the moment, with limited resources, we are replacing them and one example is Chembe.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Acting Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry, through the Road Development Agency, had continued to pursue and implement the assurance on replacing of pontoons and the bridges.

The Ministry would soon appoint consultants to carry out a detailed engineering design and preparation of Tender document for the construction of a bridge across the Kafue River at Mufuchani in Kitwe to replace the existing pontoon. The works were expected to commence in August, 2009.

The two pontoons at Kazungula would also be replaced by a bridge across the Zambezi river to link Zambia to Botswana. The African Development Bank was financing the consulting services for the survey and engineering design for the construction of the Kazungula bridge. The consultant had been selected by the three countries (Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe) to provide the services and the contract was supposed to have been signed on 21st February, 2008 for a duration of thirteen months, had it not been for disagreement by Zimbabwe to the signing of the contract. The preparation of tender documentation and invitation for bids for the construction of the bridge across the Zambezi River at Kazungula would immediately follow the completion of the design.

Further, the Ministry continues to be desirous to build a bridge across the Chambeshi river at Mbesuma to replace the existing pontoon despite the cancellation of the previous contract that was awarded to Messrs Miller limited in October, 2000. In the 2008 Annual Work Plan for the Road Development Agency, there was a provision of ZMK500, 000,000 to carry out the review and update of the engineering design for the construction of Mbesuma bridge. It was hoped that construction would commence in April, 2009.

Finally, the Acting Permanent Secretary reported that the construction of the bridge across Kafue River at Chiawa to replace the existing pontoon was currently underway. The detailed engineering design for the bridge construction was completed. However, there had been a modification in the bridge deck design of the prestressed concrete box girder, which was expected to be finalized in August, 2008. It was expected that the modification would result in a saving of 20% as opposed to a composite bridge deck.

The actual works for the construction of the Chiawa Bridge might begin in May, 2009.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that a number of pontoons are targeted for replacement by constructing bridges across the rivers such as Kafue River at Mufuchani in Kitwe, Zambezi River at Kazungula, Chambeshi River at Mbesuma and Kafue River again at Chiawa.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolve to urge the Government to source adequate funds for the projects. A progress report is being awaited on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

17/07 – Long Distance Bus Operators – Leaving Passengers at undesignated Places Instead of Bus stops or Stations

On 20th November, 2007, the Hon Deputy Minister of Communications and Transport assured the House as follows:

“Sir, in order to address the situation, through the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA), in an effort to bring sanity to the Zambian Roads, has opened two call centres in Livingstone and Lusaka where any member of the public who observes breach of road traffic regulations, immediately follow-up such cases with offenders.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that through the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA), Government had established public road transport Call Centres which were open 24hrs daily to enable members of the public, including passengers,

report incidents of being dropped at undesignated places and other misconducts and abuse by crews, accidents and breach of traffic laws and regulations to the Agency.

The call centre numbers would be continuously advertised in the press and a cadre of qualified staff was recently engaged and was to undergo specialized training. The call centre operations were linked by radio to RTSA patrol vehicles to enable the patrol vehicles make quick responses to reported incidents. The RTSA also held public sittings that facilitate the granting of Road Service Licenses (RSL), and members of the public who had complaints against any operator or their crew could present their grievances at these sittings. Based on the complaints, the Licensing Committee could refuse issuing RSL to operators.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe, with satisfaction, that modalities have been put in place to ensure that RTSA call centre operations are open to members of the public 24 hours daily in case of any complaints against offending bus operators or their crew.

In view of the above observation, your Committee resolve to close the matter.

11/07- Provision of Smaller Boats for the Bangweulu Swamps

On 1st November, 2007, the Hon Deputy Minister of Communications and Transport assured the House as follows:

“Mr Speaker, we have plans to purchase smaller boats.”

In noting the submission, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Bangweulu Water Transport Board of the MCT provided water transport services between Samfya and Chilubi Islands on Lake Bangweulu, but due to inadequate, resources, they had been unable to provide this service in the swamps.

In the 2008 budget, K100million had been provided to procure a watercraft for the Bangweulu Swamps. The process of procuring the smaller boats had started.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe with concern that the water transport for the people in Bangweulu Swamps and Islands is inadequate if not non-existent.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee wish to urge Government to seriously provide adequate water transport for the people in Bangweulu Swamps and the Islands. A progress report is being awaited on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING

23/06 - Bursaries Committee Vis-À-Vis Student Loans

On 14th February, 2006, the Hon Deputy Minister of Finance and National Planning made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker.....the Bursaries Committees has taken steps towards strengthening its operations to ensure that students financial requirements are adequately met. The Committee has entered into Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Government and the Finance Bank to allow the bank administer the funds under the loans recoveries of funds given to students at the two universities.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Secretary to the Treasury reported that the Bursaries Committee (BC) was established in 1973 as a section under the Ministry of Education to administer bursaries, scholarships and education grants to deserving Zambian students at the University of Zambia (UNZA) through the Bursary Scheme. The Scheme was extended to the Copperbelt University (CBU) when it was established in 1981. Currently, Government sponsored about 75% and 87% of the student population at UNZA and CBU, respectively.

Initially, the bursary scheme catered for all academic and welfare expenses of the students admitted in the University at 100%. The increase in student population from 312 in 1976 to over 8000 in 2006, coupled with the increased pressure on Government resources from other developmental programmes, led to the adjustment of the scheme to 75% (except for vulnerable students who were still receiving a full bursary).

However, the cost of financing university education continues to pose pressure on the Government's budget for education. This had been exacerbated by the re-introduction of free basic education, the recruitment of education personnel and the development of education infrastructure, which were all competing for the same resources.

Students loan Scheme

The Secretary to the Treasury reported that to relieve the pressure on public funds on university education, the Government decided to introduce the Students Loan Scheme in 2004, to replace the Bursary Scheme. The Loan Scheme was deemed as an equitable way of sponsorship for university education as it was meant to:

- a) provide an opportunity for all Zambia university students to access an education loan from Government, irrespective of their gender or families' socio-economic status;
- b) create a sustainable revolving fund which would be accessed by all students requiring scholarships for higher, Education-in Zambia or abroad;
- c) allow students who had utilised Government funds for their higher education to contribute towards the cost of educating future generations;
- d) ensure the availability of resources for higher education costs in the country, since students (loanees) would be bound to repay the cost of the scholarship into a revolving fund;
- e) ameliorate the financial status of public universities and colleges in the country; and
- f) contribute towards stimulating the development of course programmes that were demand-driven, relevant and appropriate to the needs of the individual and industry.

The Secretary to the Treasury reported that the strategy, among others, included conducting study tours to various African countries that were already implementing the Scheme. This was to give an insight of the best practices and the expected challenges in the administration of the Loan Scheme. To this end, members of the Bursaries Committee conducted study tours to Kenya and Zimbabwe and their findings made an input into the concept paper on the introduction of the Student Loans Scheme.

The Memorandum of Understanding

The Secretary to the Treasury reported that Government, through the Ministry of Education - Bursaries Committee, had been studying and working on ways to develop an effective loan recovery mechanism and process, as one way of creating a sustainable administration system for the Scheme. One of the viable resolutions was to appoint an agent, with relevant expertise -and means, to administer the loan scheme on behalf of the Government.

To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in June 2004 between the Government of Zambia (acting through the Ministry of Education) and Finance Bank Zambia Ltd. In this MOU, the Government, as principal, appointed the Bank, as agent, to administer the Scheme under the terms and conditions set out in the MOU.

Establishment of the Zambia Higher Education loans Board

The Secretary to the Treasury reported that in order to effectively manage the Students Loan Scheme, Government had undertaken to establish the Zambia Higher Education Loans Board (ZAHELB) in 2007. This Board was to be a one-stop shop for the administration of all higher education loans and scholarships offered by the Government. The major functions of ZAHELB were to:

- a) source of funds from Government and/or other financiers of higher education;
- b) establish a viable and sustainable Revolving Fund which would be used for higher education loans and scholarships;
- c) identify viable securities and ventures in which funds that were not immediately required could be invested, in order to augment the growth of the Revolving Fund;
- d) disburse loans and scholarships to deserving Zambian students studying (or intending to study) in institutions of higher learning both in Zambia and abroad;
- e) develop mechanisms of recovering maturing education loans (either directly or through an agent); and
- f) recover all mature education loans issued by the Board for re-injection into the Revolving Fund.

Repeal and Enactment (Proposal)

The Secretary to the Treasury reported that due to the aforementioned undertakings, Government would soon be proposing to the Legislature the repeal of the Bursaries Committee statutory instrument No. 192 of 1973 of the *Education Act* (Laws of Zambia, Volume V, Cap 234) to allow for the enactment of a Loans Board.

This development was expected to legally:

- compel students to repay the loans at defined interest rates;
- compel employers to deduct loan repayment installments and remit to the Loans Board;
- and
- provide for penalties to the defaulters of the loans.

The Secretary to the Treasury reported that following the Government's resolution to abolish the Bursary Scheme and usher in the Loan Scheme in 2004, all students who were receiving Government sponsorship on higher education, through the Bursaries Committee, were doing so on a Loan Scheme basis.

However, the MOU between Government and Finance Bank had not yet been operationalised. This was because the Government body, the ZAHE-LB, which should be mandated with the responsibility of managing the Student Loan Scheme, was yet to be established.

A concept paper had been developed on the establishment of ZAHELB and its proposed functions. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice were currently studying the proposal and would soon be drafting a layman's version of this document to be presented to Parliament in the form of a bill.

Therefore, the current delay being experienced on the establishment of the Loans Board was due to this analytical work which was taking place with the experts. The Ministry of Education would be furnishing the House, via your Committee, with more details on the subject as more work progressed on the establishment of the ZAHELB and, subsequently, the operationalisation of the Students Loan Scheme.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that despite signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Government and the Finance Bank, the student loan scheme has not yet been operationlised by the Bursaries Committee.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

24/06: Amendment of the Zambia National Tender Board Act

On 14th February, 2006, the Hon Minister of Finance and National Planning made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the Government is in the process of amending the Zambia National Tender Board Act. Once consultations were finalized, I shall present the proposed amendments to the August House.”

In submitting to your Committee, the Secretary to the Treasury reported that the *Zambia National Tender Board Act* was in the process of been amended. A draft Procurement Bill to replace the *Zambia National Tender Board Act* had being prepared and was before Cabinet for consideration. Once Cabinet approved the draft Bill, it would be presented to the National Assembly for enactment. This would be done before the end of the 2008 session of the National Assembly.

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observe that *Zambia National Tender Board Act* is in the process of being amended.

They resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

02/08 Addressing Load Shedding Problem

On 4th March, 2008, the Hon Minister of Energy and Water Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Madam Chairperson.....The Government is taking every measure to quickly redress the situation.....by quickly upgrading the equipment and process of rehabilitation so that 450Mw of energy that had been lost can be put back.....”

In submitting to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that in order to address the load shedding problem, Government through ZESCO was implementing the Power Rehabilitation Programme. Under the programme, the major power stations that were being rehabilitated and upgraded were:

1. Kariba North Bank (KNB): from 600MW to 720MW

2. Kafue Gorge: from 900Mw to 990MW

KNB was scheduled to be completed in February 2009 and Kafue Gorge in December 2008.

Government, through ZESCO, was also in the process of implementing new projects in power generation. These were:

1. Itezi-tezi - 120MW to be commissioned in 2012
2. Kariba North Bank Extension- 360MW to be commissioned in 2013

Other projects were:

1. Kalungushi - 210 MW to be commissioned in 2014
2. Kafue Gorge lower - 750MW to be commissioned in 2015
3. Kabompo Gorge - 34MW to be commissioned in 2013

Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee express concern with the delay in completing the rehabilitation of key hydropower projects in the country.

They resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Sir, your Committee wish to commend the permanent secretaries who managed, under difficult circumstances, to fully implement the assurances falling under their jurisdiction. The assurances herein were being referred to the ministries/divisions for the first time and yet some of the permanent secretaries had managed to work on them with due effectiveness and efficiency.

However, your Committee also wish to register their displeasure and disappointment at some Ministries' failure to implement some assurances despite these assurances having been made when funds were set aside for the projects and while a conducive environment was prevailing.

Your Committee do not take kindly to the excuse that the assurances were being brought to the ministries' attention for the first time and, therefore, could not be worked on thoroughly.

Your Committee wish to thank all the Permanent Secretaries and their support staff who took time off their busy schedules to appear before them. This is as it should be if the country is to move forward in developmental issues.

Finally, your Committee wish to thank you, Mr Speaker, and the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the guidance and assistance during the course of the year.

J B Chongo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

LUSAKA,
NOVEMBER, 2008