



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE NINTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

APPOINTED ON 19TH JANUARY 2006

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE NINTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED ON 19TH JANUARY, 2006.

Consisting of:

Capt. C. Moono, MP; (Chairperson); Major General D S Zulu, MP; Mr E S Silwamba, MP; Mr M S Mulanda, MP; Mr J C Kasongo, MP; Mr E Z Mwanza, MP; Ms Q V Kakoma, MP; and Mrs B M Wamulume, MP.

The Honourable Mr Speaker
National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
LUSAKA

Sir,

Your Committee have the honour to present their Report for the year 2006.

2. Functions of the Committee

In addition to any other duties conferred upon them by the Honourable Mr Speaker or any other order of the House, your Committee oversee operations of the Ministries of Defence, Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs.

In overseeing the activities of these Ministries, your Committee carry out the following functions:

- (i) study, report and make recommendations to the Government through the House on the mandate, management and operations of the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, departments and/or agencies under their portfolios;
- (ii) carry out detailed scrutiny of certain activities being undertaken by the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, departments and/or

- agencies under their portfolio and make appropriate recommendations to the House for ultimate consideration by the Government;
- (iii) make, if considered necessary, recommendations to the Government on the need to review certain policies and/or certain existing legislation; and
 - (iv) consider any Bills that may be referred to them by the House.

3. Meetings of the Committee

Your Committee held fourteen (14) meetings during the year under review.

4. Programme of Work

At their second meeting held on 6th February, 2006, your Committee considered and adopted the following programme of work:

- a) consideration of the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for 2005;
- b) study the operations of the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission;
- c) consideration of Reports from Parliamentary Delegations to SADC-PF; and
- d) tours; the Committee resolved to undertake local and foreign tours arising from issues in the Action-Taken Report; and

5. Procedure adopted by the Committee

Your Committee requested detailed memoranda on the topics under consideration from various stakeholders concerned. The stakeholders were invited to appear before them to give verbal submissions and clarifications on issues arising from their submissions.

Your Committee also undertook tours to two Zambian diplomatic missions in Namibia and Mozambique.

PART I

SUBMISSIONS ON CURRENT ISSUES

6. Operations of the Zambia Police and Prison Service Commission.

Your Committee, concerned with the plight of police and prisons officers and the impact it has on the operations of the Zambia Police Force and the Zambia Prison Service, resolved to undertake a detailed study of the operations of the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission in order to mitigate this plight.

The following institutions made both written and oral submissions on the subject:

- a) Zambia Police Force;
- b) Zambia Prison Service;
- c) Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission;
- d) Ministry of Home Affairs;
- e) Ministry of Finance and National Planning; and
- f) Cabinet Office.

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Background

Your Committee were informed that the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission was established in 1975 under the 1973 Constitution. Following the enactment of the new Constitution in 1991, the Commission was now established under section 7(c) of the Service Commissions Act No. 24 of 1991, Cap 259 of the Laws of Zambia. It also derives its legitimacy from Part XI, Article 123 (2) of the Constitution of Zambia.

In accordance with section 8(2) of the Service Commissions Act, Cap 259, the Commission as established is composed of:-

- a) the Chairperson;
- b) the Vice Chairperson; and

c) five other Members.

The Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson and the members of the Commission are appointed by the President of the Republic of Zambia in accordance with the provisions of section 8(3) of the Service Commission's Act.

The mission statement of the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission is to provide high quality service to the Zambia Police Force and Prisons Service by upholding and applying the powers vested into it by the President and to cultivate rapport and partnership with the Zambia Police Force and Prisons Service.

Its goal statement is to regulate its operational procedures and confer delegated powers on relevant authorities of the Government for the purposes of effectively and efficiently discharging its functions.

The functions of the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission are:

- to carry out any functions directed to it by the President;
- to appoint persons to hold or act in office of the Zambia Police Force and Prisons Service;
- to admit officers to permanent and pensionable establishment in the Zambia Police Force and Prisons Service;
- to promote officers to higher ranks in the Zambia Police Force and Prisons Service;
- to establish disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices and to remove any such persons from exercising the functions of their offices in the Police Force and Prisons Service;
- to review appeals submitted by officers against punishments imposed on them departmentally or by the responsible officer as provided for under the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission Regulation No. 42;
- to decide on the retirement and normalise resignations of officers in the Zambia Police Force and Prisons Service;

- to consider the granting and distribution of pension benefits accruing to the deceased estate;
- to direct on the compensation of the officers who die or get injured in accidents arising out of and in the course of duty; and
- to consider transfer of officers arising out of the exigencies of the Service.

Operational constraints

Your Committee heard that the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commissions' work has been hampered by a number of problems, some of which are:

- lack of appropriate accommodation for members of the Commission;
- lack of transport as there was only one old utility vehicle to serve the whole Commission;
- inadequate monthly funding as this was not enough to cater for all the Commission's operational requirements;
- inadequate offices – the Commission operates from Findeco House after being evicted from the Old Bank of Zambia building. The elevators Are not in a good working order; and
- low salaries – Salary scales/structure were low in comparison with the officers they supervised and other commissions.

The way forward

- It was recommended that in the absence of Government houses, housing allowance be increased to the equivalent of 100% of monthly salary.
- Further, it was recommended that Recurrent Departmental Charges (RDC's) be increased to enable the Commission to purchase vehicles. Currently, the Commission has no reliable vehicles. There is need to buy one minibus, two land cruisers (4x4) and two utility vehicles.
- It was recommended that an alternative place be found, preferably going back to the Old Bank of Zambia building on the Second Floor, previously occupied by Lusaka Province, who have shifted to the former Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting Services offices near the Zambia Police Headquarters, to accommodate the Commission's offices.

- It was recommended that monthly funding be increased in order to ease up operations of the Commission, such as undertaking yearly tours of all nine Provinces.

Your Committee further heard that the operational problems of the Commission, on one hand and the Police Force and Prisons Service on the other, are due to conflict of interest on staff matters. The staff matters concerned are those dealing with appointments, promotions, transfers, vacancies and discipline.

Appointments

On appointments, your Committee heard that the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission Regulations (Cap 259) empowered the Inspector-General of Police or the Commissioner of Prisons to appoint or promote any serving officers of, or below the rank of, Assistant Superintendent taking into account relevant qualifications, competence, experience, merit and good conduct of the officer(s) to be promoted and to inform the Secretary to the Commission (Police and Prisons) as soon as possible.

Promotions of Superior Officers

On the promotion of superior officers, your Committee were informed that the Regulations provide that powers to promote superior police officers or prison officers are vested in the Commission. However, such promotions should only be effected after wide and extensive consultations between the office of the Inspector-General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons and the Commission.

Vacancies

On the regulations on vacancies, your Committee were informed that these stipulate that when a vacancy occurs, or it is known that a vacancy would occur in the Police Force or Prisons Service, the Inspector-General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons communicates that information to the Commission. The notification must be accompanied by recommendations of the officer(s) he/she believed was/were best qualified to fill such vacancy. If the promotion or appointment of that officer involves the supercession of any senior officers in the service, the Inspector-General or the Commissioner of Prisons must state the reasons for the supercession of each officer.

Transfers

Regarding transfers, your Committee heard that the regulations clearly state that the Inspector –General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons could transfer any serving officer or, in case of emergency or extreme urgency, any officer of, or below, the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Prisons.

Discipline

On matters of discipline, your Committee were informed that the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission regulations on discipline empower the Commission to sit and hear appeal cases from officers challenging punishment imposed by the disciplinary authority or the Inspector-General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons, except in the case where the punishment was imposed by the Commission itself. The regulations further state that the appellant shall set out clearly the grounds of appeal and such appeal shall be delivered to the disciplinary authority or Inspector-General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons not later than twenty-one days from the date of the notice given to such an officer, informing him/her of the punishment.

However, your Committee were informed that there are tribunals under the command officers that hear appeals. Further, some officers appeal to the courts of law. It was also heard that some delayed cases were caused by duplication of work with the concerned command and the Police Public Complaints Authority.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Your Committee heard that the conduct of the Commission during its countrywide tours were contrary to the provisions of the Police Act, Cap 107 and the Prisons Act, Cap 97 of the Laws of Zambia in that during the tours, the Commission would promote officers it considered fit for promotion without taking into account the requirements of the Police and Prisons Establishment. However, this was done in accordance with the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commissions Act, Cap 259 of the Laws of Zambia.

The promotions and appointments of superior officers were not supposed to be initiated by the Commission, but by the Inspector-General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons who should recommend a serving officer(s) to be appointed to any senior rank by the Commission. Upon receipt of such recommendations, the Commission may endorse or reject them.

The Commission, however, sometimes appointed and promoted superior officers without consulting the Inspector-General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons. The resulting outcome of such a development was that most officers who did not deserve promotion were promoted at the expense of deserving ones.

With regard to transfers, your Committee were informed that problems relating to transfers had raised a lot of concern in that the Commission had allegedly been seen to rescind transfers approved by the Inspector-General of Police or Commissioner of Prisons.

On appeals with regard to grievances, your Committee were informed that, in most cases, the appellants did not avail their immediate supervisors with a copy of such appeals. The high command would only hear of such appeals when summoned by the Commission.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the submissions received from stakeholders, your Committee observe the following:

- that there was a correlation between the operations of the Commission and the efficiency of the Zambia Police Force and the Prisons Service. Further, it is observed that when handling matters pertaining to the appointments, promotions, transfers and retirement of police officers and prison officers, the Commission's powers have affected the Police Force and Prisons Service efficiency in some instances;
- that inadequate funding, poor office accommodation and lack of transport were affecting the operations of the Commission;
- that the Police Public Complaints Authority (PPCA) Act No 14 of 1999 also contributed to problems of misunderstanding between the Police Force and the Commission in that the PPCA exercised oversight over the conduct of the police and received complaints from the public. Where the PPCA felt that action should be taken, they directed the Police Command to take such action and this created insecurity in the police force as officers feel that the Zambia Police Act Cap 107 did not protect them enough to carry out their duties independently and freely;
- that the cause of operational problems was mainly due to appointing former service officers from the two institutions to serve as chairpersons of the Commission;
- that the main role of the Ministry of Home Affairs in relation to the Commission was to receive submissions from the Zambia Police Force and Zambia Prisons Service on staff matters such as promotions, retirements, transfers, appointments, discipline and appeals and only forward them to the Commission; and
- that the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission like the Public Service Commission, is established under the *Constitution of the Republic of Zambia*.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend that, the Commission on one hand, and the Police Force and Prisons Service on the other, should understand their roles as provided for under the law pertaining to staff matters.

On the operational problems between the Police Force and Prison Service on one hand and the Commission on the other, your Committee are of the view that in order to find a solution, consideration could be given by the appointing authority to appoint a neutral chairperson such as a retired Judge or eminent citizens at the level of retired Permanent Secretary because the appointment of former officers of the Police Force or the Prison Service is creating confusion as those appointed might have some old scores to settle. Furthermore, though the Commission could continue, consideration be given on the need for the Police Force and Prisons Service to be managed under an institution similar to a Defence Council.

With regard to promotions made by the Commission while on tours, your Committee while cognisant of the provisions of the law, recommend that in order to lessen confusion between the Police Force and Prisons Service on one hand and the Commission on the other, the Commission should desist from making on the spot decisions when on tours. They should instead wait and verify their information with the Inspector-General of Police or the Commissioner of Prisons before making such decisions.

On the legal provisions regarding the Zambia Police and Prisons Service Commission, the Police Force, the Prisons Service and Police and Public Complaints Authority, your Committee recommend that the Police and Prisons Service Commission, Cap 259, the Police Act, Cap 107, the Prisons Service Act Cap 97 and the Police and Public Complaints Authority Act No. 14 of 1999 be reviewed in order to harmonise their operations and application to make them easier to interpret and administer. The review of the stated laws would help address the various lacunas in the law.

With regard to the financial constraints being faced by the Commission in carrying out its mandate, your Committee urge the Government to provide enough financial resources to enable the Commission carry out its activities effectively and efficiently.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO SADC-PF

The 19th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC PF was held in Botswana from 8th to 17th December, 2005. The Conference theme was “Redefining Strategic Priorities of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) to Mainstream Parliamentary Dimensions to Regional Integration.”

The National Assembly of Zambia delegation was led by the Hon Amusaa K Mwanamwambwa, MP, Chairperson of the SADC PF and Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia.

Attendance

Except for the National Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, which had been dissolved pending the outcome of the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections held in December, 2005, Presiding Officers and representatives of twelve of the thirteen member Parliaments from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe attended the 19th Plenary Assembly Session.

Major highlights of the Plenary Assembly

From both the deliberative and policy sessions and the meetings of the SADC PF Standing Committees, the following constituted the core business of the Plenary Assembly:

Consideration of the Draft Strategic Plan (2006 to 2010)

At its 18th Plenary Assembly Session held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, the SADC PF resolved to develop a new Strategic Plan that would provide a framework for programme

implementation from 2006 to 2010. The SADC PF Secretariat, therefore, tabled at the 19th Plenary Assembly a draft Strategic Plan which was the result of a consultative process, setting out priorities and programmatic direction of the organisation for the next five years.

The draft strategic plan identified serious challenges that the SADC region faces as it moves towards regional integration. Critical areas of concern include enhanced capacity of parliaments and parliamentarians to deal with regional integration issues both at regional and at national levels; the need for more formalised relations that recognised the statutory role of parliaments in SADC, concerted efforts to establish a SADC Parliament and clarification regarding relations between the SADC PF and the Pan-African Parliament. The roles of parliaments in ensuring implementation of regional and international agreements and conventions remained a vexing one. Above all, there was an urgent need for parliaments and parliamentarians to share knowledge with the SADC PF as the facilitator.

The Plenary Assembly, therefore, developed and approved the draft five-year Strategic Plan for the SADC PF which would, among other things, ensure the full participation of parliamentarians in developing the economies of SADC Member States, contribute to the reduction of poverty, and strengthen good governance and democracy in terms of the commitments made in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

Parliamentary Leadership Centre Advisory Board

The Plenary Assembly received and considered the progress report on the establishment and programmes of the Parliamentary Leadership Centre and its Advisory Board including the terms of reference and composition of the Board. The Plenary Assembly formalised the establishment of the Parliamentary Leadership Centre, approved its work plan and appointed an Advisory Board to guide its work.

Election of Chairpersons to Restructured SADC PF Standing Committees

In line with its new vision, mission and strategic objectives under the new Strategic Plan, the Plenary Assembly restructured its Standing Committees and new Chairpersons of Standing Committees were elected. Hon F Z Simenda, MP and Hon I M Wina, MP were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the HIV/AIDS and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and Capacity Development Committees, respectively.

Introduction of the SADC PF Newsletter and Online Research Centre

The production and publication of the SADC PF's inaugural issue of the organisation's quarterly newsletter entitled, *SADC Parliamentary Forum News* was introduced at the 19th Plenary Assembly Session. Similarly, the SADC Parliamentary Forum's Online Resource Centre accessible through www.sadcpf.org was also introduced to the Plenary Assembly. With these two tools at hand, it was envisaged that the SADC PF would increase its outreach to as many Members of Parliament as possible in the SADC region, to promote knowledge and information sharing on all matters affecting and relating to the work of elected leaders.

The Genesis of SADC PF and its new Vision and Mission

The SADC PF was established mainly to improve regional integration efforts through parliamentary involvement. The SADC PF has hitherto defined its vision and mission as follows:

Vision

“To achieve comprehensive, effective and sustainable regional integration and prosperity based on democratic governance and freedom in SADC region; and to bring about a united SADC family conscious of its common identity and sense of dignity”

Mission

“To bring about convergence of economic, political and social values in SADC and help create appropriate environment, for deeper regional cooperation through popular participation.”

However, based on SADC PF's comparative advantage, the regional context and the SWOT analysis on review of the existing mission and vision was undertaken. In keeping with the new Strategic Plan and the attendant strategic objectives, the Plenary Assembly revised the SADC PF's vision and mission as follows:

Vision

“A delivery focused, people centred institution that accelerates and promotes parliamentary participation in regional decision making for the benefit of the citizens of SADC.”

Mission

“To facilitate strategic partnership within the SADC region, promote information sharing, initiate and implement projects that enhance regional integration and promote effective and professional parliamentary practice.”

Presentation by Professor Max Essex on the progress in the Development of HIV/AIDS Vaccines in Southern Africa

The Plenary Assembly received a presentation from Professor Max Essex of the Harvard School of Public Health. The presentation focused on progress in the development of vaccines and other interventions in Southern Africa. While noting that the development of an effective vaccine may take a substantial amount of time, it was noted that conducting multiple trials with modern designs, international cooperation and regional expertise was critical. He also observed that until such time that a vaccine is found, behavioural change to avoid infection and the provision of anti-retroviral drugs to those infected is very important. The Plenary Assembly reflected on the challenges of HIV and AIDS, particularly, on the ever worsening situation of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and reiterated parliamentarians' commitment to lead the fight against HIV and AIDS through legislative interventions, oversight and sharing best practices.

Report from Member Parliaments

Each Member Parliament presented a report to the Plenary Assembly on the action taken at national level in respect of the following regional integration issues:

- ratification of SADC Protocols, among other regional and international instruments;
- establishment and support for national women's parliamentary caucuses;
- adoption of norms and standards for elections;
- consultations on the proposed SADC Parliament;
- parliamentary participation in Pan-African Parliament, NEPAD, APRM, IPU and CPA initiatives and activities; and
- other initiatives that may be of interest to the Plenary Assembly as the policy making and deliberative organ of the Forum.

The reports from Member Parliaments assisted the SADC PF determine whether or not regional integration issues were high on the agendas of Member Parliaments and Member States in the SADC region. In addition, the reports facilitated the cross pollination of ideas and experiences including the promotion of information sharing among Parliaments which were prerequisites to regional integration.

With effect from 2006, Member Parliaments would be required to submit their reports to the SADC PF Secretariat a month before the next Plenary Assembly to facilitate their translation into the three official languages, namely, English, Portuguese and French. Since the 20th Plenary Assembly Session was scheduled to be held in June, 2006, the reports from Member Parliaments were expected to reach the SADC PF Secretariat before 1st May, 2006.

Commemoration of the SADC PF's 10th Anniversary

To facilitate preparations for the commemoration of the 10th anniversary which was due in June 2006, the Plenary Assembly established a Preparatory Committee to organise activities and events for the occasion.

With regard to where the Parliamentary Leadership Centre would be domiciled, your Committee were informed that there had been offers from Tanzania and Zimbabwe to host the centre but no resolution had yet been arrived at. In the meantime, the centre was being hosted by Namibia in Windhoek.

Observations and Recommendations

While welcoming the Report of the SADC PF, your Committee urge the Government to state the status of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and which ones the country will be able to achieve at the end of the set time-frame. Further, they wish to be updated on the progress the country has made so far on NEPAD. Your Committee are also happy to note that two of your Members were elected to the restructured Standing Committees of the SADC PF. Those elected are Hon F Z Simenda, MP and Hon I M Wina, MP as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the HIV/AIDS and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and Capacity Development Committees, respectively.

PART II

8. TOURS

Sir, despite the constraints of time this year and inadequate financial resources, your Committee are grateful that they were able to undertake foreign tours to two of Zambia's diplomatic missions, namely, Namibia and Mozambique.

THE ZAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN NAMIBIA

Introduction

Your Committee heard that the Zambian High Commission's mission statement is "to articulate and implement Zambia's foreign policy and to further bilateral relations with the Government and people of Namibia and facilitate economic cooperation in all fields, including manufacturing, agriculture, mining, tourism, trade and investment".

The High Commissioner briefed your Committee on the political, economic, social and cultural developments in Namibia which were founded on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all.

He further stated that by 2004, the Namibian Government had attained 43.45 % women representation in the local authorities where they were elected as Councilors.

Zambia-Namibia Relations

Your Committee were informed that relations between Zambia and Namibia were very warm and cordial. The two countries cooperate politically and economically. Economic cooperation was in the fields of agriculture, trade and investment, infrastructure and energy.

Your Committee also learnt that among other things the Mission facilitated since 1990 to-date were the establishment of the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation and re-routing copper exports through Walvis Bay undertaken for three years till 1992 when it discontinued. Also, Zambian companies participated in trade fairs in Namibia. Substantial orders were obtained but were frustrated due to trade restrictions brought about by Namibia's membership to SACU. Participation by large Zambian companies at Namibian Trade Fairs ended in 1996.

In 2005, the Mission assisted would-be investors with information on Zambia's investment policies. Most of the requests were in the tourism sector, notably hunting safaris and the establishment of lodges. The Namibian Ministry of Trade and Industry made enquiries on the viability of processing sugar produced in the Caprivi Region of Namibia in Zambia. The information was communicated to two sugar milling companies in Zambia.

The Mission was also instrumental in facilitating the construction of a 220kv transmission line from Victoria Falls which would result in an increase in the export of electricity from Zambia to Namibia.

The Chancery

The High Commissioner stated that the Mission had acquired one office block and six staff houses. However, there was need to acquire more properties to accommodate other officers currently renting houses and a new property to relocate the Chancery in an appropriate area. The proposal for relocation of the Chancery to another area was because the Chancery had been broken into four times since 2002 mainly because it was located near town.

Staff establishment

Your Committee were informed by the High Commissioner that out of a total establishment of nine (9) staff, one staff vacancy of First Secretary (Defence) was not filled.

Challenges of the Mission

Your Committee learnt that the Mission was faced with challenges arising out of the geographical proximity of Namibia to Zambia. Some of these challenges include the pressure of forty-seven Zambians in Namibian prisons and an increase in destitutes seeking assistance from the Mission. This included those who die while in Namibia. The

Mission staff usually contribute financially to help those in problems while in Namibia as there was no allocation provided for such eventualities.

It was also learnt that the general funding for the maintenance of the Mission buildings, including houses and equipment, was not remitted regularly for regular maintenance of Zambian properties and equipment. Although the Chancery raised some money through rentals, it did not retain any percentage for its operations, such as maintenance.

It was further learnt that with the commissioning of the Katima Mulilo Bridge, consideration should be made for opening of a consulate at Katima Mulilo due to the increased volume of trade and movement of people.

With regard to conditions of service, your Committee were informed that there was need to review them in order to address the issue of allowances for school going children, especially, those attending nursery and college education and also to address conditions of service of officers from other ministries which apply to them.

With regard to recall from the tour of duty, your Committee heard that transportation of such recalled officers depends on the marital status of the officers concerned in respect of the number of containers one had to use when bringing their property or personal effects home.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee, while commending the Zambian Government for acquiring property in terms of office and staff accommodation, are concerned that recurrent departmental charges for maintenance of the property are not remitted regularly. They observe that the Chancery, which is located within the town-centre, lacks proper security and this also may hinder high profile dignitaries from visiting due to its location. Further, though the Chancery raises some money through rentals, it is not allowed to retain any percentage for its operations such as maintenance. The Chancery is in a bad state, especially the roof which experiences leakages. Your Committee, therefore, recommend that due to irregular remittance of recurrent departmental charges, the Mission should be allowed to retain a

certain percentage from rentals for maintenance of the Government of Zambia properties under its charge. This would help the Mission attend to maintenance and repairs of the Chancery building. They further recommend that consideration be given to relocating the Chancery to an appropriate place with proper security and enough space.

With regard to staff establishment, your Committee observe that since the transfer of the First Secretary for Trade and Investments, the position has not been filled thereby creating a vacuum. Your Committee wish to urge the Government to post an officer to fill the vacancy at the Mission.

Your Committee also observe that with the opening of the Katima Mulilo Bridge, cross-border trading has increased necessitating the opening of a consulate there. They, therefore, urge the Government to consider opening a consulate at Katima Mulilo in order to enhance free movement of people and trade between Zambia and Namibia.

Your Committee are also perturbed by the fact that the staff at the Mission are overburdened financially as they have to use their personal resources to help Zambian destitutes in Namibia as such activities are never budgeted for. Your Committee are of the view that serious consideration should be given by the Government to help Zambian destitutes in foreign countries through budgetary provisions.

With regard to conditions of service, your Committee observe that the Zambian foreign service conditions of service, among other things, provide for only three registered children to benefit from education allowance from primary to secondary school level only. Those attending nursery and tertiary education are left to the staff to fend for themselves without any assistance from the Government. Your Committee recommend that the existing education allowance be broadened to include children from nursery to tertiary level and also be reviewed upwards due to the high cost of living in Namibia.

With regard to recall from the tour of duty, your Committee observe that there is discrimination in the provision of containers allowed to recalled officers based on marital

status. Your Committee are of the view that all forms of discrimination should be done away with especially in relation to the means of containers made available to staff for their personal belongings when recalled or transferred.

THE ZAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE

Introduction

Your Committee heard that the Zambian High Commission's mission statement is "to articulate and implement Zambia's foreign policy and to further bilateral relations with the Government and people of Mozambique". They were also informed that relations between Zambia and Mozambique were very warm and cordial.

The High Commissioner informed your Committee that, apart from being accredited to Mozambique, the Mission was also accredited to Mauritius and Swaziland.

The Chancery

Your Committee learnt that the Mission had no property in terms office and staff accommodation in Mozambique despite being represented there for the past thirty years. This was despite having acquired an incomplete nine storey building which could even be used, not only as staff accommodation, but office accommodation as well. Your Committee are, however, happy to report that efforts were now being made to regularise the ownership of the current office accommodation and also normalise the acquisition for title deeds of a nine storey building. The said building, which requires completion and renovations, has already been surveyed by the Ministry of Works and Supply in Lusaka.

Staffing establishment

Your Committee were informed by the High Commissioner that out of a total establishment of eight staff, two positions of First Secretaries for Defence and Trade and Investment, were not filled.

Challenges of the Zambian Mission

Your Committee learnt that the Zambian Mission was faced with challenges arising out of the increase in the number of destitutes seeking assistance from the Mission. This included those who die while in countries of accreditation. The Mission staff usually contributed financially to help those in problems as there was no allocation for such eventualities.

It was also learnt that the general funding for maintenance of the Mission building, including houses and equipment was not remitted regularly to facilitate regular maintenance.

With regard to conditions of service, your Committee were informed that there was need to review them in order to address the issue of allowances for school going children, especially, those attending nursery and college education.

Your Committee also learnt that due to inadequate financial resources, the Mission was unable to undertake official visits not only within Mozambique but to Mauritius and Swaziland where the Mission was also accredited.

With regard to transport, your Committee were informed that the Mission lacked reliable transport for utility purposes.

With regard to recall from the tour of duty, your Committee observe that there is discrimination in the provision of containers allowed to recalled officers based on marital status. Your Committee are of the view that all forms of discrimination should be done away with especially in relation to the means of containers made available to staff for their personal belongings when recalled or transferred.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee are saddened that after thirty years of being represented in Mozambique, the Zambian Government had no property in terms office and staff

accommodation except for an incomplete nine storey building. Your Committee are, however, happy to report that efforts are now being made to regularise the ownership of the current office accommodation and also to normalise the acquisition of title deeds for the nine storey building. To this effect, your Committee urge the Government to urgently fund the project in order to start renovations and complete the building which could also be used to accommodate some officials at the Mission and, thereby, reduce on rentals. The building, once renovated and completed, would add some beauty to the city of Maputo as opposed to the image it is portraying now about Zambia. In addition, some private firms have been approaching the Mission to consider the Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) arrangement which the Government can consider as the last option.

Your Committee observe that out of a total establishment of eight staff, two posts are not filled. These are First Secretaries of Defence and of Trade and Investment. During the tour, your Committee learnt that another three vacancies would occur by the end of July, 2006 due to recalls. In order not to disrupt the operations of the Mission, your Committee urge the Government to urgently address the staff situation at the Mission.

Your Committee are also perturbed by the fact that the staff at the Mission are overburdened financially as they have to use their personal resources to help Zambian destitutes since such activities are never budgeted for. Your Committee are of the view that serious consideration should be given by the Government to help Zambian destitutes in foreign countries through budgetary provisions.

With regard to conditions of service, your Committee observe that Zambian foreign service conditions of service provide, among other things, for only three registered children to benefit from education allowance from primary to secondary school level only. Those attending nursery and tertiary education are left to the staff to fend for themselves without any assistance from the Government. Your Committee recommend that education allowance be broadened to include children from nursery to tertiary level of education.

With regard to official visits and transport problems, your Committee urge the Government to provide enough financial resources to the Mission in Mozambique to enable it acquire some vehicles, and to enable it to undertake visits not only within Mozambique but to Mauritius and Swaziland where the Mission is also accredited.

PART III

9. ACTION-TAKEN REPORT

Your Committee, Sir, were unable to consider outstanding issues in the Action-Taken Report on your Committee's Report for 2005 due to the fact that it was not submitted on time by the Vice-President's Office. Your Committee are concerned at the failure by the Office of the Vice President to submit the Action-Taken Report as required by Parliamentary practice and procedure. This is despite the Office having a Vote in the budget for Parliamentary Business.

10. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, your Committee wish to extend their gratitude to you, Mr Speaker, for appointing them to serve on your Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs and for the support rendered to them throughout the year.

They are indebted to all the stakeholders who appeared before them for their co-operation in providing the necessary memoranda and briefs.

Your Committee are very hopeful that the observations and recommendations contained in this report will go a long way in improving matters of national security and foreign affairs in Zambia.

Finally, Sir, your Committee wish to express their appreciation to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the invaluable and tireless assistance rendered throughout their deliberations.

May 2006
LUSAKA

Capt. C Moono, MP
CHAIRPERSON