



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

FOR THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

APPOINTED ON THURSDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2017

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED ON THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2017

Consisting of:

Mr R C Mutale, MP (Chairperson); Mrs O M Phiri, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr W Banda, MP; Mr M Ndalamei, MP; Mr L Fungulwe, MP; Mr D Mulunda, MP; Mr S Miti, MP; Mr E Kamondo, MP; Mr C D Miyanda, MP and Mr E Musonda, MP.

Following the appointment of Mr R C Mutale, MP, as Deputy Chief Whip, he ceased to be a Member of the Committee and was replaced by Mr L M Kaziya, MP. Subsequently, Mr E Kamondo, MP was elected Chairperson of the Committee.

The Honourable Mr Speaker
National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
LUSAKA

Sir

Your Committee has the honour to present its Report for the Second Session of the Twelfth National Assembly.

1.1 Functions of the Committee

Under Standing Order No. 155(2) of the House, your Committee is mandated to scrutinise all assurances and undertakings made by Cabinet Ministers or the Vice President on the floor of the House with the objective of ensuring that the appropriate action is taken on the assurances. Further, your Committee is mandated to follow up on the implementation of the resolutions of the House on Private Members' Motions and to comment on delays in implementation and adequacy of the action taken as well as exercise such other functions as may be assigned to your Committee by the Speaker from time to time.

1.2 Procedure adopted by the Committee

Your Committee examined all contributions made by the Executive as recorded in the Daily Parliamentary Debates and extracted statements which 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 Government ministries and departments on the assurances, your Committee then invited the respective Permanent Secretaries and chief executives of the concerned ministries and departments to appear before it and give updates on the implementation of the assurances under their respective portfolios.

1.3 Meetings of the Committee

Your Committee held thirteen meetings during the period under review to consider both outstanding assurances as well as new assurances made on the Floor of the House. Your Committee's Report is arranged in two Parts: Part I deals with consideration of submissions on various new assurances identified while Part II deals with assurances outstanding from the Action-Taken Report.

PART I - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS ON NEW ASSURANCES

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

11/17 Construction of FTJ Chiluba University

On 24th February, 2017, the Minister of Higher Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Madam Speaker, my ministry is currently discussing the commencement of the project with the contractor. We want to agree on certain mechanisms before the commencement, which is envisaged to be in the second quarter of 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the new contract for the construction of FTJ Chiluba University was signed. Further, the same contract also provided for the construction of an additional university in Kasama District with a bed capacity of 1,500. Furthermore, your Committee learnt that the project was a design and build contract and that designs were approved. Initially, \$225 million dollars which would have catered for 3500 bed capacity, for the construction of the FTJ Chiluba University was secured. Later, it was decided to split the money to build two universities, leaving 55% of the amount in Mansa to build the FTJ Chiluba University with a bed capacity of 2000. The other 45% was set aside for the construction of a university in Kasama with a bed capacity of 1500.

Additionally, your Committee was informed that the delay in the commencement of the project was caused by the many processes involved in having the Financing Agreement signed such as the need to obtain approval for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report which was a pre-condition for financing.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses serious concern at the delay in the commencement of the project and strongly urges the Government to expedite the process of having the

financing agreement signed. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF GENERAL EDUCATION

39/17 Mateyo Kakumbi Primary School in Chitambo/Local Tour

On Friday 16th June, 2017, the Minister of General Education made an assurance on the Floor of the House as follows:

Mr Speaker, the repair of the blown-off roof at Mateyo Kakumbi Primary School is expected to commence in the third quarter of this year. Sir, the delay in repairing the roof was basically due to a lack of funds. Mr Speaker, the estimated cost of repairing the roof is K72,717.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the status quo at Mateyo Kakumbi Primary School in Chitambo Constituency had remained the same due to financial constraints.

In May 2018, your Committee undertook a site visit to Mateyo Kakumbi Primary School and learnt that in January 2011, the roof was blown off by strong winds and the matter was reported to the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS). DEBS thereafter, reported the matter to the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit who came to inspect the school in 2013 and that was the last time it was visited by the officials from the Central Government.

Further, your Committee found the 1X2 classroom block with a blown off roof in a deplorable state and feared for the learners and teachers if it was to be renovated or re-roofed in its current state and could collapse at any time.



Current state of a 1X2 classroom block at Mateyo Kakumbi Primary school with blown off roof.

Apart from the deplorable state of the class room block, the school had inadequate classrooms, no classrooms for pre-school and inadequate staff accommodation. Enrolment levels were also very low due to long distances which the children were required to cover for them to get to the school.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is saddened with the level of dilapidation of the classroom block whose roof was blown off in 2011. It is unacceptable that a school can be neglected in this manner for so long. Your Committee therefore, recommends that the current structure which is in a deplorable state and not fit for human habitation be demolished and a new block built. Your Committee is also displeased to learn that the amount of money which was required to repair the blown off roof was insignificant and there was no justification for allowing this level of dilapidation and neglect of the infrastructure at the school. Your Committee, therefore, strongly urges the Government to ensure that funds are urgently released to construct another 1 x 2 classroom block without further delay as the existing one is on the verge of collapse. Further, your Committee urges the Government to prioritise this project as a matter of urgency as a lot of children were discouraged and demotivated to be in a school with such dilapidated infrastructure. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

21/17 Mufumbwe Day Secondary School Laboratory

On 3rd March, 2017, the Minister of General Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the Government has plans to refurbish the laboratory at Mufumbwe Day Secondary School in Mufumbwe District to replace the one which was gutted by fire three years ago. Sir, plans to carry out the refurbishment are expected to be implemented in 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that due to lack of funds, the refurbishment of a laboratory at Mufumbwe Day Secondary School in Mufumbwe District had not been done.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to immediately secure funds for the refurbishment of the laboratory so that the learners can utilise the facility. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

26/17 Pondo Basic School

On 14th March, 2017, the Minister of General Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry is aware that a 1 x 3 classroom block was blown off. The repair works have been costed and the project is among those that will be implemented in the 2017 Budget. Mr Speaker, the construction of additional classrooms will start in 2017, once funds are released as the school is appearing in the budget. Since it has already been budgeted for, what remains is the release of the funds.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the repair of a 1 x 3 classroom block which was blown off at Pondo Basic School was not undertaken due to lack of funding.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern at the Executive's failure to repair the roof timely, so as to avoid further dilapidation of the school. Your Committee further urges the Government to ensure that assurances made on the floor of the House are prioritised and implemented as planned. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

28/17 Deployment of Teachers to Nangoma Constituency

On 16th March, 2017, the Minister of General Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Government deployed thirty-eight teachers to Nangoma Parliamentary Constituency and hopes to send twenty more during the 2017 recruitment exercise.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee learnt that from the 27 teachers who were expected to be deployed in Nangoma Constituency as per the assurance, only 3 were deployed. This was due to the limitation by the Treasury to only recruit 3,148 against the projected 5,000 net recruitment for the year 2017. However, it was anticipated that the Treasury would allocate more funds for the recruitment of teachers in 2018 to cover the shortfall of teachers.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned with the Government's failure to recruit the projected 5,000 teachers in 2017 as assured on the floor of the House. In this regard, your Committee urges the Government to ensure that funds are made available for the teachers' recruitment exercise in 2018 and deployed as assured on the floor of the House. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

19/16 Class Room Block at Lumimba Day Secondary School

On 21st December, 2016, the Minister of General Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, this project was projected to cost about K480,000, and about K90,000 is outstanding to complete the project. Sir, the project has delayed because it is located in an area that is difficult to access. Consequently, most of the contractors were reluctant to take up the project. The Government decided to involve the local communities to

transport the materials from a distance of about 60 km. The school is about 60 km from the district. Most of the money for the project went towards the transportation of the building materials. We hope that we shall be able to release the remaining K90,000 to complete the project in 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that a class room block at Lumimba Day Secondary School which was anticipated to be completed by the end of 2017 had not been completed due to inadequate funding.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the Government's failure to release K90,000 in the last two years to complete the project. Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to release these funds without further delay for the construction of a classroom block at Lumimba Day Secondary School. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

17/17 Electrification of Chama South Schools

On 2nd March, 2017, the Minister of General Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Kamilala Boarding Secondary School to which the Hon. Member refers is officially recorded as Chama South Boarding Secondary. The school has been provided with an electricity generator by the Government.

Sir, Chikwa and Chitheba Day Secondary Schools will be electrified or provided with generators after they are fully constructed. In the meantime, there are plans to provide them with solar panels with the capacity to meet their electricity demands. Mr Speaker, the schools will be electrified by the end of 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee learnt from the Executive that the schools were not yet fully constructed to connect them to the electricity grid, neither had they been provided with solar panels as per assurance made on the floor of the House due to inadequate funding.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over the failure by the Government to complete construction of the two schools and urges it to speed up the construction of the classroom blocks at Chikwa and Chitheba so that power can be connected to the schools. Further, in line with the assurance given on the floor of the House, solar panels with the capacity to meet electricity demands should be installed at the two schools. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

9/17 Feeder Road Rehabilitation in Lumezi Constituency

On 22nd February, 2017, the Minister of Local Government made the following assurance on the floor of the house:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry will be able to commence the rehabilitation works for feeder roads in Lumezi Parliamentary Constituency once funds are secured. The roads in question are among priority roads that have been earmarked to be worked on in the 2018 Annual Work Plan and budget.

Sir, the time frame for the completion will only be determined after the completion of the feasibility studies and signing of the contract. The total cost is currently unknown and will only be known when the feasibility studies are conducted.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the Ministry of Local Government developed a three year Infrastructure Plan that would run from 2018-2021 from which a master plan was drawn in consultation with major stakeholders on priority projects to be undertaken during that period. Your Committee was further informed that the roads in question were included in the master plan, however, feasibility studies had not been conducted due to budgetary constraints. Consequently, the roads would only be rehabilitated once funds were made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made but urges the Government to ensure that the release of funds is consistent with the assurances made on the floor of the House. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

28/17 Modern Bus Station and Three Market Shelters Construction in Katete

On 15th June, 2017, the Minister of Local Government made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Local Government, with the help of the German Development Cooperation, plans to construct a modern bus station and three market shelters in Katete District, under the Strengthening of Local Governance System in Zambia Project. Sir, the construction of a modern bus station and three market shelters will commence by January, 2018. The estimated cost of the project is K15 million.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the construction of a modern bus station and three market shelters in Katete District had not yet commenced as it was scheduled to be implemented under Phase II of the Strengthening of Local Government System in Zambia Programme funded by the German Development Co-operation (KFW).

The programme was currently being implemented in Southern Province, which KFW had adopted as a pilot province. Among other services, the programme aimed at improving municipal services vis-à-vis markets and bus stations in local authorities. KFW further planned to roll out the programme to other provinces starting with Eastern Province once the projects in Southern Province were completed.

Your Committee was further informed that KFW had revised the allocation downwards for each district after the last project appraisal tour of Eastern Province by the mission and staff from the Ministry of Local Government. A comprehensive programme containing detailed information with regard to contract sum, revised commencement date and duration, among others, pertaining to the project for construction of a modern bus station in Katete would be availed to your Committee once KFW submitted it to the Ministry.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the efforts being made under the strengthening of Local Government System in Zambia Programme and resolves to await a progress report on the construction of a modern bus station and three market shelters in Katete District.

20/16 Modern Market and Bus Station for Chama District

On 15th December, 2016, the Minister of Local Government made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry is planning to construct a modern market and bus station in Chama District under the 2017 Annual Work Plan. This, however, is subject to availability of funds. The delay in the commencement of the project was due to the non-availability of funds in 2015.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the construction of a modern market and bus station in Chama District had not commenced as scheduled under the 2017 Annual Work Plan due to constraints in the annual budget. Your Committee was further informed that the budgetary allocation for the construction of markets and bus stations per year had dropped significantly, from about K30 million in 2015 to around K14 million in 2017. This represented a 50% decrease in the budgetary allocation in a period of three years. This had negatively impacted on the effective implementation of markets and bus station projects countrywide, especially those that were currently running.

Appreciating the challenges faced with inadequate resources in the national basket, the Ministry of Local Government planned to explore other avenues of implementing the construction of a modern market and bus station in Chama District, either under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model or a Contractor Finance Initiative (CFI) model. In this regard, the Ministry of Local Government in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance had secured funds amounting to U\$50 million for the construction of new markets. Further, discussions were still underway for the Ministry to source an extra \$155 million for the construction of modern markets countrywide.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and awaits a progress report on the matter.

16/17 Construction of Livingstone Town Centre Market

On 1st March, 2017, the Minister of Local Government made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry intends to complete the construction of Livingstone Town Centre Market by December, 2017, subject to availability of funds.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the Ministry of Local Government was not able to complete the construction of Livingstone Town Market by December, 2017 as assured by the Minister on the Floor of the House. This was due to funding which was usually not timely disbursed.

Your Committee also heard that the construction of Livingstone Town Centre Market needed a monetary injection of up to K20 million to complete the main building which would leave a balance of K26 million on the contract amount that would be needed to fully complete both the main building and all ancillary/external works. Measured against K20 million needed to inject in the project for it to be substantially complete, the K14.5 million budgetary allocation in 2017 for the construction of markets and bus stations countrywide was totally inadequate, hence the challenges in completing the project as scheduled.

With the little allocation disbursed in 2017, the Ministry managed to allocate close to K1 million towards the project which saw the contractor finishing up the remaining works on the ground floor of the building and all the partitioning (block work) on the first floor including plumbing works on the wet areas. To this effect, the Ministry was in the process of using other avenues to facilitate quick completion of the market. In this regard, US\$ 50 million had already been secured and US\$ 105 million was being sourced by the Government to construct modern markets countrywide and bus stations. Your Committee was further informed that part of the money would be used towards completing the Livingstone Town Centre Market.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned that the Livingstone Town Centre Market was still incomplete despite the assurance. Your Committee therefore, awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

10/17 Baila Dam Rehabilitation

On 22nd February 2017, the Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the rehabilitation plan for the Baila Dam had not been previously included in the Government's work plan, but it has been taken note of and the dam has been included for assessment in the 2017 Work Plan. No contractor has been identified since the detailed assessments of the dam are yet to be concluded.

Sir, the contractor shall only be identified after the detailed assessment of the dam and production of associated designs are done, coupled with the availability of funds for implementation. The cost of implementation shall only be determined after the assessment is made, corrective measures identified and supplementary designs put in place.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that inspections to ascertain the requirements to conduct detailed assessment had been done. Further, the feasibility studies were expected to start in the second quarter of 2018. Thereafter, the rehabilitation would be undertaken as and when the funds would be made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the rehabilitation of Baila Dam so that the communities around the Dam could access safe and clean water. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

33/17 Water Reticulation System for Chiengi District

On 23rd March, 2017, the Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, yes, the Government has plans to construct a water reticulation system in Chiengi District. The implementation of the project has been planned for in the 2017 Annual Work Plan (AWP), once funds are released from the Treasury."

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the Ministry had already produced the detailed designs and tender documents for the construction of a water reticulation system in Chiengi District and the procurement process for engaging a contractor to execute the project was on-going. In that regard, the contractor was expected to be on site by the second quarter of 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made but urges the Government to expedite the process of engaging a contractor. Your Committee resolves to await a comprehensive progress report on the matter.

17/16 Dams and Boreholes in Nyimba District

On 30th November, 2016, the Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to construct more dams and sink additional boreholes in Nyimba District. Ten potential dam sites countrywide have been identified since 2014 under the Small Dams Development Programme. The Government has budgeted for ten boreholes in 2016 in Nyimba under the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme. Out of the ten potential dam sites, the one in Kacholola is undergoing feasibility studies and is likely to be constructed in 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the detailed feasibility studies, design and preparation of bill of quantities (BoQ) had been done. The engineer's estimate to construct the Kacholola Dam was USD429,539.72 inclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT). The feasibility studies and design for the construction of dams were completed in May, 2017 but construction could not start due to non-availability of funds. Therefore, the construction of Kacholola Dam would be done as and when the funds would be available. Further, your Committee heard that ten boreholes were drilled, equipped with hand pumps and handed over to the communities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made on the drilling of boreholes and urges the Government to ensure that funds for the construction of Kacholola Dam are sourced expeditiously. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the construction of Kacholola Dam.

12/17 Serenje Water Reticulation System/Local Tour

On 24th February, 2017, the Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Madam Speaker, the Government has plans to improve the water reticulation system in Serenje Township. Madam, the Government is currently implementing a water supply project in the New Serenje area of Serenje town and progress is currently at 42 per cent. So far, 30 km of pipeline has been laid and a storage tank erected. The project is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2017. In addition, the Government has mobilised US\$1.6 million to fund feasibility studies that facilitate the preparation of investment proposals for the implementation of water supply and sanitation projects in selected districts that will include Serenje, under the Lukanga, North-Western and Southern water utility companies.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the Ministry was implementing a water supply system project in Serenje Township and the overall progress was at 65%. So far, the installation of the distribution network was completed and an overhead tank was installed. The water supply system would benefit 1,354 households once completed.

In addition, your Committee heard that the Ministry would engage a consultant in the third quarter of 2018 to carry out feasibility studies that would facilitate the preparation of investment proposals for the implementation of water supply and sanitation projects in selected districts. The districts included Serenje Township under the Lukanga Water and Sewerage Company and other districts under North Western and Southern Water and Sewerage Companies. The African Development Bank was financing the aforementioned activity using a grant to the Government of the Republic of Zambia amounting to USD1.6 million.

Your Committee in May, 2018 undertook a tour of the Serenje water reticulation system to have an on-the-spot check on the assurance made on the floor of the House. During the tour, your Committee learnt that pipes were laid and plans were underway to install three more overhead tanks. Your Committee further heard that three of the seven boreholes drilled were functional and the other four were either dry or had collapsed. Further, your Committee heard that the profiling was already done in readiness for connection of water to the community and that pump testing was done in January, 2018. Progress was reported to be at 68% complete and financial constraints were cited for the slow pace of the project.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over the slow pace at which progress is being registered on the project and urges the Government to ensure that funds are consistently disbursed given that the Government has mobilised US\$1.6 million to fund water supply and sanitation projects in selected districts, which includes Serenje District. Your Committee further urges the Government to ensure that the remaining works are funded in a consistent manner so that the project can be completed in the shortest possible time. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

36/17 Communication Towers in Nalolo

On 13th June, 2017, the Minister of Transport and Communication made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Transport and Communication has finalised the procurement process for Phase II of the construction of the communication towers in underserved and unserved areas of the country. Under the Phase II of the project and using the Universal Access Service funds, the Ministry has planned for the provision of mobile coverage in the following areas in Nalolo Constituency namely: Kaunga Lueti; Mapungu Primary School; Lealui Palace; Suu; Kalamba Primary School; and Nanjucha Primary School.

Sir, the Ministry of Finance is in the process of securing resources for the implementation of the project and we are finalising the engagement with the Republic of China through Exim Bank of China to finance the project. The project implementation is set to begin as soon as this agreement is concluded and we are very close to finalising the discussion to start the project. In fact, the pre-shipment of towers for the project has already been done.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the Government had finalised the procurement process and financing process for the Phase II of the construction of communication towers project earmarked for unserved and underserved areas of the country. The Ministry of Transport and Communications had engaged the contractor to begin delivery of towers to selected sites termed as advance delivery under the project in order to strengthen ZAMTEL's backbone infrastructure in readiness for full implementation of the three year project. Mapungu; Lealui Palace; Suu; and Kalamba Primary School were operational.

For Kaunga Lueti and Nanjucha Primary School, the works were in progress.

Further, the full scope implementation of the construction of communication towers project Phase II in unserved and underserved areas had begun. The project was planned for the implementation period of between thirty to thirty-six months. The Ministry in collaboration with the project manager and contractor had resolved to accelerate the project delivery to construct more tower sites before the planned times. As at 31st January, 2018, project delivery stood at ninety eight towers erected out of which fifty six were on air and functional.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

While noting the progress made, your Committee urges the Government to ensure that the exercise is implemented as planned. Your Committee awaits progress report on Kaunga Lueti and Nanjucha Primary School.

34/17 Establishment of RTSA Office in Chinsali

On 23rd March, 2017, the Minister of Transport and Communication made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to construct a regional office for the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA), including a motor vehicle inspection centre in Chinsali. The construction of the office is scheduled to commence in 2017. The contract was signed and the sites handed over to the contractors in 2016.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the Agency was given land in Chinsali and a contractor called SOLARTECH LIMITED was contracted at a total sum of K9, 573,178.40 to build the offices. The contractor was yet to move on site because there was still an outstanding 15% down payment amounting to K1, 435,976.76 and once the funding was made available by the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA), the contractor would mobilise accordingly. The Agency was planning to send a container as an interim measure to set up the offices in view of the delayed funding for the project. It was anticipated that the RATSA Office in Chinsali would be opened on or before 21st March, 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over the delayed payment to the contractor, which has delayed the commencement of the project. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to ensure that the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) expedites the funding process so that the contractor can move on site. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

2/17 Communication Towers for Feira Constituency

On 21st February, 2017, the Minister of Transport and Communication made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the construction of communication towers in Feira Parliamentary Constituency will be implemented under Phase II of the Communication Towers Project, which will commence immediately after the Government concludes its discussions with the Export and Import (EXIM) Bank or as soon as the rainy season ends. Three towers are earmarked for construction in Mkaliva, Kaboo and Kaona areas of the constituency.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the Government had finalised the procurement and financing process for Phase II of the construction of communication towers in unserved and underserved areas of the country. The Ministry of Transport and Communications had engaged the contractor to begin delivery of towers to selected sites termed as advance delivery under the project in order to strengthen ZAMTEL's backbone infrastructure in readiness for full implementation of the three year project. The Ministry had planned but was yet to begin constructing towers in the following areas in Feira Constituency: Mkaliva, Kaboo and Kaunga. Towers in these areas would be constructed during the implementation of the Phase II towers project.

Further, your Committee learnt that the full scope implementation of the construction of communication towers project Phase II in unserved and underserved areas had begun. The project was planned for the implementation period of between thirty to thirty-six months. The Ministry in collaboration with the project manager and contractor had resolved to accelerate the project delivery to construct more tower sites before the planned times. As at 31st January, 2018, project delivery stood at ninety eight towers erected out of which fifty six were on air and functional.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made and urges the Government to ensure that the Feira Towers are prioritised under the Phase II project as assured on the floor of the House. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF CHIEFS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

16/16 Chieftainess Kanyembo's Palace

On 23rd November, 2016, the Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the construction of Chieftainess Kanyembo's Palace, which encompasses the main house and queen's quarters and is currently standing at wall plate level, is earmarked for completion in 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that no progress had been on the construction of Chieftainess Kanyembo's palace due to budgetary constraints and the failure by the community to adequately contribute to the construction as it was a labour-based contract. Your Committee was further informed that the Ministry had noted the two major challenges to the timely completion of Chieftainess Kanyembo's palace and took the following measures:

- i) for the remaining works, the Ministry decided to award a full contract to a contractor and ensure timely execution of the project; and
- ii) the Ministry wrote to the Treasury requesting for the release of funds for the remaining works to ensure implementation of the construction of the palace.

With regard to progress made towards procuring a contractor for Chieftainess Kanyembo's Palace, the Ministry had advertised in October, 2017 for the procurement of the contract and was currently waiting for tenders.

In addition, the estimated initial costs for the labour-based contracts for the construction of chiefs' palaces under Phase I was as outlined hereunder.

Number Palaces	Category	Type of House	Unit Cost	Total
04	Paramount Chiefs	High Cost	600,000	2,400,000
284	Senior/Ordinary Chiefs	Medium Cost	350,000	99,400,000
	Grand Total			101,800,000

In this regard, the initial estimate for the construction of Chieftainess Kanyembo's palace under the labour-based contract was at K350,000. However, the current estimate of costs could be higher due to escalation of prices.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the process of procuring a contractor and ensure that funds are released timely. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

5/17 Rehabilitation and Electrification of Palaces for Chiefs Shibwalya Kapila and Mukupa Kaoma

On 21st February, 2017, the Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs wrote to the Provincial Administration Office requesting it to assess the state of dilapidation of the palaces and, thereafter, provide the Ministry with a bill of quantities (BoQ). We have since received the BOQs from the Northern Province Administration and have permitted the Provincial Administration to commence the tendering process. So, the works will be executed.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Rehabilitation of palaces

i) Chief Shibwalya Kapila

Your Committee was informed that tendering for the works on Chief Shibwalya Kapila was done and the contractor was on site. On 19th October, 2017, inspections were carried out and the works were 80% complete. However, during the inspection, some defects were discovered involving electrical fixtures, brickwork and carpentry works which were brought to the attention of the contractor. The defects had since been worked on and the Ministry was awaiting a completion report from the contractor.

ii) Chief Mukupa Kaoma

In the case of Chief Mukupa Kaoma, your Committee heard that rehabilitation works were not undertaken as the Chief had no palace. Therefore, the Government decided to construct a palace for the chief and procurement was in process. The selection of the contractor was done and Jonko Contractor and General Dealers Limited was awarded the contract with a delivery period of fourteen weeks. The site was handed over to the contractor on 23rd October, 2017 and the contractor was mobilising.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the construction of Chief Mukupa Kaoma's palace.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

43/17 Construction of Bridges in Chitambo Constituency

On 30th June, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurances on the floor of the House:

Madam Speaker, the Road Development Agency (RDA) has targeted to construct a bridge across the Loumbwa River in Chitambo Parliamentary Constituency under the Acrow Bridge Programme. Preparation for detailed designs has reached an advanced stage, and is expected to be completed by the end of the third quarter of 2017. The construction of the bridge is expected to commence in 2018 upon procurement of a contractor. Only one bridge across the Loumbwa River is earmarked for construction in 2017. Other bridges in the constituency may be considered in the 2018 Road Sector Annual Work Plan when funds permit.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the preparation of detailed designs for the Acrow Bridge across the Loumbwa river in Chitambo Parliamentary Constituency was still ongoing. The consultant had since submitted draft final designs for review and it was envisaged that the designs would be completed before the end of 2017. It was also expected that the works contractor would be engaged after the end of the 2017/2018 rainy season.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

44/17 Tarring of Mukobeko Maximum Correctional Facility/Ngabwe Road/Local Tour

On 5th July, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Madam Speaker, the tarring of the road might be considered in the 2018 Road Sector Annual Work Plan (RSAWP), funds permitting. However, the Road Development Agency (RDA) has varied the scope of the contract for the periodic maintenance of the T2 Road from Kabwe to Chibombo to include spot improvement of the Kabwe/Ngabwe Road and facilitation of the continuous flow of traffic on the road. Consultancy for the preparation of the detailed design of the bridge across the Kafue River at Ngabwe is currently in progress and the design will be completed by the fourth quarter of 2017. The construction of the bridge is expected to commence in 2018, upon completion of the designs and procurement of a contractor.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the upgrading to bituminous standard of the Mukobeko Maximum Correctional Facility to Ngabwe Road was not included in the 2018 Road Sector Annual Work Plan (RSAWP) due to budgetary constraints. The spot improvement works on the Kabwe to Ngabwe Road were on-going and the contractor had completed clearing and grubbing of the entire section and reshaping of 34km of the stretch. In addition, the preparation of detailed designs for the Ngabwe Bridge across the Kafue River was scheduled to be completed by end of the first quarter of 2018, the preliminary designs having already been submitted by the consultant. The construction works were scheduled to commence in the third quarter of 2018 after completion of the procurement of the works contractor.

In May 2018, your Committee undertook a verification tour on the Kabwe to Ngabwe Road and found that spot improvement works on the road were on-going to enable constant flow of traffic as that road had been impassable in its original state. Whilst waiting for the road to be upgraded to bituminous standard, the road spot improvements would continue so that road users could continue to travel on that highly economic road which connected the area to Kabwe and the Copperbelt markets via Lufwanyama District.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made on the project and urges the Government to ensure that the project is included in the 2019 budget and work plan, as the road is of economical value to the country. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

45/17 Implementation of Link Zambia 8,000 Kilo-metre Road Project

On Wednesday 5th July, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made an assurance on the floor of the House as follows:

Madam Speaker, the implementation of the Link Zambia 8,000 Kilometres Road Project is behind schedule because the target was to complete all the 8,000 km by 2020. The project time frame was ten years. The major challenge to the implementation of the project has been budgetary limitations. However, the Government is exploring various options for financing the project, such as the contractor-facilitated initiative (CFI), public-private partnerships (PPPs) and engineering, procurement, construction plus finance (EPC+F).

Madam, on the construction of the Mtetezi/Msoro Road also known as the Katete/Msoro/Chipata Road, we have received proposals from two contractors who have expressed interest to work on the project road under a CFI, and we have submitted them to the Ministry of Finance for consideration. The Ministry has also started preparing for the possibility of procuring the works under the Government financing in the next financial year in the event of it not being given the authority to do some works under a CFI. In that regard, the Ministry has started preparing the designs and hopes to complete them by December, 2017. If authority to procure the works under a CFI is granted, we should be able to conclude the project by the end of 2017.

Madam, the time frame for completing the Mtetezi to Msoro Road will only be determined once the designs have been completed and the contract works signed.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the designs were scheduled to be completed by December, 2018. Your Committee heard that due to the lengthy processes, the Government was still pursuing the Contractor-Facilitated Initiative (CFI), Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Engineering, Procurement, Construction plus Finance (EPC+F) as alternative options of financing to speed up works under the Link Zambia 8,000 programme.

The Ministry through the Road Development Agency (RDA) had continued to receive expressions of interest from various contractors to execute the Katete to Msoro to Chipata Road using the Contractor-Facilitated Initiative (CFI). The road was included in the 2018 Road Sector Annual Work Plan as one of the roads to be executed using the CFI mode of financing.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned that the project was not undertaken as planned. Your Committee urges the Government to undertake the works and provide a progress report.

37/17B Staff Houses for Agricultural Camps in Chitambo

On Friday 16th June, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the construction of agricultural camp houses in various parts of the country will be considered for inclusion in the 2018 budget. Priority will be given to newly-created districts such as Chitambo.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the Government had indicated that the construction of houses for Agricultural Camp Officers in various parts of the country would be considered for inclusion in the 2018 budget and the newly created districts would be prioritised. Your Committee was further informed that the Government had increased the allocation for infrastructure in the newly created districts under the 2018 budget.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the construction of houses for Agricultural Camp Officers in Chitambo District.

41/17 Lundazi/Chama Road

On 28th June, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the tarring of the Lundazi/Chama Road was divided into five lots for ease of implementation as follows:

Lot	Activities
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- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | <i>a 65 km surface was substantially completed.</i> |
| 2. | <i>the progress is at 10 per cent and the contractor is on site awaiting to continue works when funds are made available.</i> |
| 3. | <i>the works are on-going and the progress is currently at 8 per cent. It is anticipated that the contractor will complete a 10 km stretch of the road by the end of the fourth quarter of 2017.</i> |

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that no progress was made on the construction of the Lundazi/Chama road due to budgetary constraints.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over lack of progress on the construction of the Lundazi/Chama road due to budgetary constraints. Your Committee consequently urges the Government to ensure that the release of funds by the treasury is consistent with its work plans so as to avoid making assurances on the floor of the House in futility. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

31/17 Tarring of Muyombe/Isoka Road

On 23rd March, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Isoka/Muyombe Road Project was divided into five lots for ease of implementation. The works on Lot 1 are substantially complete while those on Lot 2 are currently ongoing, although the progress has been minimal due to financial limitations. The contracts for Lots 3, 4 and 5 have been signed and the initial completion dates are 9th June, 2017, 3rd March, 2018, and 26th July, 2017. These dates may be reviewed if the contractors request for extensions.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that works on lots 1 – 5 were as tabulated below:

Lot No.	Activity/Work Progress
1	Isoka (T2/D790 junction) to Mwenewisi (65km) was substantially completed
2	65km to 183 km at Chiri River - works stalled at 8 percent due to funding constraints
3	works had stalled awaiting the completion of the re-alignment of the road design as the initial design alignment was passing through Malawi
4	works had also stalled owing to budgetary constraints with progress being at 5 percent
5	works progressing and are currently at 12 percent.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the slow pace at which the works are progressing and urges the Government to ensure that the Treasury releases the requisite funds for the project to avoid the escalation of costs with the passage of time. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

32/17 Mbesuma/Kafwimbi Road

On 23rd March, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Sir, the Government has plans to upgrade to bituminous standard the road from Mbesuma in Chinsali District to Kafwimbi in Isoka District and to construct a bridge across Chambeshi River to connect Mbesuma to Kafwimbi in Isoka District.

Sir, the Ministry intends to commence the construction of the Mbesuma Bridge in 2017, funds permitting, and we have requested Treasury authority from the Hon. Minister of Finance because we have already engaged a contractor.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the Mbesuma to Isoka Road was included in the 2018 Road Sector Annual Work Plan under the Contractor Facilitated mode of

financing. It was envisaged that works would be awarded in the fourth quarter of 2018 and that works would commence upon finalising the financing agreement. Further, your Committee heard that works for the construction of the Mbesuma Bridge were awarded to Messrs China Rail Seventh Group at a contract sum of K84 million. The contractor was mobilising and was expected to commence works before the end of 2017.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made and awaits a progress report on the construction of the Mbesuma Kafwimbi Road and the Mbesuma Bridge.

15/16 C400 Road Project

On 23rd November, 2016, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, it is expected that the works on the C400 Project on the Copperbelt will commence by April, 2017, upon the conclusion of the financing arrangement. The delay in the commencement of the project is because the Government and the contractor are still in the process of finalising the financing arrangement for the project. They are expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2017 and works will commence in April of the same year.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the works on the C400 Project on the Copperbelt would commence in 2018 as the financing agreement between the Ministry of Finance and the contractor had not yet been finalised.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over the time it has taken for the Government to finalise the financing agreement and urges the Government to expedite the process. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

42/17 Infrastructure Development in Ngabwe

On 29th June, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that all the staff houses have been roofed and plastered. All things being equal, the construction of the houses is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2017.

Sir, the contract for the construction of the post office was recently terminated. The contractor has since challenged the termination and the matter is being looked into by the Ministry. Funds permitting, the construction of the post office is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Mr Speaker, the contract for the construction of the civic centre was terminated and the process of engaging another contractor to finish the works is underway. Funds permitting, the project is expected to be completed by December, 2017.

Sir, the contract for the construction of Ngabwe District Administration has been recommended for termination due to poor performance by the contractor. The completion date will be known after the engagement of a new contractor. The construction of the police station and ten associated houses are at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed by December, 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the outstanding interim payment certificates (IPCs) had not yet been honoured by the Government. The delay to honour the IPCs had affected the completion and handing over of the works.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned that the Government is taking too long to honour the outstanding interim payment certificates (IPCs). Your Committee urges the Government to pay the outstanding IPCs without delay so that the works can be completed. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

13/16 Upgrading of Mkushi Roads

On 17th November, 2016, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Sir, the Masansa/Luano/Kabwe/Ndola Road is part of the project to upgrade the Kabwe/Kapiri/Mkushi Road (D200/D207/D214) and including the Mpula/Masansa roads in the Central Province to bituminous standard. The detailed designs for the projects were completed in September, 2016, at a cost of K6.2 million. The Government intends to use the contractor facilitated initiative (CFI) mode in financing this project. In this mode, the contractor mobilises funds for the project.

Sir, it is envisaged that the works on this project will commence upon the finalisation of the procurement of the contractor and the financing arrangements in the third quarter of 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the contract was awarded to Messrs CMC Di Ravenna at a contract sum of K3,611,679,457.09 with a completion period of thirty-six months. The works would commence in the first quarter of 2018 upon the finalisation of the financing agreement between the financier and the Ministry of Finance.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the response and awaits a progress report on the matter.

18/16 Bridges in Lunte Constituency

On 7th December, 2016, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, it is expected that the works on the Lukulu Bridge will be carried out at the end of the 2016/2017 rainy season. The Road Development Agency (RDA) has already undertaken a conditions survey on the crossing point and has since submitted the cost requirement to the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) for possible funding. The crossing point is expected to be worked on after the rainy season.

Sir, it is expected that the works on the Luangwa Bridge will be undertaken at the end of the 2016/2017 rainy season. The RDA has already undertaken a condition survey of the

crossing point and has since submitted the cost estimate to the NRFA for possible funding so that the works can commence after the rainy season.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that works on the Luangwa Bridge commenced following the release of K1,300,000.00 out of the budgeted K9,107,698.23. The balance was still being awaited. Your Committee also heard that works on the Lukulu Bridge had not commenced as release of the funds from the NRFA was still being awaited. It was envisaged that works would be undertaken once funds were made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee strongly urges the Government to ensure that funds are released as planned and works completed as planned. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

6/17 Construction of Mulambwa and Kaunga Bridges

On 21st February, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the works on the Mulambwa and Kaunga bridges are scheduled to be undertaken as a variation order under the project for the upgrading to bituminous standard of 91 km of the D145 Road from the Great East Road at Luangwa Bridge to Luangwa (Feira) in Lusaka Province. The works will be undertaken during the course of 2017 by Messrs China Geo Engineering Corporation.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the works on the bridges could not be undertaken in 2017 due to resource constraints and that the works would be undertaken in 2018 once funds were made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

18/17 Upgrading of Kalubanshi/Milenge Road

On 2nd March, 2017, the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Kalubanshi Road in Bangweulu Constituency is part of the Kasanka/Milenge Road, which is on the Road Sector Annual Work Plan for 2017. We floated the tender under unsolicited proposal for execution by contractor-facilitated initiative (CFI) model. We have since received the proposal and are currently reviewing it.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the works on the project would commence once the procurement of a contractor was finalised and financial closure reached.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the procurement formalities of a contractor and the financial closure process. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

37/17 Irrigation Schemes in Feira Parliamentary Constituency/Local Tour

On 13th June, 2017, the Minister of Agriculture made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the Government has identified two sites with 800 Ha and 1,000 Ha of land in Yapite Agricultural Camp for possible establishment of irrigation schemes in addition to the existing schemes at Chafukula in Kaunga A and Tiyeseke in Kaunga B camps which are used for banana production.

In addition, the Government in collaboration with Child Fund, is establishing an irrigation scheme at Kavalamanja Agricultural Camp. Three villages, namely Kavalamanja, Tinkolo and Kandembwele will benefit from the scheme. Farmers under this scheme will be growing vegetables.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

In updating the Committee, the Permanent Secretary clarified that the 800 hectares is in fact in Kavalamanja. Your Committee further heard that in 2015, the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, provided funds for the pre-feasibility study (i.e. identification and characterisation) of Kavalamanja (800 Ha) and Yapite (1,000 Ha) as potential land for irrigation in Luangwa District, Feira Constituency). The study indicated that the cost of developing Kavalamanja was K48 million and Yapite was K60 million. The two irrigation schemes would be developed for commercial irrigation schemes for small scale farmers once funds were sourced. The crops that would be grown would be commercial cash crops such as wheat, soya, citrus and banana. The schemes would then be managed by either contract outgrower providers or skilled employees.

Further, your Committee was informed that in the next stage, the two projects were earmarked for full feasibility studies before they could be constructed.

The Child Fund had established a 3 hectare irrigation scheme at a cost of K2.6 million in Kavalamanja, out of the 800 hectares of land identified. The scheme would benefit Kavalamanja, Tinkolo and Kandembwele villages. The scheme was community based. Water for the scheme was being drawn from the Zambezi River using solar powered floating pumps (and turbine pumps). About 120m³/day of water was pumped over 1.8 kilometres into the fenced off land at Kavalamanja where tomatoes, carrots, onion, impwa (garden egg), egg plants, Chinese cabbage and green maize were grown.

The irrigation scheme was expected to be commissioned in March, 2018. The scheme had thirty beneficiary households.

Further, your Committee in May, 2018, undertook an on-the-spot check of the Kavalamanja project. Your Committee was informed that the implementation of the programme had been difficult due to animal human conflict. However, since the erection of the solar wire fence, crops had been secured from wild animals.

The solar power plant with a power capacity of 4 kilowatts and a small hydro turbine power plant that produced 1 kilowatt of power were used to power the pump which supplied the fields. The turbine was, however, currently not operating. Your Committee also learnt that the residue power from the solar plant was being used to power the clinic and a computer lab at the school.

During the tour, it was also observed that despite the project having been implemented, few people were undertaking farming activities due to lack of a ready market to sell their produce. In this vein, Luangwa Child Development Agency was planning to introduce processing activities with support from Child Fund. After processing, the produce would be sent to other markets in finished form.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observes that there is need to have the people of Kavalamanja trained and empowered in modern ways of processing vegetables for sale to other markets and strongly urges the Government to take interest in the agricultural activities such as the one in Kavalamanja in line with its stated objective of diversifying the economy through agricultural activities.

Your Committee further observes that there has been very little Government involvement in this scheme which has solely been undertaken by Luangwa Child Development Agency in partnership with Child Fund. Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to be fully involved in this project as per its assurance on the floor of the House that it would support the project in terms of providing financial resources. Your Committee further urges the Government to replicate irrigation schemes like Kavalamanja in other parts of the country in its quest to transform Zambia into a food basket in the Southern Region of Africa.

With regard to access to markets, your Committee notes that the scheme participants need ready markets for their farm products hence the need for a good road network. Your Committee urges the Government to regularly service and maintain the road to Kavalamanja to enable easy access by potential buyers and farmers to easily access the markets. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

Furthermore, your Committee strongly urges the Government to also finance the irrigation scheme in Kaunga A and B in the subsequent budget. Your Committee awaits a comprehensive progress report on the irrigation schemes in Feira Constituency.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

8/17 Connection of Luangwa District to the National Grid

On 22nd February 2017, the Minister of Energy made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the delay in the project delivery on the Luangwa Electrification Project has been caused by poor performance by the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor – PME Power Solutions Ltd of India. The project was financed through a loan facility from the Exim Bank of India. Therefore, the contractor was from India. The current overall project implementation status stands at 51 per cent....

The contract with PME Power Solutions Ltd of India was terminated and the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) has since awarded contracts to two contractors from India. One of them will be in charge of sub-station works and the other transmission line works. The site works are expected to resume in the second quarter of 2017. Sir, it is expected that the entire project to connect Luangwa District to the national grid shall be completed in the second quarter of 2018.

Submission by the Controlling Officer

Your Committee was informed that in December, 2016, ZESCO awarded new EPC contracts to KEC International Limited and Howell Energy Systems Limited for completion of outstanding works for the transmission lines and substations respectively. The total contract cost for KEC and Howell contracts was USD 23.9 million and USD 16.1 million respectively. The ZESCO-KEC and ZESCO-Howell contracts durations were ten months and eight months respectively. The new EPC contractors mobilised in June, 2017, following release of advance payment for the project.

The overall project progress status as of November, 2017 was 60%, distributed as follows:

	Weighted Average	Previous Work Status	Current Work Status
Substations	30	13.3%	18.5%
132KV Transmission Line	55	31.8%	34.0%
Distribution Network	10	4.1%	4.3%
Staff Houses and Offices	5	1.9%	3.3%
Total	100	51.1%	60.1%

The completion period for the said project was expected to be ten months from the effective date of the EPC contracts and this was estimated to fall in the second quarter of 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to ensure that Luangwa District is connected to the national grid by the second quarter of 2018 in accordance with the assurance made on the floor of the House. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

38/17 Rural Electrification Programme in Kasama

On Friday 16th June, 2017, the Minister of Energy made an assurance on the floor of the House as follows:

Mr Speaker, based on the Rural Electrification Master Plan, the following areas that fall under Kasama Parliamentary Constituency were identified for electrification: Chisanga; Kachuma; Chilubula; Chishimba; Munkonge; and Lukulu North.

Based on the priority list of the Rural Electrification Master Plan, Chisanga, Lwabwe and Musa were scheduled to be electrified in 2009. However, Musa and Lwabwe were electrified in 2013, while Chisanga will be electrified when funds are made available. Further, the remaining areas are scheduled to be electrified in 2018. However, this is dependent on the availability of funds.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee learnt that in accordance with the priority list of the Rural Electrification Master Plan, Chisanga, Chiba, Chishipula, Luyenge and Chilubula were scheduled to be electrified under the 2018 work programme. Chishimba Village electrification would also be done in 2018. Chishimba National Heritage, Chishimba Basic School and surrounding areas in Chishimba were electrified in 2012. Your Committee was further informed that as part of the consultative process, the Ministry of Energy held a meeting with stakeholders on the priority list of areas to be considered for electrification under the programme.

Lukulu North was electrified in 2013 under the JICA programme called Increased Access to Electricity Services Project. Further, Kachuma and Munkonge were scheduled to be electrified in 2019. However, the electrification of these areas would depend on the availability of funds.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with delight and awaits a progress report on the matter.

4/17 Electrification of Chiefdoms in Mpika District

On 21st February, 2017, the Minister of Energy made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the electrification of Chiundaponde, Kabinga and Kopa are earmarked for 2019 in the Rural Electrification Master Plan (REMP).

Mr Speaker, the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) is currently implementing a project to connect public institutions in Mpepo Chiefdom at a cost of K1 million. The beneficiaries of that project are Chief Mpepo's palace, the market area, Mpepo Primary School and Mpepo Secondary School. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the Rural Electrification Authority had challenges with the contractor who was engaged to undertake the works on the project in Mpepo Chiefdom. However, the issues were resolved and the contractor re-mobilised to site and was working. Works were expected to be completed by end of March, 2018. Further, Chiundaponde, Kabinga and Kopa were scheduled to be electrified in 2019. Nonetheless, the electrification of these areas would depend on the availability of funds.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

2/17 Health Post Construction in Lunte Constituency

On 22nd February, 2017, the Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, as I was providing the response, I separated Muyembe from Sambala and Chibelushi. I said that the construction of health posts in Sambala and Chibelushi will commence when the financing arrangements between the Indian and Zambian Governments are resolved. However, the resources for the construction of a health post in Muyembe have been provided for in the 2017 budget. Therefore it will be done as such.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that Exim Bank of India had approved refinancing of the health posts under the India Line of Credit and Sambala and Chibelushi were earmarked for construction under the financing facility. With this approval, works were expected to resume immediately the Government concluded the recommended procurement of the contract.

With regard to Muyembe, your Committee was informed that though the facility was budgeted for in 2017, resources were not availed by the Treasury for the construction of Muyembe Health facility. However, in the 2018 Infrastructure Operational Plan, Muyembe Health facility was prioritised for construction. The contractor was expected to mobilise to site before the end of the first quarter of 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to ensure that the construction of Muyembe Health post is prioritised as submitted to your Committee. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

22/17 Hospital Construction in Mafinga

On 7th March, 2017 the Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the construction of Thendere Hospital, comprising of an outpatient department and administration block in Phase 1 commenced in September, 2016, and is due for completion in May, 2017. The contractor is now at ring beam level and is progressing well. The site for construction of Muyombe District Hospital was only identified in November, 2016 and the contractor is on schedule as he is due to complete the project in November, 2017."

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed as set out below.

- a) **Phase I** - construction of Mafinga Hospital at Thendere comprising of an Outpatient Department, Administration Block and associated external works commenced in September 2015. As of 3rd December, 2017, the project was at 68

percent completion with the contractor Hua Chang Infrastructure Engineering Ltd on site. Your Committee was informed that the hospital had since been roofed and plastered, while window frames and other fixtures were being installed.

Your Committee was also informed that the project manager had revised the completion date for the hospital due to poor weather conditions that affected accessibility to the site. The completion date was initially revised up to October, 2017. From the assessment being done on the progress so far by the contractor, it was expected that the hospital would be completed in the fourth quarter of 2018.



Construction of the administration block and outpatient department at Muyombe

- b) **Phase I** - construction of Muyombe Hospital in Mafinga District, comprising of an Outpatient Department, Administration Block and Associated External Works commenced in August, 2016. As of December, 2017, the contractor China Geo Engineering Ltd was on site, the building was roofed and plastered and the contractor was working on fittings. The completion period for the hospital was twenty-four months and thus scheduled to be completed in August, 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to ensure that works are completed in accordance with its work plan. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

25/17 Chinsali General Hospital Construction/Local Tour

On 14th March, 2017, the Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the construction of Chinsali General Hospital is expected to commence by April, 2017. This will be after the finalisation of the drawings by the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure. The contractor engaged to construct the hospital is China National Complete Engineering Corporation of China.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the construction of Chinsali General Hospital commenced in June, 2017. The contractor engaged to construct the hospital was China National Complete Engineering Corporation of China. This contract for the construction of the hospital was being executed under the Chinese Government support loan and the project sum was US\$28, 377, 666.02.

The works were currently progressing well and estimated to be at approximately 30 percent complete as of December, 2017. The project was expected to be completed in 2020.

In May 2018, your Committee undertook an on-the-spot check of the construction of Chinsali General Hospital and noted that the works were progressing well. The project was estimated to be at approximately 40% complete as of May, 2018. The project was expected to be completed and equipped by 2020.



Part of the Chinsali General Hospital toured by your Committee

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made and is optimistic that the project would be completed within the planned time frame. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

1/16 Construction of Dip Tanks in Nangoma

On 24th February, 2016, the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Madam, there was no construction of dip tanks in Nangoma Constituency in 2011, as the construction of dip tanks countrywide started in 2012. The construction of the four dip tanks in the constituency started in 2014. Site identification and the development of

the technical specifications was done between January and September, 2014, while the contract was approved in September, 2014. Thereafter, the site was handed over to the contractor, DDYPE Drilling and Construction Company, on 16th October, 2014. To date, 85 per cent of the works on the four dip tanks have been completed and the Ministry has engaged the Ministry of Finance for the release of the funds needed to complete the remaining works in 2017.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the construction of four dip tanks in Nangoma Constituency had stalled because the contractor had not yet been paid. However, your Committee was informed that payment of outstanding certificates had commenced with the first payment having been made. Your Committee was further informed that funds were already secured and only awaiting approval from the Ministry of Finance to pay the contractor who would resume works as soon as the payment was made.

Your Committee was further informed that the Government was in the process of procuring boreholes for dip tanks which were built far from the water sources in order to make them operational for the benefit of communities living around the dry dip tanks.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the response and awaits a progress report.

46/17 Cattle Restocking Programme in Chitambo

On 6th July, 2017, the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Madam Speaker, the Government has no immediate plan to conduct cattle restocking in Chitambo Parliamentary Constituency. The stocking of small ruminants, pigs and poultry will commence in 2017. As indicated in (a), the Government will not stock any cattle in Chitambo Parliamentary Constituency, but will stock 368 goats and 2,500 village chickens with the support of the Agricultural Productivity and Market Enhancement Programme (APMEP). The Government has made a budgetary allocation of K5 million in the 2017 budget for the National Stocking and Restocking Programme.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the restocking programme in Chitambo Parliamentary Constituency had not yet been done. However, the Ministry had signed a contract with Heifer International to implement the restocking programme involving eighteen male goats, 350 female goats and 2,500 village chickens within the first quarter of 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the programme, so that intended beneficiaries do not wait for too long. Your Committee awaits a progress report.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

2/16 Establishment of the Disaster Relief Trust Fund

On Friday 30th June, 2016, Her Honour the Vice President made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, a great deal of progress has been noted in the establishment of the Disaster Relief Trust Fund. As the Act stipulates, the disaster fund will not only receive money from the Treasury, but also from other sources. It takes a while to study the various modes of accessing money for the Trust Fund outside Government funds. Even within Government funding, we have to look at sources to tap into to realise some funds for this Trust Fund. Something is being done, and I believe that we are almost reaching the end of our consultancy work so that the Trust Fund will be able to be part of the 2018 national budget. It is very important for DMMU to have its own fund so that it can respond to emergencies as they occur.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the consultant to develop the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy and Operation Guidelines for the Disaster Relief Trust Fund would be in place by 1st December, 2017 and it was planned that the consultant would complete and handover works by 1st February, 2018. However, the target was not met due to the cholera outbreak. In that regard, your Committee was informed that tendering was expected to be done by April, 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and awaits a progress report on the establishment of the Trust Fund.

42/17BKatikulula Resettlement Scheme in Chitambo Constituency/Local Tour

On 29th June, 2017, the Minister in the Office of the Vice President made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, by the end of 2016, a total of 1,070 farms in Katikulula Resettlement Scheme in Chitambo District were under development."

The Government's plan is to ensure that all resettlement schemes in the country, including all the three phases of Katikulula Resettlement Scheme, are electrified. The implementation of the plan for Katikulula resettlement Scheme is ongoing. This includes the electrification of Phases I, II and III of the resettlement scheme. The electrification will be done by the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), once funds are made available.

As regards the commencement of the construction of schools and clinics, you may wish to know that one school, out of the planned three, is already established and operational. Out of the planned three health posts, the construction of one clinic has been completed. What is remaining is the commissioning so that the health post can be operational. The Government's plan is to complete all the planned activities as resources are made available.

Your Committee undertook its tour of Katikulua Resettlement Scheme in Chitambo and found the following:

(a) Clinic

The Clinic was built in 2006 by the Office of the Vice President and had been neglected from the time of its completion. Further, it was slowly being vandalised because it had been lying idle for a long time without being occupied. Two staff houses had been built but no staff were deployed at the clinic. The borehole at the clinic was also dysfunctional and parts of the mono pump for the borehole at the clinic had since been unbolted and taken to a nearby borehole.

With regard to the reason why the clinic had not been operationalised from the time of its completion, your Committee heard that the clinic had not officially been handed over to the Ministry of Health, so the Ministry could not deploy staff to the facility.

Your Committee also learnt that the major reason why the clinic was not operational was because it had no toilets. With regard to the progress made towards the eventual construction of the toilets, your Committee only found a big pit which was dug over three years ago and had started disintegrating due to multiple rainy seasons that had washed off the sand and weakened its edges. Your Committee also learnt that the nearest health facility from that area was about 20km away at Chitambo Mission Hospital. In view of the foregoing, local people were in dire need of health facilities in Katikulula Resettlement Scheme.

Further, the supervisor for the project was from Lusaka and the local administration was excluded from supervising the project. As a result, the local administration was kept guessing as to when the clinic would eventually be opened for the benefit of the people in Katikulula Resettlement Scheme.

(b) School

Your Committee learnt that Katikulula Primary school was built in 1996 as a community school and was the only school in Katikulula Resettlement Scheme out of the three schools earmarked for construction in the scheme in line with the assurance that was made on the Floor of the House. It was later gazetted by the Government and was now operating as a government school. The major challenges at the school were low staffing levels, inadequate accommodation for teachers and low enrolment levels due to long distances particularly for younger learners.

With regard to the electrification of the Scheme by the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), evidence on the ground showed that there was no progress in that regard as no REA presence had ever been heard of in the scheme.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over the Government's failure to implement the projects in Katikulula Scheme as assured on the floor of the House, and urges the Government to prioritise the projects in the scheme. Your Committee also urges the Government to ensure that a total of three clinics and three schools are built in Katikulula Scheme in accordance with the assurance on the floor of the House.

With regard to the finished clinic in Katikulula Scheme, your Committee is particularly displeased over the poor workmanship as the clinic walls had already developed huge cracks and some glass panes were either missing or broken. Your Committee is also displeased to learn that the clinic was not handed over to the Ministry of Health due to the lack of a toilet leading to the current deplorable state of the infrastructure in general as it has remained unoccupied in the last twelve years. Your Committee subsequently urges the Government to:

- (i) build a VIP toilet at the clinic as a matter of urgency;
- (ii) renovate the current infrastructure at the clinic;
- (iii) build the other two clinics in the resettlement scheme as assured;
- (iv) procure necessary equipment for the clinics; and
- (v) deploy health workers at the clinics.

With respect to the schools in the resettlement scheme, your Committee urges the Government to:

- (i) demolish the dilapidated classroom block and build a new one;
- (ii) build two other schools within the resettlement scheme with all accompanying infrastructure in accordance with the assurance made on the floor of the House; and
- (iii) deploy teachers at those schools.

Further, your Committee generally urges the government to ensure that the schools and clinics in the scheme are built and operationalised. Additionally, your Committee urges the Government to involve the local administrations at provincial level in the supervision of projects in their jurisdiction as they are the eventual end users, seeing that they understand their project needs better than anyone else. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

47/17 Classroom Block at Chigwe School in Vubwi

On 11th July, 2017, the Minister in the Office of the Vice-President made an assurance on the floor of the House as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Office of the Vice-President is aware of the blown-off roof of a 1 x 3 classroom block at Chigwe School in Vubwi Parliamentary Constituency and this has been captured in our database. Therefore, the Office of the Vice-President has engaged the Provincial Office of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) in Chipata to liaise with the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) in Vubwi for them to generate a bill of quantities (BoQ) and submit it to the Office of the Vice-President for consideration. The time frame for the completion of the project will be determined as soon as the BoQ is submitted to the Office of the Vice-President. The implementation of the project is subject to the availability of funds.

Madam Speaker, we do have a consolidated list of schools around the country whose roofs have been blown off. The DMMU is compiling a list of schools that it can supply with roofing sheets, as it is easier than reconstructing classrooms. So, Chigwe School will be attended to in the shortest time possible.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the bill of quantities (BoQs) for the blown-off 1 x 3 classroom block at Chigwe Primary School in Vubwi District were submitted by the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) and these had been captured in the DMMU Disaster Loss Database. According to the BoQs submitted in November, 2017, a total amount of K401,000 was required for the rehabilitation works to be undertaken at Chigwe primary School. Your Committee was further, informed that as of 30th January, 2018, a total of K45 million was recorded as money required to repair blown off roofs countrywide.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern considering the time it has taken for the Government to repair the blown off roof at Chigwe Primary School. Your Committee further notes with sadness that a total of K401,000 is required to repair the blown off roof as per the BoQ obtained in November, 2017, compared with the ones which were obtained in 2014 which amounted to K130,075. In this regard, your Committee strongly urges the Government to expeditiously rehabilitate the school to avoid escalation of rehabilitation costs or dilapidation of buildings with the passage of time and awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

5/16 Macro Economic Objectives, Policies and Strategies for 2017

On 11th November, 2016, the Minister of Finance through his budget address made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, since 2015, the Government has piloted Output Based Budgeting in the Ministries of General and Higher Education. This system has recently been evaluated and useful lessons learnt, especially relating to the necessary pre-conditions that need to be in place before a further roll-out is made in 2018. In particular, starting January, 2017, my Ministry will strictly enforce commitment controls so that Ministries, Provinces and Spending Agencies adhere to approved budgets. Only then will this House be able to hold ministries accountable for delivering the outputs that they have budgeted for.

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee heard that the Government had introduced Output-Based Budgeting (OBB) on a pilot basis in the education sector with the 2015 budget. The OBB sought, among others, to enhance the performance orientation of the budget by focusing more on the delivery of programme-level outputs and/or service delivery thereby ensuring value for money. After piloting the OBB in 2015, a robust review was carried out in July, 2016 with a view to inform further implementation and roll out to other Ministries, Provinces and Spending Agencies (MPSAs). The review showed that the OBB was an advanced form of budgeting that would bring a more strategic and results-based approach to budget planning and management. As indicated by the Honourable Minister of Finance in his 2017 budget address, the review also showed that further roll out was justified provided the pre-conditions were in place.

In addition, your Committee was informed that the pre-conditions were mainly on the need to ensure enhanced credibility and predictability in budget preparation and execution processes. Specifically, issues of budget credibility required that the Government improved the extent to which budget execution closely followed the approved budget while budget predictability required that budget resources were made available to the MPSAs as and when required.

In order to address the pre-conditions, the Government had initiated a number of initiatives. These initiatives included the enhancement of the budget challenge function aimed at strengthening the level and quality of interactions between Ministry of Finance and MPSAs during budget formulation. That initiative was critical to ensuring that MPSA budgets were realistic within the context of available resources, value for money and Government's strategic priorities. It was only when the budget estimates and output targets were realistic and well aligned to national development priorities that the Government would be able to realise the desired results.

With regard to enhancing predictability in the execution of the budget, the Government, in January, 2017, introduced the Warrant Funding System on a pilot basis in the Ministries of General and Higher Education. This new system entailed that a line ministry was able to facilitate payments to suppliers of goods and services and contractors as and when such payments fell due provided the payments were within the "warrant limit" for a given period (quarter or month). On the other hand, the system entailed that the Treasury maintained a minimum buffer in the Treasury Single Account to facilitate payments from line ministries. The Warrant Funding System also had a psychological effect of minimising the propensity by MPSAs to frontload funding requirements because of the predictable nature of funding under the Warrant Funding System. Once successfully rolled out, the Warrant Funding System was expected to ease the pressure on the Treasury's cash management function.

With regard to the issue of commitment controls alluded to by the Minister in his budget address, your Committee learnt that the Government had been rolling out the Integrated Financial Management System. The revision of the Public Finance Act was also expected to anchor commitment control processes.

Following the aforementioned interventions, the conditions for further roll out of the OBB were in 2017 considered satisfactory. Based on that position, the Ministry of Finance facilitated a number of sensitisation workshops and trainings with the following MPSAs:

1. Ministry of Community Development and Social Services;
2. Ministry of Health;
3. Ministry of Agriculture;
4. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; and
5. Zambia Police.

While significant progress was made by the five institutions in terms of understanding the OBB concept, designing of OBB budget programmes and sub-programmes, identification of appropriate output indicators and linking them to the higher level output indicators in the National Development Plan was still weak, with the exception of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services who were deemed ready for the roll out. It was against that background that the Government was, in the 2018 budget, rolling out the OBB to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. Further, the Ministry of Finance was currently working on a road map for training of more MPSAs starting in January, 2018 in readiness for further roll out in the 2019 budget. The intention of the Government was to roll out the OBB to the rest of the MPSAs in the 2019 budget.

Further, your Committee was informed that the OBB would bring about the following:

- i. enhanced accountability by the Executive;
- ii. better performance in the budget;
- iii. ensuring that what was to be achieved has been achieved; and
- iv. strengthening the oversight role of Parliament.

Your Committee was also informed that the Government had agreed that projects which were at least 80 percent complete would be prioritised for funding in 2018. Therefore, no new projects would be funded until the old ones were completed.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made on the Output-Based Budgeting (OBB) roll out and urges the Government to expedite the process to other Ministries, Provinces and Spending Agencies (MPSAs) in order to maximise the benefits. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

6/16 Macro Economic Objectives, Policies and Strategies for 2017

On 11th November, 2016, the Minister of Finance through his budget address made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Sir, most of the land in Zambia is not on title as only about 200,000 parcels of land are on title. In order to redress this, the Government will in 2017, commission a pilot programme in Lusaka. This programme will commence the process of titling of all land in the province. This exercise is aimed at the following:

- (a) giving citizens titled assets for credit extension;*
- (b) enhancing collection of land rates to finance Government activities;*
- (c) establishing an integrated and sustainable land registry on the status of land and its use;*
- (d) protecting vulnerable groups such as women; and*
- (e) resolving challenges among parties involved in disputes.*

Submission by the Permanent Secretary

Your Committee was informed that the Ministry of Lands had put in place a number of measures amongst which included; the finalisation of the Land Policy, carrying out a National Land Audit and a National Land Titling Programme. To enhance the land titling process in the country, the Ministry of Lands embarked on the auditing and mapping of land. The land auditing aimed at establishing ownership, uses and land availability. As part of the National Land Titling programme, the Ministry had acquired aerial and satellite imagery for the whole country and was developing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure which would expedite the land titling process.

Further, your Committee heard that the Ministry of Lands was in the process of completing two land titling pilot schemes in Kamwala South and Madido (Chongwe) which started in January, 2018. Most residents in the pilot areas were issued with invitations to treat and were at various stages of obtaining certificates of title. To date, an estimated number of 1,200 households and 300 households in Madido and Kamwala South were issued with the invitations to treat, respectively. The total numbers of households were 1,500 and 2,400 in Madido and Kamwala South, respectively.

Further, in order to expedite land titling, the Ministry of Lands had established an Interim Project Management Team for national titling programme that was wholly dedicated to this important exercise. The team would be housed at the National Titling Centre currently being renovated at the showgrounds in Lusaka.

Another measure to facilitate the titling was a review of legislation to make it easier for the respective households to access certificates of title. In that respect, the Ministry of Lands working with the Ministry of Justice was exploring the possibility of consideration fees being paid at the stage of issuance of the certificate of title rather than as a pre-condition for processing of the certificate of title.

Further, your Committee heard that based on the lessons learned from the two pilot areas, the Government would roll out the titling exercise to Central, Southern and Copperbelt Provinces in 2018, as the Government's target was 300,000 certificates of title.

In addition to scaling up issuance of certificates of title, your Committee heard that the Ministry of Lands was working on several measures to increase revenues earned. Those measures included improving compliance in the payment of ground rent through effective distribution of bills and ground rent due alerts through channels such as SMS. The other measure was partnering with institutions such as the Zampost which had a wide geographical coverage for land owners for settlement of bills. Further, the Ministry of Lands would work with District Forest Officers in distribution of ground rent bills. Furthermore, the Ministry was also working at strengthening legislation that would enforce the payment of ground rent.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee commends the Government on the progress made in the issuance of certificates of title in Lusaka and awaits a comprehensive progress report on the matter.

PART II - CONSIDERATION OF OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

18/15 - Radio Reception in Rural Areas

On 23rd September, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government, through the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC), has embarked on a nationwide programme to enhance radio reception in the rural parts of the country under the Rural FM Project.

The Rural FM Project involves installation of transmitters at the following twenty-four sites: Chienge; Kazembe; Kaputa; Samfya; Chilubi Island; Mporokoso; Isoka; Shiwang'andu; Luwingu; Senga Hill; Mwandi; Shang'ombo; Lukulu; Mulobezi; Maamba; Sinazeze; Sinazongwe; Chirundu; Kalomo; Mufumbwe; Chavuma; Luangwa; Nyimba; and Mumbwa.

Your previous Committee noted the progress made on the installation of transmitters and further urged the Government to expedite installation of the remaining twenty-four sites.

Response by the Executive

In its update, the Executive informed your Committee that the twenty four sites had not yet been installed with the transmitters due to financial constraints. However, the Government was committed to ensuring that radio reception improved in all parts of the country. In that regard, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services had proposed some funds as per budgetary allocation towards the purchase and installation of transmitters in the 2018 ministerial budget.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the update with concern given the time it has taken for the Government to secure funds to complete the installation of transmitters in the twenty four sites and urges the Government to source the necessary funds without any further delay. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

02/14 - Hospital Fast - Track Emergency Departments/Local Tour

On Friday, 21st February, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Health assured the House as follows:

“Mr Speaker, in line with the Government policy of improving health service delivery, the Government has already commenced the establishment of the emergency and trauma centres in all major health facilities.”

Your previous Committee noted the submission with delight on the progress made on the construction of the trauma centres across the country and resolved to await a progress report on all the remaining earmarked centres.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee stated that emergency and fast track services were being improved at major health services. The following progress had so far been made.

- i. University Teaching Hospital – Construction of a modernised Adult Emergency Department was underway and was at 80% completion. The facility was expected to be completed by the end of 2017.
- ii. Kabwe General Hospital – a trauma centre was constructed and completed at a cost K 2.2m. The facility was operational
- iii. Liteta Hospital – the trauma centre was under construction.
- iv. Nyimba Hospital – a new hospital was constructed and was currently operational. Efforts were underway to strengthen the hospital towards emergency response.

Your Committee undertook an on-the-spot check of the construction of the Nyimba General Hospital Emergency Response Unit in May, 2018 and learnt that the designs were in conformity with the fast track facilities (Casualty Unit). The contractor, Sunshare, was on site and work was progressing according to schedule.

Your Committee learnt that Nyimba area was prone to accidents and it was chosen to host one of the fast track hospitals as it was located almost midway between Lusaka and Chipata. Phase one had a casualty unit to attend to accident victims instead of referring them to either St Francis in Katete or Lusaka.

The Outpatient Unit was operating well but the Casualty Unit was still facing operational challenges as it lacked necessary equipment and space to function effectively.

Phase II of the Hospital which included construction of the maternity wing, mortuary, theatre and four staff houses was still underway and works were at 33%. With regard to why Phase II was initiated, your Committee learnt that it was commenced as a solution to the current operational challenges being faced at the hospital in its current form and was expected to be completed by 29 May, 2019.

With regard to staffing levels, your Committee learnt that Nyimba General Hospital had only two doctors instead of the required seven, because doctors who were transferred to other hospitals were still appearing on the Nyimba payroll establishment which made it impossible to replace them as the staff strength at the Ministry was showing that Nyimba had adequate doctors when in fact not.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

While appreciating the efforts made in the construction of trauma centres, your Committee is saddened to learn that Nyimba District Hospital Casualty Unit is still facing operational challenges in light of the recorded accidents within Nyimba area. Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to expeditiously procure equipment for the Casualty Unit and to operationalise it so that accident victims within Nyimba area are attended by the Unit as opposed to referring them to either Lusaka or St Francis in Katete. Further, your Committee urges the Government to ensure that necessary workers are deployed at the Hospital to ensure effective treatment of patients brought in.

With regard to the other infrastructure at the hospital, your Committee notes the progress made under phase one projects and urges the Government to speed up the construction of the remaining works under phase two. Further, your Committee implores the Government to urgently take an inventory of medical doctors at Nyimba General Hospital as only two doctors are currently operating at the Hospital out of the required staff strength of seven doctors appearing on the Nyimba Hospital Payroll. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the Casualty Fast Track Unit and the doctor's staffing levels.

26/15 - Renovation of Yuka Hospital

On 4th December, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to facilitate the renovation of Yuka Mission Hospital in Kalabo Parliamentary Constituency through a phased approach. To this effect, an amount of K200,000 has been allocated in the draft 2016 Infrastructure Operational Plan towards the rehabilitation of the hospital. Since the Government noted that the hospital is a faith-based mission facility, it intends to work with other donors to improve the state of the infrastructure at Yuka Mission Hospital.

Sir, the rehabilitation of the hospital will commence in 2016 and will be done in phases. We intend to undertake the rehabilitation in three phases and we expect to be done with Phase I in 2016. We will embark on Phases II and III in 2017."

In noting the submission, your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report, given that the Province had confirmed receipt of the January grant for infrastructure and the process of rehabilitation of the radiology department was earmarked to commence within the first quarter of 2017.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that in 2017, Yuka Mission Hospital was funded an amount of K200,000 for the rehabilitation of the radiology department.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to ensure that the rehabilitation of Yuka Mission Hospital is completed as soon as possible. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

26/15 - Kabange Health Centre Maternity Wing

On 20th October, 2015, the Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, there are plans to build a maternity annex as part of the programme to expand infrastructure at Kabange Health Post in 2016."

Your previous Committee was happy to note that the project had been prioritised to commence within the first quarter of 2017 and that the procurement process for the project had already commenced.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that modalities towards commencement of the project were in place, and the requisite funding had been secured to commence the project.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern, considering the time lapse and the shifts on the commencement dates for the construction of the maternity annex at the Kabange Health Post. Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the construction of the maternity annex and awaits a progress report on the matter.

24/16 - Update on Construction of 650 Health Posts Countrywide

On 19th April, 2016, the Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, thank you very much for granting me this opportunity to update the House and nation at large on the construction of 650 health posts across the country. As the House will recall, these health posts are being constructed at a total cost of US\$55.9 million of which US\$50 million is the Indian Government concession loan to the Government of Zambia. The Government of Zambia will contribute the balance of US\$5.9 million. The loan agreement was signed on 29th March, 2012.

Mr Speaker, this project involves the following:

- (i) construction of 650 pre-fabricated health post buildings, staff houses and ventilated latrines;*
- (ii) provision of basic medical equipment to 650 health posts to be constructed; and*
- (iii) provision of solar power, boreholes and hand pumps to the facilities.*

Mr Speaker, for easy management of the contracts, the 650 health posts were split into three lots in order to minimise the risk that may result if all the health posts were awarded to one contractor. These contracts were signed on 3rd July, 2013. The lots were awarded as follows:

- (i) Lot 1, covering the construction of prefabricated structures, supply and installation of essential equipment for 208 health posts in the Central, Copperbelt and Eastern provinces, was awarded to Jaguar Overseas Limited at an amount of US\$19,468,236;*
- (ii) Lot 2, covering the provinces of the North-Western, Northern, Muchinga and Luapula, was awarded to Angelique International Limited at US\$18,100,735; and*
- (iii) Lot 3, covering construction of health posts in the Western, Southern and Lusaka provinces, was awarded to Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited at an amount of US\$18,387,160.*

Mr Speaker, the site handovers for this project were done in the first quarter of 2014, in all the provinces. The project was expected to be undertaken over a period of twenty-four months from April, 2014, to April, 2016. However, it has since suffered some major challenges that have warranted it to be extended by an additional six months.

Sir, the major setback that the project suffered was the termination of the contract for Angelique International Limited, covering 270 health posts in the Northern, Luapula, North-Western and Muchinga provinces. The termination was done following recommendations by the Indian Government.

Mr Speaker, despite the above-mentioned challenge, progress has been as follows:

- (i) out of the 650 sites, contractors have been granted possession of 547 sites, representing coverage of 84 percent across the country;*
- (ii) a total of 266 super structures have been completed countrywide, out of which 102 have been operationalised and are being used by the local communities. We expect an additional 100 health posts to be operational within the course of the month;*
- (iii) all medical equipment and construction materials have been shipped into the country to facilitate completion of the remaining health posts; and*
- (iv) health posts that were under the Angelique International Limited component have been retendered and recommendations have been submitted to the Indian Government for its approval to proceed with the new contractor.*

Sir, in view of the above-mentioned progress, completion of all health posts is now expected to be accomplished by October, 2016."

Your previous Committee had noted that only 51 percent of the planned health posts had been completed and of the completed ones, 82 percent were operational, leaving 18 percent which were not yet operational. Further, your previous Committee had urged the Government to operationalise the completed health posts to avoid vandalism and subsequent repair costs.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Government submitted that out of the 650 health posts that were targeted for construction, a total of 275 health posts had been completed and were fully operational as shown in the table below:

PROVINCE	PLANNED	OPERATIONAL
Copperbelt	88	30
Central	52	37
Eastern	68	39
Western	64	60
Southern	99	32
Lusaka	32	31
Luapula	64	17
Northern	69	10
Muchinga	40	10
North Western	74	9
Total	650	275

The uncompleted health posts summarised per province are enumerated as below:

PROVINCE	PLANNED	INCOMPLETE	STATUS
Copperbelt	88	58	Works on these Health Post Contracts have stalled due to non release of the Zambian counterpart funding of US\$5.9m. The Government of Zambia has applied for refinancing of this component. Awaiting approval from the Indian Government.
Central	52	15	
Eastern	68	29	
Western	64	4	
Southern	99	67	
Lusaka	32	1	
Luapula	64	47	
Northern	69	59	
Muchinga	40	30	
North Western	74	65	
Total	650	375	

Your Committee was informed by the Executive that the Ministry of Health would submit a progress report on the project once approval for refinancing had been obtained from the Indian Government.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over the failure by the Government to secure financing of the health posts on time, as this delay will negatively affect the commencement and completion dates for the projects due to escalation of project costs

resulting from the time lapse. Your Committee also notes with concern that the number of completed and operational health posts has remained at 275 in the last two years, which clearly demonstrates lack of progress in the last two years. Your Committee therefore, awaits a progress report on the completion and operationalisation of health posts. Your Committee further, urges the Government to expeditiously secure funds for the completion of the projects in accordance with its set work plan and provide a progress report on the matter.

25/14 - Rural Health Centres with Solar Power in Mwinilunga Parliamentary Constituency

On Wednesday, 2nd October, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child Health made the following assurance:

“Mr Speaker, there are eighteen rural health centres with solar power in Mwinilunga Parliamentary Constituency. Sir, sixteen of the rural health centres have fully functional solar installations. Sir, Sakapoti Health Centre’s solar system will be fixed by November, 2014, while the system at Chiwoma Health Centre will be repaired by the end of 2014.

Sir, solar power will be procured for Kawiko Health Centre by the end of 2014 while Kanzinza and Ntambo Sachitolo Health Centres will be considered after the construction of new health facilities. Mr Speaker, Angelique Company has already been contracted to construct these facilities.”

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and observed that specific solar power procurement for Kawiko, Kanzinza and Ntambo Sachitolo Health Centres had not been addressed adequately as much as it appreciated the proposals to support installation of solar power to health facilities across the country. Your previous Committee subsequently resolved to await a progress report on the three health centres.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that the Ministry of Health had drawn up a national plan to install solar power to health facilities. The proposal was still awaiting financing. It was the intention at District level to connect Kawiko and Ntambo Sachitolo to the national grid, while efforts were still being made to replace the solar system at Kanzinza.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the time it has taken for the Government to actualise the projects at Kawiko, Ntambo Sachitolo and Kanzinza. Your Committee strongly urges the Government to complete the projects without further delay and submit a progress report.

04/15 - Houses for Personnel in Sikongo District

On Wednesday, 25th February, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child Health made the following assurance:

"Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Health intends to construct staff houses for health personnel in Sikongo in 2015, under its Infrastructure Operational Plan."

Your previous Committee was displeased to note that construction of staff houses failed to take off at the time it was planned for and urged the Government to adhere to its own operational plans on projects that had been planned for. Your previous Committee resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update submitted that the Government was committed to ensuring that health workers were retained in the rural areas through provision of staff housing. In Sikongo District, a staff house was being completed at Mutala Health Centre whilst at Sikongo Health Centre, one was under construction and had reached window level.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the construction of staff houses at the two health facilities and provide a progress report on the matter.

07/14 - Construction of Health Posts at Khulamayembe, Kamuzowole and Bayole in Chasefu Constituency

On Wednesday, 26th February, 2014, the Minister of Health assured the House as follows:

“Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to construct health posts at the named places in Chasefu.”

Your previous Committee noted the update with appreciation and resolved to await a progress report on the construction of health posts with respect to Khulamayembe, Kamuzowole and Bayole in Chasefu Constituency.

Response by the Executive

The Executive, in its update to your Committee stated that Khulamayembe, Kamuzowole and Bayole Health Posts in Chasefu Constituency were planned for construction under the India Line of Credit (650 Health Posts Programme). The construction of the health post under this programme was currently awaiting additional financing. However, the following progress was made on the listed health posts.

- i. Khulamayembe Health Post was at superstructure
- ii. Kamuzowole Health Post was at slab level
- iii. Bayole Health Post was complete and operational

Works on the uncompleted health posts were expected to resume once approval for refinancing of the project was granted by the Indian Government.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is happy to note that Bayole Health Post has been completed and operationalised and urges the Government to ensure that works at Khulamayembe and Kamuzowole Health Posts are expedited. Your Committee awaits a progress report.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

12/15 - Construction of North-Western Province Police Administration Block

On Thursday 24th September, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

“Mr Speaker, the Government has started the construction of the Zambia Police Division Headquarters in Solwezi, North-Western Province. The project is at the excavation level and is being supervised by the Buildings Department. Sir, the project time frame is eighteen months. As the works started on 8th January 2015, they are expected to be completed by 30th June 2016.”

Your previous Committee was happy to note that works had resumed and the contractor was on site. However, your Committee was of the view that the revised completion date of the project of July 2017, would not be met as the works yet to be carried out could only be undertaken subject to availability of funds.

Your previous Committee subsequently urged the Government to ensure that all the completed work certificates were honoured to avoid demobilising and remobilising costs by the contractor which costs would end up being added to the final cost of the contract price to be borne by the Government.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the contractor was on site and was putting steel on the third floor. However, your Committee was informed that the contractor had not been paid three certificates for the works done. The outstanding certificates would be honoured when the Government made available the funds for the project. Further, the Executive informed your Committee that works could only be expedited in the event that outstanding certificates were paid and funds for the project made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses great concern over the non-payment of the three completed certificates which has led to the delay in completing the project. Your Committee therefore, strongly urges the Government to expeditiously settle the amount outstanding on the three certificates issued and make funds available for completion of the project. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

31/15 - Construction of Milenge Police Station

On 1st October, 2015, the Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to construct a police post, not a police station, in Milenge. The police post will be built with three staff houses. Construction will begin this month, October, 2015, after we announce the contractor."

Your previous Committee noted the submission with regret and urged the Treasury to release the funds for the project to avoid escalation of costs with the passage of time. Your Committee resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update, the Executive informed your Committee that the works had stalled because the Treasury had not released funds to pay for the outstanding certificates and indicated that works would resume when funds were available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned with the time it has taken for the Treasury to settle the amounts outstanding on the certificates issued and urges the Treasury to expeditiously release the funds for the project to avoid escalation of costs. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

14/16 - National Registration Office in Kalabo

On 16th April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Sir, the contractor engaged to construct the National Registration Office block in Kalabo District is back on site and construction works resumed on 30th December, 2015. The completion of the project has delayed due to lack of financial resources to commence the works. The contractor was waiting for an up-front payment in order to mobilise and start the works. However, this has been resolved and the contractor is back on site. The time frame for the completion of the project is eighteen months. Therefore, it is expected that the office block for National Registration in Kalabo will be handed over to the Government in July 2017."

Your previous Committee had noted the submission with great concern over the mobilisation and demobilisation of contractors due to non-payment of completed certificates and strongly urged the Government to avoid accumulation of additional costs due to non-settlement of certificates. Your previous Committee had further urged the Government to undertake projects only when adequate funds to complete the projects were available. Your previous Committee resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Department had not yet received funds for payment of certificates in respect of the National Registration Office in Kalabo. However, the Department was hopeful that funds would be released to the project, given the Government's position on the need to finish ongoing projects before embarking on new ones.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to ensure that the project is expeditiously funded to avoid accumulation of additional costs due to non-payment of completed certificates and time lapses. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

36/14 - Nakonde Police Station

On Tuesday, 14th October, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance:

"Mr Speaker, Nakonde Central Police Station was built in 1959. The rehabilitation of Nakonde Central Police Station will be done in 2015."

Your previous Committee had observed that rehabilitation of Nakonde Police Station had stalled because the contractor had not yet been paid on the certificates issued. Your previous Committee, therefore, had urged the Government to pay the contractor on the issued certificates as the works were earmarked for 2015. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the contractor had not been paid the outstanding certificates. The rehabilitation of Nakonde Police station would be completed when the outstanding certificates were paid.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the delays in paying the contractor for the work already done as per the issued certificates. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to settle the outstanding amounts expeditiously, so that the rehabilitation works at Nakonde Police Station can continue. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

12/15 - Construction of Police Stations and Posts in Magoye Constituency

On Thursday, 5th March, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance:

“Mr Speaker, the Government, through the Zambia Police Force, has plans to construct a police post in Magoye Township in 2016.”

Your previous Committee had urged the Government to prioritise this project in the subsequent budget in order to bring closure to the matter. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Government was still committed to constructing a police post in Magoye but that would only be after the completion of the on-going projects. Your Committee was further informed that the contract for the project was not signed and the status quo is the same.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses great concern at the failure by the Government to construct a police post in Magoye Township as initially assured. Your Committee once more strongly urges the Government to prioritise the project in its budget considering the time it has taken for the Government to fund the project. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

15/15 – Administrative Provisions for Itemba Police Post in Milenge District

On Wednesday, 11th March, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance:

“Mr Speaker, the installation of solar panels at Itemba Police Post and staff houses in Milenge District will commence this year 2015, since the funds for the two projects have been provided for in the 2015 Budget.”

Your previous Committee had urged the Government to ensure total adherence to all budgetary provisions in order to avoid a lot of unfulfilled assurances. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on Itemba Police Post.

Response by the Executive

The Executive, in its update to your Committee, submitted that the installation of the solar panels at Itemba Police Post was supposed to be undertaken using the Programme 4012 Infrastructure Development Activity 044 “Rehabilitation of Police Stations under

Luapula Province” which was in the 2015 budget. However, the funds for this activity were never released and the activity was not budgeted for in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 budgets. However, efforts were being made to engage the local authority in Milenge District and the area Member of Parliament to lobby for consideration to fund the procurement of solar panels using Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee finds it unacceptable that the Ministry now appears to be renegeing on this assurance and leaving the matter to be handled by the local authority or the area Member of Parliament. Your Committee insists that the Ministry should still spearhead the provision of the solar panels. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

16/15 - Construction of office block and housing units for Police in Rufunsa District

On Friday, 13th March, 2015, the Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the Government has plans to construct an office block and ten housing units in Rufunsa District in 2015. Funds for the construction of an office block and the ten staff houses have been set aside under the Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication.

Your previous Committee had noted with concern the slow pace at which the project was being done, given that the funds were initially set aside for the project and urged the Government to pay off all the certificates for the works done and further ensure that works were completed in a reasonable time. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the project of constructing a Police Station along with ten houses for Police officers in Rufunsa District commenced in 2014 at a contract sum of K14,384,300.44. The contract was awarded to Atonement Enterprises Ltd. The project was under the Ministry of Works and Supply which also budgeted for the project in 2014. Between 2014 and 2016, a total sum of K5, 430,577.62 leaving a balance of K8,953,722.82 which was the amount required to complete the project. From the funds released, six houses were almost

complete (built and roofed) while excavations and foundation works were undertaken for the remaining four houses and the police station.

The project stalled due to funding challenges. However, in the 2018 budget for Lusaka Province, there was a budgetary provision of K9,400,000.00 for infrastructure development in four new Districts under Lusaka Province including Rufunsa District. However, the project could not be completed in 2018 as the allocation was inadequate for the completion of the remaining works.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the budgetary provision for infrastructure development in Lusaka Province but conversely notes with regret, the pace at which the works are being undertaken and the non-payment of the completed certificates issued on the project. Your Committee strongly urges the Government to speed up the works for the projects which have been outstanding for a long time to avoid damage to the already constructed structures. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

19/15 - Land for construction of Milenge Police Station

On Tuesday, 24th March, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance:

"Sir, as a bonus answer, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the Government also has plans to construct a police post and three staff houses in the same area at a cost of K4 million within ten months in 2015."

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and urged the Government to prioritise the overdue project in order to bring closure to the matter. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the construction of Milenge Police Station.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that construction of Milenge Police Station Office block was ongoing and it was at slab level. The project had stalled because the Government had not paid the outstanding certificates for the works done so far by the contractor.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with regret, and urges the Government to expedite the works by settling the outstanding certificates. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

27/14 - Kaputa Local Courts Staff Establishment

On Wednesday, 2nd October, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Justice made the following assurance:

"Mr Speaker, eleven positions were vacant as of May, 2014. The Judiciary will consider filling them once the Ministry of Finance grants the Treasury Authority for recruitment in the 2015 Financial Year. Please, note that Nsumbu Local Court is non-operational as the court building collapsed."

Your previous Committee was highly displeased with the time it had taken to fill the vacancies that fell in 2014, and further urged the Government to expedite the exercise. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the recruitment of an Assistant Clerical Officer and Watchman at Kaputa Subordinate Court.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive stated that the Judiciary had not been granted Treasury Authority to date to create the positions of Assistant Clerical Officer and Watchman at Kaputa Subordinate Court. However, your Committee was informed that a Watchman was deployed at Kaputa Subordinate Court.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with displeasure, given the time it has taken for the Judiciary to be granted Treasury Authority to create positions at Kaputa Subordinate Court. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

08/15 – Local Court in Chief Chisomo’s area in Muchinga

On Friday, 27th February, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Justice made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the local court in Chief Chisomo’s area in Muchinga, which will include two low cost houses, is earmarked for construction in 2016 at a cost of K1.5 million.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and urged the Government to ensure that the construction of a Local Court in Chief Chisomo’s area in Muchinga Constituency was not only factored in the 2017 budget, but implemented and delivered to the people of Muchinga Constituency. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive reiterated its commitment to construct a local court in Chief Chisomo’s area. However, construction had not commenced because there was no budgetary provision for new infrastructure projects in the 2017 budget.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with regret because since the assurance was made on the floor of the House in 2015, the activity has never been factored into the subsequent budgets. Your Committee urges the Government to source funds for the project to be undertaken.

09/13 – Local Courts at Nsumbu Business Centre

On Thursday, 21st February, 2013, the Minister of Justice made the following assurance:

“Mr Speaker, the Government is committed to constructing the Nsumbu Local Court in Nsama District in 2013, in accordance with the strategic plan of the Judiciary and subject to the availability of funds.”

Your previous Committee, having noted the submission, had resolved to await a progress report.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its response to your Committee submitted that the Judiciary had not undertaken construction of Nsumbu Local Court in Nsama District because there was no budgetary provision for the infrastructure projects in the 2017 Budget.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with regret and urges the Executive to ensure that Nsumba Local Court is provided for in the subsequent budget. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

10/13 - Local Courts in Nakonde District

On Wednesday, 19th February, 2013, the Minister of Justice made the following undertaking:

Mr Speaker, in accordance with the strategic plan for the Judiciary, the local court at Ntolondo in Nakonde District is earmarked for construction this year, 2013.

Your previous Committee noted the update and had resolved to await a progress report.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Judiciary was still committed to the construction of a local court in Ntolondo in Nakonde District. However, no construction was undertaken because there was no budgetary provision for infrastructure projects in the 2017 budget.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern and urges the Executive to ensure that the project is provided for in the subsequent budget. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF GENERAL EDUCATION

05/15 - Construction of Teachers' Houses in Chasefu Constituency

On Thursday, 29th October, 2015, the Deputy Minister of General Education made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, twenty-eight staff houses are currently being constructed in Chasefu Constituency at Chasefu Boarding Secondary School, which is under construction. Sir, the estimated cost of building the houses is K8. 4 million.

Mr Speaker, as already stated in (a), Chasefu Boarding Secondary School will benefit from the construction of the staff houses.

Your previous Committee noted the progress made on the construction of the houses and had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update, the Government informed your Committee that the status quo still remained the same due to inadequate funding and the contractor had not been paid for some time. However, the Ministry promised to honour the contractor's claim as soon as the funding situation improved and would update your Committee on any developments.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the process and pay the contractor. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

07/16 - Chasefu Boarding Secondary School

On 12th April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of General Education made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the construction of Chasefu Boarding Secondary School in Chasefu Parliamentary Constituency is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2016.

Sir, the delay in completing the project is due to insufficient budgetary allocation to on-going project implementation.

Mr Speaker, the school is expected to open in January, 2017, after completion of the works in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission with concern over the deferring of the completion dates by the Executive and further urged it to expedite works so that the much needed education services could be provided to the people of Chasefu without any further delays. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that funds for completion of the project had not yet been released.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with regret given the time it has taken for the Treasury to release the funds to complete the project. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to prioritise the funding of Chasefu Boarding School and awaits a progress report on the matter.

09/16 - Lumimba Day Secondary School 1x4 Classroom Block

On 12th April, 2016, the Minister of General Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the construction of a 1x4 classroom block at Lumimba Day Secondary School in Lumezi Parliamentary Constituency will be completed in December, 2016. The delay was due to transport challenges in delivering materials to the project site, which is located in the valley. Materials such as bricks, crushed stones, river sand, building sand and gravel are found over 50 km from the school.

Your previous Committee had urged the Government to fund the project at the earliest possible time and expedite works to avoid escalation of costs and the possible demobilising and remobilising costs to the Government. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that due to inadequate funding in 2016, the Ministry could not provide funds to complete the 1 x 4 classroom block at Lumimba Day Secondary School. However, the Ministry was finalising the disbursement of K50,000 to the school.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the failure by the Government to complete the project and urges it to urgently finalise the disbursement process. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

12/16 - Manyama Basic School Desks

On 14th April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of General Education made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, there were 140 double-seater desks at Manyama Basic School in Solwezi West Parliamentary Constituency, as at February, 2016. The shortfall at the school is 160 double-seater desks.

Sir, the shortfall of desks is expected to be covered in the second quarter of 2016.

Your previous Committee was happy to note the procurement of both single and double seater desks which was in progress. Further, your previous Committee was pleased with the planned delivery of the shortfall of the 160 double-seater desks to Manyama Basic School in the course of 2017. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the delivery of desks to Manyama Basic School.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Ministry of General Education submitted that the status had remained the same as funds were yet to be released by the Ministry of Finance for the procurement of double seater desks at Manyama Basic School.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern given that the Permanent Secretary had, in the first quarter of 2017, assured your Committee that the procurement of both single and double seater desks was in progress. Your Committee, therefore, strongly urges the Government to expedite the release of funds and procure the desks as a matter of urgency. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

21/16 - Classroom Blocks for Schools in Sikongo Constituency

On 17th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of General Education made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the mentioned schools are at varying levels of construction. The biggest problem has been limited resources. In terms of completing the projects, the officers in Sikongo are trying to secure funding from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). The Ministry of General Education is also committed to including some of the schools in its 2016 Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP).

Sir, the construction of the 1x2 classroom block at Simbuu Primary School is expected to commence in 2016.

Your previous Committee had appreciated the completion of the two schools using the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Sikongo District and had further urged the Government to expedite completion of works at Ng'ombe and Simbuu in 2017 as planned. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on works at Ng'ombe and Simbuu.

Response by the Executive

In its update, the Executive informed your Committee that none of the outstanding projects at Likuyu, Muweshi, Lubuta and Liundu had been completed due to financial constraints. The 1 x 2 classroom blocks at Ng'ombe and Simbuu were not fully completed due to lack of funds. Your Committee was informed that it would be updated once funds were released.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes with regret the inordinate delays in completion of the projects and the fact that there was nothing being done on the ground with regard to Simbuu. Your Committee strongly urges the Government to expedite completion of the outstanding works. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

31/16 - Ncheka Primary School in Malambo

On 23rd February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of General Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the blown off roof at Ncheka Primary School will be rehabilitated this year because it has been provided for in the 2016 Annual Work Plan. The works will be undertaken as soon as the funds are released.

Your previous Committee had noted that funds to rehabilitate the blown off roofs at Ncheka Primary School were provided for in the 2017 budget. Consequently, your previous Committee had urged the Treasury to ensure that funds were released so as to bring closure to the matter which was supposed to have been dealt with under the 2016 Annual Work Plan. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that due to inadequate funding in 2016, the Government could not provide funds for rehabilitation of a 1 x 2 classroom block and five staff houses. However, the Ministry was finalising the disbursement of K200,000 to the school for the repair of the dilapidated infrastructure.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and strongly urges the Government to urgently finalise the disbursement of K200,000 for the rehabilitation of Ncheka Primary School. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

13/15 - Laboratories at Secondary Schools in Chasefu

On 23rd September, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry, through the National Science Centre, has approved the supply of mobile science laboratories to Lusuntha and Emusa Day Secondary Schools while funds are being sourced for the construction of permanent laboratories. Hoya Day Secondary School might be considered in 2016.

Your previous Committee, while appreciating the provision of mobile laboratories, had urged the Government to ensure that permanent laboratories were constructed and operationalised at Lusuntha, Emusa and Hoya Day Schools. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update, the Executive informed your Committee that Lusuntha and Emusa Day Secondary Schools were still using mobile laboratories as funds for the construction of permanent structures had not been released by the Ministry of Finance. The Executive promised to update your Committee when the funds were released for the project.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern, given the inordinate delays in constructing permanent laboratories at Lusuntha, Emusa and Hoya Day Schools. Your Committee urges the Government to ensure that permanent laboratories are constructed and operationalised without further delay. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

30/14 - Construction of Nakonde Secondary School

On Friday, 7th October, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the construction of Nakonde Secondary School is planned to be completed in 2015.

Your previous Committee, in noting the submission by the Executive, had observed that the progress report on the current status quo of Nakonde Secondary School was not adequately addressed and further urged the Executive to expedite works at the school. In view of the foregoing, your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter that was supposed to have been dealt with in 2015.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the status quo at Nakonde Secondary School has remained the same. This was due to lack of funds.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern at the time it has taken for the Government to complete the construction of Nakonde Secondary School and further urges the Government to expeditiously complete the project. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

03/13 - Ntatumbila and Shemu Basic Schools

On Thursday, 21st February 2013, the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education made the following assurance:

The Provincial Education Officer (PEO) for Muchinga Province has been tasked to identify schools in the Province which could be transformed into secondary schools. This process of identification and transformation has already started in Muchinga Province and the Honourable Member of Parliament will be informed in due course.

Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive, in its update to your Committee submitted that the two schools, Ntatumbila and Shemu were upgraded. Further, due to financial constraints, no new schools had been identified for upgrading. This would only be undertaken once the current stock of 220 upgraded secondary schools were completed.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern given the time it has taken for the Government to complete the construction of 1x3 Classroom Blocks and one staff house at the upgraded Ntatumbila and Shemu Basic Schools. Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the construction works and awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

34/13 - Construction of Chalimbana, Mukuba and Kwame Nkrumah Universities/Local Tour

On Friday, 22nd February, 2013, the Vice-President assured the House as follows:

Mr Speaker, according to the latest information I have, and it is very hot-off-the-press, I think, this morning, in fact, the progress in the construction of Chalimbana, Mukuba and Nkrumah Universities is good. They will open as universities this year, 2013.

Your previous Committee, noted the response and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Government submitted that the three colleges had since been upgraded into Universities and were offering degree programmes. Progress on the upgrading of infrastructure to make it suitable for university standards as was illustrated by the tables and pictures below:

Nkrumah College of Education in Kabwe District

The construction works were being carried out in two phases.

PHASE I

No	BUILDING	PROGRESS
1.	2 Four Storey Hostel Blocks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. All the blocks had been roofed.ii. Plastered both internally and externally.iii. Fixing of suspended branderings completed while only 75% of suspended ceiling panels had been fitted.iv. 95% of undercoat paint had been applied to wall surfaces.v. 95% of ceramic floor tiles had been fitted while fixing of wall tiles had been completed.vi. All door frames had been fitted while 98% of window frames had been fitted.vii. Concrete benches and worktops had been fitted in kitchens and wash rooms.viii. First fix plumbing had been completed while only 98% of kitchen sinks had been fitted as part of second fix

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ix. All conduit pipes had been laid awaiting electrical wiring. x. All aluminium door frames and doors complete with glass had been fitted at ground floor main entrances.
2.	<i>1 Two Storey Library</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The block had been roofed. ii. Plastered both internally and externally. iii. Suspended brander for ceiling completed. iv. Fitting of air conditioning systems completed on both floors. v. 98% of pressed metal door frames had been fitted. vi. All aluminium frames and doors fitted with glass. vii. All conduit pipes had been laid awaiting electrical wiring. viii. First fix plumbing had been completed. ix. Both ceramic floor tiling and wall tiling completed. x. Undercoat paint applied to walls internally.
3.	<i>2 Two Storey Lecture Room Blocks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All the two blocks had been roofed. ii. Plastered both internally and externally. iii. Suspended brander completed while 98% of suspended ceiling board had been fitted. iv. Cement / sand flooring completed; v. All door and window frames fitted. vi. First fix plumbing completed. vii. All conduit pipes had been laid awaiting electrical wiring. viii. Spoon drains and concrete aprons around both buildings completed. ix. Undercoat paint applied to both internal and external wall surfaces.
4.	<i>1 Lecture Theatre</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The building had been roofed. ii. Plastered both internally and externally. iii. Fixing of suspended brander completed while ceiling boards had not yet been fitted. iv. Fitting of Air conditioning systems completed. v. All aluminium frames fitted with glass. vi. 98% of Ceramic floor tiling and wall tiling had been done except on terraces where terrazzo floor construction was still in progress. vii. Undercoat paint had been applied to walls both internal and external wall surfaces.



PHASE 2

No	BUILDING	PROGRESS	REMARKS
1.	2 Four Storey Hostel Blocks	(i) Site clearing works completed for both hostel blocks. (ii) 100% Excavation of pad foundations done for all the two blocks, just awaiting strip foundation to be excavated.	
2.	2 Two Storey Lecture Room Blocks	(i) First lecture room block had concrete slab casting completed. (ii) Second lecture room block had foundation walls built, back filling and hard core compaction completed awaiting casting of concrete slab.	
3.	1 Lecture Theatre	(i) Site clearing works and levelling were in progress.	
4.	Construction of ten (10) lecturers' houses.	(ii) Works not yet commenced.	

In May 2018, your Committee toured Nkrumah University and found that all projects under phase one were almost complete as only a few touches were required to full completion.

The 2 x 2 storey lecture room blocks, 1 x 2 storey library, and 2 x 4 storey hostel blocks were all completed awaiting the installation of furniture and power after some final touches.

With regard to phase two projects, at slab level were 2 x 4 storey Hostel Blocks, 2 x 2 storey lecture room blocks, one lecture theatre and three staff houses. Five staff houses were at roof level and two were at foundation level.

Committee's observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made in the building of additional infrastructure at Nkrumah University as almost all the infrastructure is as assured on the floor of the House. Your Committee urges the Government to release funds in a consistent manner on the remaining projects and resolves to close the matter on phase one projects subject to operational verification. Conversely, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on phase two projects.

40/14 - Construction of King Lewanika University

On Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the construction of King Lewanika University in the Western Province will commence in January, 2015. The contractor, by the name of Datong Construction Limited, has been identified. The project is estimated to cost K160 million. The project will be constructed within a period of three years.

Your previous Committee in noting the submission by the Executive had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that the project had commenced and twelve staff houses had been constructed and roofed as at March, 2017.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made but is disappointed at the slow pace of the project, given that it was to be completed in three years. Your Committee urges the

Government to expedite the works. Your Committee awaits a comprehensive progress report on the matter.

14/15 - Mumbwa Trades Training Institute

On Friday, 6th March, 2015, the Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the construction of Mumbwa Trades Training Institute will commence in 2015.

Your previous Committee noted the progress thus far, and had urged the Government to speed up the works. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that the construction of Mumbwa Trades Training Institute had continued and progress was at 40%.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the slow pace at which the construction of Mumbwa Trades and Training Institute is going. Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to expedite the works and provide a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11/15 - Construction of the Lusaka-Kapiri Mposhi Dual Carriageway

On Thursday 24th September, 2015, the Minister of Justice and Acting Leader of Government Business in the House made an assurance on the floor of the House on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communications as follows:

Mr Speaker, it is envisaged that the proposed construction of the Lusaka/Kapiri Mposhi Dual Carriageway will commence in the second quarter of 2016, under a public-private partnership (PPP) financing model.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and urged the Government to adhere to its work plans by ensuring that works commenced in line with its own assurance. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update, the Executive informed your Committee that the contract for the Lusaka - Ndola dual carriageway was signed on 31st May, 2017 with a completion period of forty-eight months after conclusion of the financing agreement. The model of implementation was Engineering Procurement Construction plus Finance (EPC+F). Works under the project had since commenced.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to complete the works within the stipulated forty-eight months in the contract. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

20/15 - Rehabilitation of Gwembe/Chisekesi Road

On 22nd October, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, feasibility studies of this nature take about nine months to be completed and the contract was signed in September, 2015. So, the road construction will commence before the end of 2016.

Your previous Committee noted the submission with concern over the increasing number of assurances being made on the floor of the House without the commensurate commitment to commence works within the planned time.

Your previous Committee consequently urged the Government to adhere to its own work plans and avoid escalation of costs due to delayed commencement of works. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that the detailed designs for the upgrading of the Chisekesi to Munyumbwe Road were completed and accepted by RDA on October 6, 2016.

The project was not included in the 2017 Road Sector Annual Work Plan (RSAWP) due to limited resources available in the 2017 national budget. The project would be considered for implementation once funds were secured.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern at the time it has taken the Government to implement the project. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to expeditiously honour the assurance and provide a progress report on the matter.

01/16 - Masangano/Fisenge Road

On 4th May, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Masangano/Fisenge Road Project on the Copperbelt Province is at the procurement stage and its works are expected to commence in the third quarter of 2016. The project will be executed using the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The delay in the rehabilitation of the road is attributed to the limited resource envelop due to competing needs.

Your previous Committee in noting the submission had urged the Government to ensure that works commenced according to the work plan and within the planned period. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Masangano to Fisenge Road was part of the earmarked road construction works under the Lusaka to Ndola dual carriageway project whose works had already commenced.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the commencement of works on the dual carriageway project and urges the Government to ensure that works are completed within the project schedule. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

02/16 - Kalabo/Kalongola Road

On 9th March, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the construction of the Kalabo/Kalongola to Sitoti Road is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2016. The contract has been awarded to China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited for a sum of K1,695,918,648.60 for the duration of forty-eight months. Sir, the Government, through the Road Development Agency (RDA), has plans to construct the above-mentioned crossing points under the same contract.

Mr Speaker, the works on the crossing points will be implemented under the same contract and are scheduled to commence in 2016.

Your previous Committee noted the submission and had urged the Government to speed up the financing agreement for the project with the financier so that works could commence in the shortest possible time. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that upgrading of the Kalabo to Kalongola to Sitoti road had not commenced because the financing agreement had not yet been concluded.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern over the inordinate delay in finalising the financing agreement for the project. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to speed up this matter so that the project can commence without further undue delay. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

06/16 - Construction of Civil Servants' Houses in Mitete

On 10th March, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government is constructing forty-two houses and other buildings in Mitete District. The categories of the housing units are broken down as follows:

<i>High-cost</i>	<i>Medium-cost</i>	<i>Low-cost</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>28</i>

Sir, the construction of twenty low-cost houses will be completed by the end of October, 2016, while the construction of ten medium-cost houses will be completed by the end of May, 2016, and the construction of two high-cost houses was supposed to have been completed by the end of February, 2016, but is likely to be delayed due to non-performance by the contractor. The contract for the construction of a police station and ten houses for police officers, comprising two medium-cost and eight low-cost houses, has just been awarded and construction, which will commence as soon as possible, will be completed by the end of 2016.

Mr Speaker, the contractor for the construction of the twenty low-cost houses is KAPS Hardware Limited while the one for the ten medium-cost houses is Muco Trading Limited. The two high-cost houses are being constructed by Kampe Contractors Limited.

Sir, the time frame for the construction of the twenty low-cost houses and associated works is twenty months, starting from February, 2015, and ending in October, 2016, while that for the construction of ten medium-cost houses and associated external works is twelve months, starting from April, 2015, to May 2016.

Your previous Committee was happy to note that funds had been released for the project and urged the Government to ensure that works commenced as soon as Mitete became accessible and further ensure that the released funds were not diverted to other projects. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that twenty low cost houses being constructed had reached an advanced stage with progress estimated at 90% (roofed and plastered). Further, out of a total ten medium cost houses, eight had been completed while two were at sub structure level. Lastly, the two high cost houses were at foundation level. The contract for this project had been terminated due to non-performance and a new contractor would be engaged.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made on the construction of civil servants houses in Mitete and urges the Government to urgently replace the contractor whose services were terminated due to non performance. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the completion of all the houses.

13/16 - Construction of Masaiti District Administration Offices

On 15th April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the construction of the district administration offices in Masaiti shall commence now that land has been allocated for the proposed new district administrative centre. Survey drawings for the old Masaiti Boma area have been completed, but the provincial administration decided to relocate the new district to an area near the Kapiri Mposhi/Ndola Highway.

Sir, the contractor shall be identified after tender evaluation. The contract sum shall be known after the selection of the successful bidder. As regards the time frame, this project should be done within ten to twelve months.

Your previous Committee had wondered how long the normal tender process should take and subsequently urged the Government to expedite the tender process so that works could commence in the shortest possible time. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that tenders for the construction of district infrastructure in Masaiti were not concluded in 2017 due to financial constraints. The projects would however, be budgeted for in the 2018 budget.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes with concern that the project has failed to take off in over two years due to non availability of funds. Consequently, your Committee urges the Government to prioritise funding for the construction of the District Administration Offices in Masaiti in accordance with the assurance. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

16/16 - Mbala/Nsumbu Road in Nsama

On 16th April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, works on Lot I will cover 33 km of the Mbala/Nsumbu Road and will commence in the second quarter of 2016. Works under Lot I will also cover 26 km of the road to Chief Tafuna's Palace and 36 km of the access road to Chief Mphande's Palace. However, these roads are not along the Mbala/Nsumbu Road.

Sir, the construction of a bridge on Lufubu River will not be part of the Mbala/Nsumbu Road contract as it is being procured separately as a stand-alone project.

Mr Speaker, we are happy that Hon. Chansa has accepted our assurance and will definitely make sure that works under Lot I of the Mbala/Nsumbu Road commence in the second quarter of this year."

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and urged the Government to ensure that financing arrangements were concluded expeditiously for the works to commence. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that the 33km stretch of the Mbala to Nsumbu Road would be covered under the project for upgrading to bituminous standard of the Mbala to Kasaba Bay Road. The contract was signed on July 21, 2016 for a contract value of K798, 514,088.60 and duration of twenty four months. Works would commence upon finalisation of the financing agreement.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned that the financing agreement in question has taken close to two years without being finalized, resulting in delays in the commencement of works. Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the finalisation of the financing agreement. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

17/16 - Post Office in Mitete

On 16th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Communication made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the construction of the post office and associated external works in Mitete will be completed by the end of March, 2017 and the contractor undertaking the construction of the post office is Eldermain Business Solutions.

Mr Speaker, the completion period for the construction of the post office is nineteen months, running from October, 2015, to the end of March, 2017. The contractor has since drilled a borehole and the foundation has been excavated.

Your previous Committee had urged the Government to expeditiously issue the interim payment certificate so that works could commence. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Government indicated that the contract for the construction of the post office in Mitete was terminated in February, 2016 due non-performance by the contractor. Further, at termination of the contract, the project was at slab level and the project was currently being re-tendered so that more capable contractors could be engaged.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to put measures in place to ensure that the project is concluded without further delay. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

18/16 - Mapungu/Kalabo Feeder Road

On the 16th February, 2016, the Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the rehabilitation of the Mapungu/Kalabo Feeder Road is expected to resume in the second quarter of 2016 under the Zambia National Service (ZNS) Primary Feeder Roads Rehabilitation Programme.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and urged the Treasury to disburse the funds for the project in the shortest period of time to avoid further dilapidation of the road and any other additional costs that could arise due to delayed rehabilitation of the road. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Mapungu to Kalabo Feeder Road had not been rehabilitated owing to non-availability of funds for the project. The road works would be executed by Zambia National Service once funds were available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee expresses concern at the inordinate delay in rehabilitating the road. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to prioritise the rehabilitation of this road to avoid further deterioration and provide a progress report on the matter.

19/16 - North-Western Railway Concession

On 17th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Communication made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government has not yet signed the North-Western Railway Concession. However, the Ministries of Finance, and Transport and Communication have generated a Cabinet Memorandum, which will be circulated by the first week of March, 2016, for comments before submission to Cabinet after it is cleared. The Cabinet Memorandum will then be presented before Parliament in the form of a Bill in the next session of Parliament in April, 2016.

Mr Speaker, the concession contract for the construction of the railway line will be signed in July, 2016, and construction of the railway line will begin in 2017.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that Cabinet had approved the acquisition of 30% equity shares in the North West Railway Company Limited by the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

The following were the milestone activities that would be undertaken towards the construction of the railway line:

- i. drafting of the Joint Shareholders Agreements;
- ii. revision of the Articles of Association for the North West Railway Company;
- iii. revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties; and
- iv. ensuring prefeasibility, feasibility and detailed engineering designs studies are undertaken.

Thereafter, the construction of the project would commence.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to expedite the preconstruction modalities so that construction of a railway line could commence. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

32/16 - Rehabilitation of the Tateyoyo Gate/Katunda Road Turn-Off

On 24th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, it is envisaged that the works on the Tateyoyo Gate to Katunda/Lukulu Junction will commence in the second quarter of 2016.

Your previous Committee appreciated the update and had urged the Treasury to disburse the funds for the project given that the contract had already been signed. This would drastically reduce the continuous maintenance costs using the Force Account and would save additional costs of mobilising and demobilising by the contractor given that those costs had to be borne by the Government. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that works could not commence due to budgetary constraints.

The Executive further informed your Committee that it would undertake emergency works on the worst sections of the road prior to the beginning of the 2017/2018 rainy season, which activity was not done.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the Government's failure to undertake works as assured on the floor of the House for over two years. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to expedite the works on the Tateyoyo Gate to Katunda/Lukulu Junction in order to cut on the continuous high maintenance costs. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

33/16 - Road Signage between Chongwe and Luangwa Bridge/Local Tour

On 29th April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, there are no adequate signs on the stretch of the Great East Road between Chongwe District and Luangwa Bridge due to vandalism coupled with inadequate maintenance.

Sir, there are plans to put up road signs on this stretch in the second quarter of 2016 through the routine maintenance contracts on the same stretch.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and consequently urged the Government to ensure that funds for routine maintenance contracts were disbursed in order to avoid potential loss of lives on account of non-availability of road signs and road line markings. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that it had commenced the installation of road signs on critical sections of the road between km 82 and km 220. The Government would also ensure that signs and markings were installed on the entire stretch before the end of 2017.

In May 2018, your Committee undertook a site visit on the entire stretch between Chongwe and Luangwa Bridge with respect to the road section between Km 82 and Km 220 to verify the assurance by the Government.

During its tour, your Committee learnt that the road markings in most parts were either faded or non-existent on the entire stretch between Chongwe and Luangwa Bridge. The road surface was now characterised by potholes, cracks and edge breaks in a number of places. Most of the road signs and guardrails had either been damaged by accidents or vandalised.

With regard to road signs, almost the entire stretch had no road signs even in dangerous points, which put motorists and pedestrians in danger. The only stretch whose road markings were done in 2016 through the Routine Maintenance Contractors was the last 43 km stretch to the Luangwa Bridge.

Further, your Committee learnt that a budget of K1.7 million was made by Road Development Agency (RDA) through the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) to patch up the pot holes and road signs. In this regard, K450,000 was received in February, 2018. However, that money was used to patch up Lusaka urban roads and regrettably, no funds were used on the Chongwe to Luangwa Bridge Road.

Your Committee also learnt that sections of the road which passed through highly populated residential areas had no speed humps, which put the pedestrians living in those areas at risk of being hit by speeding vehicles. Further, guardrails that should protect motorists if they lost control were also being vandalised or stolen. Most of the guardrails had collapsed due to motor vehicle crashes and bush fires. The guardrails that were still in place had loose bolt-nut connections between the steel sheets and timber poles. Most of the timber poles were also loosely fixed to the ground either due to accidents or wild fires. A number of those timber supports, was observed, had started to decay.

Your Committee also learnt that the road was slowly outliving its life span as more pot holes had resurfaced even after mending most of the pot holes in 2017. In addition, a team would be sent to start mending the pot holes soon in order to reduce the new pot holes which had resurfaced along the stretch.

Your Committee also heard that a new contract to construct the dual carriage way for the Airport Road and Chongwe plus 20 km within Chongwe would be concluded soon. The balance from this contract will be used to work on the road to Luangwa Bridge from Chongwe. In the same vein, your Committee learnt that the armco culverts which were installed on that road at the time of construction along the stretch had started to crumble due to rust. The old culverts would have to be replaced with the concrete ones before the works on the contract were commenced. The armco culverts had outlived their lifespan and most of them had seriously corroded to such an extent as to cause depressions on the road carriage way, thereby endangering the lives of road users.

Further, a comprehensive assessment carried out in August, 2017 showed that the stretch of the road between Kenneth Kaunda International Airport and Luangwa Bridge would require approximately 130 additional road signs and 2,500m of guardrails in order to increase safety on this stretch of the road.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee observes that this road is a danger, especially to the first time users due to lack of road signs and therefore, strongly urges the Government to prioritise funding of this project in line with the assurance.

With regard to the armco culverts that have corroded to an extent of causing depressions on the road carriage, your Committee observes that these depressions are in every sense endangering the lives of road users and, therefore, urges the Government to urgently replace them with concrete ones so as to prevent the road from collapsing on these depressions and to also prevent a possible loss of life.

Your Committee, further urges the Government to consider resurfacing the entire stretch as a lasting solution because the road has outlived its lifespan.

With regard to the rampant vandalism of road signs on the stretch between Chongwe and Luangwa Bridge, your Committee observes that the desire to vandalise the road signs by the locals is triggered by the alternative usages for materials being used in manufacturing the road signs. Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to consider using concrete road signs which are resistant to fire, decay and is of no economic value to the villagers.

With regard to the guardrails that have fallen off either due to motor vehicle crashes, wild fires or the decay of the wooden supports, your Committee urges the Government to consider using concrete supports to prevent them from falling off or being burnt by fires.

Your Committee's general recommendation on this assurance is that Government should erect the road signs in all the 130 identified places and the 2500 metres of guardrails in order to reduce on the recorded road accidents attributed to the poor road signs and markings.

08/12 – Restocking of Game Management Areas (GMAs)

On Friday, 16th March, 2013, the Minister of Tourism and Arts made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

*Mr Speaker, all GMAs whose stocks are depleted are being considered for restocking.”
Lusaka National Park (2010 to 2013); Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park (2011 to 2013);
and Nsumbu National Park.*

Your previous Committee had observed with concern the financial challenge faced by the Ministry of Tourism and Arts in relocating and restocking the depleted Game Management Areas (GMAs). In this regard, your previous Committee urged the Secretary to the Treasury to ensure that enough funds were released to this sector to enable the relevant Ministry carry out this important activity which was one of the sources of the much needed foreign exchange. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Government in its update to your Committee indicated as follows:

a) Lusaka National Park

As of 2013, Lusaka National Park was well stocked with twenty-two different wildlife species as part of the preparation for the official opening of the park.

b) Mosi oa Tunya National Park

Mosi oa Tunya National Park was not restocked with wildlife because of inadequate manpower (wildlife police officers) and operational support needed to protect animals that would be translocated into the park. Animals would only be moved to the park once security was assured.

c) Nsumbu National Park

Nsumbu National Park was not restocked with wildlife because of inadequate manpower (wildlife police officers) and operational support needed to protect the animals that would be translocated into the park. Animals would only be moved to the park once security was assured.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to recruit adequate human resource and provide the operational support needed to protect animals to

facilitate the translocation of animals to the Nsumbu and Mosi oa Tunya National Parks. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

Mweru-wa-Ntipa National Park (2011 to 2013)

Your previous Committee had observed with serious concern that the matter had taken inordinately long to be resolved and strongly urged the Executive to ensure that the removal of illegal settlers and finding alternative land through the office of the Vice President was undertaken without any further delay. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that a fact finding mission led by the Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs travelled to Chiengi District to resolve the various issues regarding the management of Mweru-wa-Ntipa National Park in April, 2014, following complaints by the community that ZAWA had attempted to evict all people living in the National Park. The delegation agreed to consider two options namely:

- a) to resettle the communities and be given an alternative land, or
- b) excising off the encroached portions of Mweru-wa-Ntipa National Park by degazetting and re-gazetting the remaining extent of the national park.

The meeting noted that adequate information was needed for the Government to make a final decision. The following were noted to be key in guiding which option to take:

- a. establishing the exact population of the communities in the national park; and
- b. undertaking an inventory and evaluation of the entire Government Infrastructure in the settled areas of the park.

In July, 2014 an inter-ministerial meeting was held between the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, where it was resolved to excise part of the encroached portions of the Mweru-wa-Ntipa National Park by degazetting and re-gazetting the remaining extent of the national park. However, the Zambia Wildlife Authority did not agree with that decision.

Following the arrest of people for unlawful entry into the Mweru-wa-Ntipa National Park on land which communities believed was not part of the park, a meeting was held on 9th July, 2015 where community members were given an opportunity to air their grievances.

The members of the community totally objected to all the explanations by ZAWA, the District Commissioner, and District Planning Officer in accordance with the map and narration of the park boundary from the Statutory Instrument. At that point, it was resolved that a verification exercise be conducted on the ground in the presence of members of the community, ZAWA, and the District Commissioner's office on 11th July, 2015.

After the exercise, the then District Commissioner explained that the members of the community did not appreciate the boundary ZAWA was narrating to them despite the efforts to make them understand. On the other hand, ZAWA officers maintained their position that what the community members claimed to be the park boundary was an area inside the national park.

In view of the foregoing, the Executive submitted that the Office of the Surveyor General would be invited to establish the true boundary of the park in order for all stakeholders to appreciate the true boundary of the park and co-exist in harmony. The District Commissioner further told the community members to respect the current boundary ZAWA was policing until when the Surveyor General would complete the exercise.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission but strongly urges the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Arts and ZAWA to agree and clarify on the excised portions of land before ZAWA starts evicting people from some portions of land. Your Committee further urges the Surveyor General to speed up the process of determining the true boundaries to avoid unnecessary wrangles that could result in a loss of life if not handled properly. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

17/15 - Communication Towers in Kasempa

On 23rd September, 2015, the Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communications made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Tower Installation Project aims at addressing the need for mobile network coverage in unserved and underserved areas in the rural areas, including chiefdoms. Only chiefs' palaces without signal coverage will be considered for the provision of towers.

Mr Speaker, further, it must be noted that the towers were not necessarily erected within the perimeters of the targeted chiefs' palaces, but technical consideration for maximisation of coverage was taken into account before deciding on the location of the towers.

Mr Speaker, Phase II of the Tower Installation Project will address existing gaps with regard to mobile network coverage. Therefore, priority is given to areas that were not covered in Phase I of the project. Currently, the eleven areas that have been earmarked in Kasempa are: Njenga; Kabila; Mukunashi; Kanungo; Kamakechi; Mpungu; Lubofu; Kelongwa; Nyoka; Ingwe; and Kamatete.

Your previous Committee had noted the installation of a tower and its repeater at Kanungo. It also noted that the surrounding areas of Kasempa were in dire need of communication towers because the communities in those areas had no other modern means of receiving and transmitting information to areas outside their own communities.

With regard to ensuring that delivered projects were of high quality, your previous Committee had urged the Government to ensure that officers at district level were involved in the monitoring of projects being undertaken in their respective districts with respect to quality assurance and supervisory activities of the projects, as the eventual beneficiaries of the projects.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Government assured that they would endeavour to involve the offices of the Provincial Permanent Secretaries through the Provincial Planning Offices and Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs) and the District Commissioners through the District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs).

Further, your previous Committee had urged the Government to expedite the loan agreement with the Exim Bank of China so that the procurement process for the remaining communication towers would commence. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the ten communication towers and further resolved to close the matter on the Kanungo communication tower with its repeater, subject to quality and operational verification.

The Executive in its update to your Committee, indicated that it had finalised the process of securing resources for the Communication Towers Phase II project implementation. The financing agreement between the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Government of the Republic of China (China's Exim Bank) amounting

to \$280,764,601.55 was signed on 4th August, 2017. The construction of communication towers in the identified ten areas in Kasempa was expected to commence within the third quarter of 2017. The Kanungo communication tower in Chief Kalasa's area and its repeater tower had been installed under the universal access and service fund (UASF) as part of the emergency towers in areas prone to security challenges.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to ensure that implementation of Phase II of the project is commenced as soon as the funds are disbursed. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

21/15 - Communication Towers for Zinaka Area

On 22nd October, 2015, the Minister of Transport and Communication made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Government plans to construct a communication tower at Zinaka Primary School in Mkaika District in May, 2016, to extend mobile communication services to Kasamanda area, Zinaka Primary School, Zinaka Clinic and the surrounding villages. The tower is planned to provide a coverage radius of 10 km.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and urged the Government to expedite the construction of a communication tower at Zinaka Primary School in Mkaika Constituency which should have been completed in May, 2016. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that it had finalised the process of securing resources for the Communication Towers Phase II project implementation. The financing agreement between the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Government of the Republic of China (China's Exim Bank) amounting to \$280,764,601.55 was signed on 4th August, 2017.

The Executive further submitted that the Government planned to construct a communication tower at Zinaka Primary School to extend mobile communication services to Kasamanda area, Zinaka Primary School, Zinaka Clinic and surrounding villages.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and further urges the Government to expedite the construction of the communication towers at Zinaka Primary School, Zinaka Clinic and surrounding villages in Mkaika Constituency. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

41/14 -Construction of Communication Towers in Lubansenshi

On Friday, 5th December, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the construction of communication towers in the mentioned areas of Lubansenshi Constituency will be done under Phase II of the programme, which is scheduled to commence in April, 2015 and end in 2016. The project profile for Phase II will involve mapping, scoping and surveys in the first quarter of 2015 and actual construction of the towers in the second quarter.

Your previous Committee had noted the milestone attained so far with regard to the completion of the Phase I works and had urged the Government to expedite the procurement process and eventual construction of communication towers under Phase II in order to ease communication in the unserved and underserved areas of the Country.

Response by the Executive

In updating your Committee, the Executive submitted that the status on the construction of towers in Lubasenshi remained as was reported in the previous update to your Committee. Construction was expected to commence following the signing of the financing agreement from China's Exim Bank amounting to \$280,764,601.55 by the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Government of the Republic of China on 4 August, 2017.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to expedite procurement processes and eventual commencement of works once the funds have been disbursed. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

15/15 - National Electricity Grid Connection in Rufunsa

On Tuesday, 27th September, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to connect Sinjela, Chinyunyu, Chitemalesa and Mwachilele in Rufunsa District to the national electricity grid.

Your previous Committee in noting the submission, had urged the Executive to speed up funding of the projects so that the works to electrify Rufunsa could commence at the earliest possible time. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Rural Electrification Authority undertook the feasibility study to look at the possibility of electrifying Sinjela; Chinyunyu; Chitemalesa and Mwachilele.

The project would involve the construction of 165km of 33kv high tension power line from Chongwe District to Sinjela in Rufunsa District and 8km of 400V medium Voltage line. The total estimated cost of the project was K41,907,366.24. Under the 2017 budget, there was, however, no budget line for electrification of the above-mentioned areas.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned with failure to budget for the project in 2017 and urges the Executive to fund the project in the subsequent budget so that the works to electrify Rufunsa could commence at the earliest possible time. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

16/13 – Electrification of Rufunsa District

On Thursday, 21st February 2013, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following undertaking:

Mr Speaker, the delay in connecting Rufunsa District to the national electricity grid was caused by a lack of political will. This is not the case now, as the Government is committed to having the District connected. In this regard, implementation of the project started in December, 2012, and is expected to be completed by December, 2013. I am sure the Honourable Member for Rufunsa was there when we conducted the groundbreaking ceremony two to three months ago.

Your previous Committee was concerned with the pace at which the project was moving, fearing the escalation of costs due to lapse of time, and was further disappointed with the financing condition by the financiers of contracting a company which was of Indian origin. Your previous Committee had urged the Government through ZESCO to expedite the tendering process and the eventual selection of the contractor to commence the works. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its response to your Committee indicated that in December, 2016, ZESCO awarded new contracts to KEC International LTD and Howell Energy Systems Limited for completion of outstanding works for lines and substations respectively after the expiry of the PME contract. ZESCO Limited had issued site handover certificates to KEC International and Howell Limited. The completion date for the connection of the Rufunsa District portion of the said project was expected to be achieved by end of the second quarter of 2018.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to ensure that the project is completed within the stated time. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

08/15 – Construction of Filling Station in Kalabo

On Friday, 25th September, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has plans to facilitate the construction of a filling station in Kalabo in 2016. The Hon. Member of Parliament would wish to note that, in fact, we have already gone ahead and written to the Permanent Secretary (PS) for the Western Province to facilitate the acquisition of a suitable place or land for us to ensure that this facility is put up. Further, the Government continues to promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) in terms of filling stations in areas such as Kalabo. Sir, the funds for the works in 2016 have been put aside by the Government.

Your previous Committee was deeply concerned that despite funds being set aside for the construction of a filling station in Kalabo District, no works had commenced. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the construction of a filling station in Kalabo District.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that the construction of the filling station in Kalabo would start once the Mporokoso and Luwingu filling stations were completed. The main challenge had been that although money had been allocated to the project, it never reached the Ministry of Energy. This meant using the overstretched Strategic Reserves Fund for the Luwingu filling station whose contract was signed in 2014 and works had not yet been finalised.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is deeply disappointed that despite funds being set aside for the construction of the Kalabo Filling Station, the funds did not reach the Ministry of Energy and wonders where the money was diverted to. Your Committee calls for disciplinary action to be taken against any officers involved in the diversion of the funds from this planned project. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the construction of the filling station in Kalabo.

10/15 - Fuel Filling Station in Mporokoso

On Friday, 25th November, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the construction of the filling station in Mporokoso District will commence in 2016. The contracts to construct filling stations in Luwingu and Mporokoso Districts were awarded to one contractor because the contractor was the best evaluated bidder for both filling stations. The Ministry advertised in the print media for the construction of filling stations in Luwingu and Mporokoso. Contractors were at liberty to bid for the construction of both filling stations.

Your previous Committee had noted the commitment shown by the Government to complete the construction of the two filling stations in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Further, your Committee had urged the Government to stick to its work plan, given that funds would be readily available for the two projects. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the contract for the construction of the filling station in Mporokoso was signed in the year 2014. However, due to challenges in funding which the Ministry of Energy was facing, the contractor could not move on site to start the construction. Due to changes in the price of construction materials between 2014 and 2017, the contractor had applied for a contract price variation. After the variations had been agreed upon with the contractor, the Ministry would write to the Ministry of Finance requesting for authority to use funds from the Strategic Reserves Fund for the construction of the filling station.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is seriously concerned that these projects have dragged for over four years without being completed. Further, your Committee is concerned that the Government has consistently failed to adhere to its work plan on these two projects. Consequently, your Committee strongly urges the Government to prioritise the two projects once funds are available. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

27/16 - Commencement of Solar Power Projects on National Grid

On 19th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, solar power projects being promoted by the Industrial Development Corporation Zambia Limited (IDC) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) are expected to begin producing and supplying electricity to the national grid before the end of this year. The programme will begin with round one with a target of 100MW divided into two projects of 50MW each.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and urged the Government to facilitate speedily, the rolling out of the planned solar power plants across Zambia until the entire 600 MW was implemented. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Industrial Development Corporation commenced the procurement process to develop up to 600MW of Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic (PV) power generation plants in 2015. As an immediate first step towards meeting that objective, two bidders were selected to develop two (50MW) projects at the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (LS-MFEZ). The Government and counterparts had executed and signed all permitting documents (GSA, PPA & SHA), signalling commercial closure.

Further, the IDC had since commenced Round 2 to procure up to 300MW. A formal procurement process to pre-qualify prospective bidders was concluded in May, 2017 and twelve bidders were pre-qualified. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was the next stage and the bidder with the lowest tariff would be awarded the right to develop its preferred site while the next lowest bidder would get the right to develop the next site. Round 2 sites, with close proximity to substations, had been selected in Central, Copperbelt and Lusaka provinces.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission. However, your Committee strongly urges the Government to expedite the bidding process and ensure that works on the projects commence at the earliest possible time. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

30/16 - Electrification of Milenge District

On Friday, 22nd April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government, through the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), is currently implementing Phase III of the Milenge Electrification Project, which commenced in February, 2016, and involves the construction of 50km of a 33 kV overhead line. The completion of Phase III will bring the total distance covered to 107 km, leaving a balance of 68km to reach Milenge District headquarters.

Sir, the contractor is on site and works are on schedule. The contractor is scheduled to complete the works by September, 2016 which is under Phase III. The electrification of Milenge District might be completed in 2017.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and resolved to await a progress report on the electrification of Milenge District under Phase 3.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that Milenge Phase I and II were complete and energised while Milenge Phase III was 95 percent complete and was scheduled for completion by December, 2017. The Rural Electrification Authority had also included the Milenge phase IV in its 2017 work plan and budget and the project had already been awarded to the contractors and had been split into two lots as follows:

- Milenge Phase IV Lot 1: - The project involved construction of 47.3 km of 33kV overhead power line and a total distance of 7,305m of MV overhead line to supply Mpolo Primary School, Kafubashi Primary school, Twatasha Primary School, East 8 Rural Health Centre, Butimbwe Primary School and Kapalala Primary School. The labour contract amounted to approximately K1.9million; and
- Milenge Phase IV Lot 2: - The project involves construction of 18.75 km of 33kV overhead power line and a total distance of 12,815m of MV overhead line to supply Milenge District Hospital, Milenge Boarding School, Milenge Primary School, Milenge central business district, Milenge township and East 7 Rural Health Centre. The labour contract amounts to approximately K2.012million. The projects are forecast to be completed in May, 2018.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made and urges the Government to ensure that Lots 1 and 2 of phase IV are completed on time. Your Committee will await a progress report on the electrification of Milenge District under Phase 4.

07/15 - Construction of Electricity Power Plants

On 25th September, 2015, Hon, Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, it is with this background that the Ministry is pursuing several programmes and projects to reduce the impact of load shedding. The following are the programmes that my Ministry will continue implementing in the 2016 Financial Year: 40 MW Kabompo Gorge Hydro Power Project - This is being developed by the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC). Preliminary works have already been done.

Your previous Committee had noted that the land in question where CEC-Kabompo Gorge Hydro Power Company (CKHPL) wanted to obtain the Certificate of Title for the establishment of the Hydro Power Plant fell under three different areas. Your previous Committee had further noted that the Ministry of Lands, the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Tourism and Arts were all willing to amicably conclude all matters surrounding the CEC Kabompo acquisition of Title Deeds.

Your previous Committee, therefore, had urged all the parties to pursue the matter in conformity with all the legal provisions surrounding the matter and in close consultation with all the parties involved in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings that always resulted in inconclusive resolutions.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that the Ministry of Energy had engaged the developer, CKHPL with the objective of considering options aimed at reducing the tariff to ensure viability of the project. One of the options was to optimise the designs further and reduce the cost of the project. The developer, CKHPL, had applied to the Ministry of Lands for the title deeds and a response was being awaited.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned that very little progress has been made by the relevant ministries and the developer (CEC Kabompo) to resolve the matter which has dragged on for years without a solution. Your Committee, therefore, strongly urges the Government, through the relevant ministries, and the developer to resolve this issue expeditiously and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

29/14 - Electrification of Wards in Bwacha Constituency

On Friday, 7th October, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, Munga, Chinyanja, Munyama, Muwowo West and Muwowo East wards in Bwacha Parliamentary Constituency are planned for electrification in 2016.

Your previous Committee in noting the submission, had expressed concern over the failure by the Executive to implement the electrification project in Bwacha Constituency wards when it was planned for in the 2016 budget. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the planned implementation of the project in two phases with phase one planned for 2017.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) had successfully undertaken feasibility studies as part of the preliminary steps for the electrification of Chinyanja, Munyama, Muwowo West and Muwowo East wards in Bwacha Parliamentary Constituency. REA had established the full scope and cost of implementing the project. Further, the total project cost was estimated at K7 million. Under the 2017 budget, there was, however, no budget line for electrification of the above-mentioned areas.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

Your Committee notes what has been done so far towards electrification of the wards in Bwacha Constituency but urges the Government to ensure that funds are secured for planned projects to be undertaken without delay. Your Committee awaits a comprehensive progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

05/16 - Improvement of Water Reticulation in Samfya

On 10th February, 2016, the Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to improve the water supply and sanitation situation in Samfya District. Sir, the Government has already engaged the African Development Bank (AfDB) to finance the rehabilitation and construction of water and sanitation infrastructure in Samfya District. The Bank has just undertaken its preparatory mission to Samfya and, once it approves the project proposal, the implementation of the project will commence in the third quarter of this year.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission on the engagement of consultants to prepare detailed designs and tender documents in readiness for the implementation of the funded project. Your previous Committee subsequently resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the African Development Bank (AfDB) signed a loan agreement amounting to USD 135 million in February, 2017 for the development of water and sanitation infrastructure in Samfya and other districts in Luapula, Muchinga, Northern and Western Provinces. In that regard, on 28th July, 2017 during the official opening of the Luapula Expo in Mansa, the Government, through the Minister of Finance, signed a subsidiary on-lending and grant agreement with Luapula Water and Sewerage Company amounting to USD 40 million to finance the development of water and sanitation infrastructure in Samfya, Mansa, Kawambwa and Mwense. The designs and tender documents had been completed and the Ministry was now in the process of procuring consultants to review the designs and supervise the construction works.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made and urges the Government to expeditiously complete the process of procuring consultants to review the designs and supervise the construction works. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

22/16 - Upgrading of Township Roads in Western Province

On 18th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, this question is broad. There are so many roads earmarked to be upgraded at different stages. However, the following are the roads earmarked for upgrading and the estimated completion dates:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Estimated Completion Date</i>
<i>Mongu Urban Roads</i>	<i>Works in progress</i>	<i>30th April, 2016</i>
<i>Kaoma Urban Roads</i>	<i>Contract signed and site handed over to contractor on 15th September 2015. The contractor is mobilising</i>	<i>31st December, 2016</i>
<i>Senanga Urban Roads</i>	<i>Contract signed and the site handed over to contractor on 4th September, 2015. The contractor is mobilising.</i>	<i>31st December, 2016</i>
<i>Sesheke Urban Roads</i>	<i>Roads Project is at procurement stage</i>	<i>To be advised</i>
<i>Kalabo Urban Roads."</i>	<i>Contract is awaiting signing</i>	<i>To be advised</i>

Your previous Committee had noted the submission on the completed Mongu roads and further urged the Government to expedite works on the other roads earmarked for construction in Western Province to avoid unnecessary escalation of costs due to multiple extensions of completion dates. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that works to construct urban roads in Kaoma, Sesheke and Senanga had stalled due to financial constraints. For Kalabo, the procurement process for selecting the contractor had been completed and the Ministry was awaiting Treasury Authority to award the contract.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes with concern that road works in Kaoma, Sesheke and Senanga have stalled due to financial constraints. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government through the Treasury to source and disburse the necessary funds to enable road construction works in the Province to proceed so as to avoid further escalation of costs due to the passage of time. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

28/16 - Rural Water and Sanitation Project in Mitete District

On 19th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Mr Speaker, the Rural Water and Sanitation Project funded by the African Development Bank (ADB) has already commenced in Mitete District. Preparations for actual water supply and sanitation infrastructure development will start this year.

Your previous Committee was informed that sites for the borehole construction were identified and validation of the sites by the Ministry had been done. Borehole bidding documents were prepared and procurement of works was in progress. So far, a vehicle and office equipment to kick start the project had been procured and delivered to Mitete District. Further, the tender documents were cleared by the African Development Bank and an advertisement was placed in the public media on Tuesday 14th February, 2017.

In noting the submission, your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the Rural Water and Sanitation Project in Mitete District.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that the draft contracts for borehole drilling in all the districts of Western Province, including Mitete District, had been submitted to the Ministry of Justice for clearance before awarding contracts. Contractors were expected to mobilise soon after draft contracts had been cleared by the Ministry of Justice.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and awaits a progress report on the Rural Water and Sanitation Project in Mitete District.

29/16 - Sinking of Boreholes in Lumezi

On 21st April, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, in 2015, Lumezi District was allocated forty boreholes, out of which twenty-three have been drilled. Sir, the number of boreholes earmarked for sinking in Lundazi District in 2016 is seventy-one, out of which seventeen will be sunk in Lumezi Constituency.

Your previous Committee had noted the progress made so far in the drilling of thirteen boreholes and subsequently urged the Treasury to release the funds for the remaining four boreholes expeditiously so that they could be drilled in the earliest possible time.

Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the four remaining boreholes.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that seventeen new boreholes were planned for drilling in the 2016 annual work plan. Thirteen boreholes out of the planned seventeen had since been drilled and equipped with hand pumps with support from Federal Republic of Germany through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). The remaining four were part of a contract to be financed through the GRZ budget and the contractor had already mobilised in Eastern Province to drill boreholes including the remaining four in Lumezi Constituency. It was expected that the works would commence in the Constituency before end of August, 2017.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes with great concern the lack of progress towards the sinking of the four remaining boreholes. Your Committee, therefore, strongly urges the Government to expeditiously provide the requisite finances for the drilling of the remaining four boreholes in Lumezi Constituency. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

05/14 - Solwezi Township Roads

On Tuesday 25th February, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government has got money to work on those roads.

Your previous Committee had observed with concern the non disbursement of funds for planned work,s particularly on the Solwezi Township Roads which were budgeted for under the National Township Roads Programme. Your previous Committee consequently, urged the Government to adhere to planned programmes and ensure that those planned road works were included in the subsequent budget. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee clarified that the Government was still faced with financial constraints and, therefore, the Solwezi Township Roads Project was affected in terms of its execution.

The contractor had however, managed to fully mobilise equipment but was unable to carry out meaningful works due to non-settlement of advance claims in full. It was envisaged that once the financial position improved, the contractor would resume works.

The Executive further updated your Committee that the situation had not improved to date in terms of settling the outstanding debt to the contractor. Regardless of this, the contractor had, apart from equipment mobilisation, stock-piled construction materials, but was still unable to commence construction works due to non-completion of payment of the Advance Claim.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern and strongly urges the Government to adhere to planned programmes and ensure that these planned works are included in the subsequent budget. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

09/14 - Modern Market for Solwezi

On Wednesday, 26th February, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

Sir, the Ministry intends to construct a multi-storey market in Solwezi District.

Your previous Committee in noting the update by the Executive had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Local Government had completed the detailed designs of the multi-storey market. It was envisaged that by early 2017, procurement for the works would be completed but that had not been the case due to financial constraints.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission with concern, given the time it has taken to commence the construction works of the multi-storey market and urges the

Government to consider other modes of financing the project under the current circumstances of erratic disbursement of funds by the Treasury. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

13/14 - Construction of Chipili District Council Houses

On Tuesday, 6th March, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing assured the House as follows:

Mr Speaker, the construction of staff houses for Chipili District Council is earmarked for completion in September, 2014.

Your previous Committee had noted the works done so far and had urged the Government to expedite the remaining works to avoid escalation of prices and eventual added costs to the project due to lapse of time. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that the remaining works included: painting; tiling; ceiling board; borehole and water tank; plumbing; and external works.

Those works were expected to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 2017 as the contractor was on site and funds were provided for in the 2017 budget.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

While noting the progress made, your Committee is concerned over the non provision of information on whether the funds were disbursed to complete the project despite the activity being provided for in the 2017 budget. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

04/16 - Exports to Angola

On 10th February, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government is already encouraging the export of agricultural products to Angola and other countries not only for people living along borders, but all Zambians who are willing to participate. Some of the measures Government is putting in place to encourage exports are:

Bilateral Trade Agreement

The Government has negotiated a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with Angola to pave the way for preferential trade between the two countries, given that Angola is currently not part of the Southern African Development Community Free Trade Area (SADC-FTA). The signing ceremony was on the 21st January, 2015, in Luanda, Angola. This agreement allows some products from Zambia to enter the Angolan Market duty-free and paves the way for the resuscitation of discussions on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be signed between Moxico Province in Angola and the North-Western Province of Zambia. The discussions stalled due to the absence of an implementation framework at the national level. Further, the Zambian Government is in discussions with the Angolan Government aimed at facilitating business linkages between Zambian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and their counterparts in Angola so as to encourage cross-border trade.

Development of the Lobito Corridor

Mr Speaker, the Government has mobilised a grant amounting to US\$8.4 million under the African Development Fund (ADF) Regional Operation Envelope of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support trade facilitation measures covering both rail and road components of the Lobito Corridor, as well as the development of value chains and economic clusters along the corridor in both Zambia and Angola. The following are the focus areas of the project:

- a) promoting value chain development and participation of SMEs, particularly from the agricultural and construction sectors, in the supply chain of larger companies along the corridor. This will ensure inclusiveness and expand trade volumes to enhance utilisation of the corridor and amplify its development impact;*
- b) supporting marketing information or intelligence and business match-making to increase awareness of opportunities available in both Zambia and Angola, and facilitating networks and business partnerships;*

- c) *supporting the implementation of a simplified trade regime (STR) for small-scale traders, including the establishments of trade information desks; and*
- d) *developing business incubation programmes to support SMEs in agri-business and related industries in product aggregation, and access to inputs, market intelligence and capacity building, especially in moving up the value chain, such as grading, processing, packaging of products, attainment of standards et cetera. This will be done in collaboration with the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) and other partners.*

Mr Speaker, some of the plans are already being implemented, for example, the BTA, while others, such as the Lobito Corridor Project, are in the process of being finalised. For example, an aide memoire that outlines areas of support has been signed with the ADF and AfDB. The project document will be finalised by the first quarter of 2016, while the implementation of the project is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2016."

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and had resolved to await a progress report on the draft Statutory Instrument which was being worked on by the Ministry of Justice to facilitate the implementation of the bilateral trade and the eventual approval of the Agreement by the Angolan Head of State.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that on 5th July, 2017, the Ministry of Justice wrote to the Ministry of Finance submitting the draft Statutory Instrument requesting for comments to facilitate implementation of the Bilateral Trade Agreement between Zambia and Angola.

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry was in touch with the Ministry of Finance which indicated that it would finally submit the draft Statutory Instrument to the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the Zambia Revenue Authority for comments. Once this was done the draft would be submitted for approval and issuance of the Statutory Instrument.

With regard to the Lobito Corridor Development Project, your previous Committee had resolved to await progress on the revised project documents and funding arrangements with the AfDB.

The Government in its update to your Committee submitted that the project document was finalised and submitted to the African Development Bank (AfDB) in April, 2017 for approval by the Bank's Board of Directors. The latest update from the Bank was that the project would be considered for approval in August, 2017 with the possibility to commence implementation of the project in September, 2017.

With regard to the funding arrangements, the project would be funded through a grant worth US\$8.4 million under the African Development Fund Regional Operation Envelope of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support trade facilitation measures as well as the development of value chains and economic clusters along the corridor in both Zambia and Angola.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to expedite the process of issuing the Statutory Instrument which has dragged on for more than a year. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the issuance of the Statutory Instrument, funding arrangements and the eventual commencement of works on the Lobito Corridor Development Project.

MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

03/16 - Rehabilitation of Mambuluwe Dam

On 10th February, 2016, the Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the rehabilitation of Mambuluwe Dam, also called Nangoma Dam, will commence in 2016 after the procurement process, which will start in the second quarter of 2016, is finalised.

Your previous Committee was pleased to note that activities at the Mambuluwe Dam from the feasibility site inspection to the yield analysis had been completed. However, your previous Committee had expressed concern over the delay in commencing the tender process and eventual selection of a successful contractor so that works on the dam could commence as it greatly contributed to the economic well being of the people in Nangoma and surrounding areas since that project was initially earmarked for commencement in 2012.

Further, your previous Committee had heard that the dam was also the source for the water supply to Mumbwa Zambia Air Force Base. Consequently, your previous Committee had strongly urged the Government to expedite the tender process for the rehabilitation of the dam in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that feasibility studies, detailed design and tender documents of the project were done and completed. The documents had since been forwarded to the funding agent (World Bank) for prior review and there was no objection to continue with the procurement process.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is pleased with the progress made but urges the Government to expedite the pending processes for the rehabilitation of the dam in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people in Nangoma Constituency around the Mambuluwe Dam. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

14/13 - Construction of Dams in Mapatizya Constituency

On Friday, 22nd February, 2013, the Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government through the Department of Water Affairs plans to rehabilitate the mentioned dams in 2013. This will be done after the rainy season.

Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the construction of the three dams.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee indicated as follows:

(i) Tambana Proposed Dam site

The procurement process of Tambana proposed dam site was completed by the Provincial Procurement Committee. However, no contract was awarded due to the non-availability of funds from the Treasury to finance the construction.

(ii) Siambelele and Chuundwe Proposed Dam Sites

The Department had included the dam sites on the list of sites where feasibility studies could be done once finances were sourced as this was an ongoing process.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned over the delays in the construction of the dams. Your Committee implores the Government to expeditiously source the necessary finances for the construction of the dams to proceed. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ARTS

30/15 - Renovation of Department of National Parks and Wildlife (Formerly Zawa) Camp Houses in Lumezi

On 2nd October, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Arts, made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Government, through the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), has prioritised infrastructure development as a key feature in the management of Game Management Areas (GMAs) and national parks. In this regard, the Government, through ZAWA, planned in 2014, to construct houses for game scouts and other staff throughout the country which included the Lumezi Parliamentary Constituency. However, this could not be done due to lack of funds. As regards to the renovations of staff houses in Lumezi, this activity has been planned for in the 2016 budget.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and commended the Government for building a house at Changachanga Wildlife Camp for the Game Ranger. However, it had urged the Treasury to disburse enough funds for the remaining infrastructure in other wildlife areas in terms of houses and operational infrastructure in order to ease the operational challenges faced by the rangers in their quest to preserve wildlife and subsequently promote tourism. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Government, through the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, Department of National Parks and Wildlife (formerly Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA)), had planned for the renovation of camp houses in Lumezi in 2016 but were not funded in the 2016 budget for the renovation of existing infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure.

During the year 2017, the Ministry of Tourism and Arts undertook a countrywide assessment of staff houses in all wildlife outposts. The assessment was undertaken to establish the condition of existing houses, the cost of rehabilitating them and housing deficit in various outposts.

In further updating your Committee, the Executive submitted that the insight into the actual housing needs and costs had enabled the Ministry to budget and to request that the Treasury considered funding infrastructure works in the 2018 budget in order to ease the operational challenges faced by the Department.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and further urges the Government, through the Treasury, to fund the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in order to ease the operational challenges faced by the Department. In particular, your Committee awaits a progress report on the rehabilitation of camp houses in Lumezi Constituency.

MINISTRY OF CHIEFS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

38/14 - 1958 Chiefdom Boundaries Re-Designation

On Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs is currently consulting with the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection through the Surveyor-General's Office on the issuance of a new chiefdom boundary map.

Your previous Committee had expressed concern over the time it had taken to close the matter and had further urged the Government to prioritise printing of chiefdom maps in the 2017 plan of dismantling of budget arrears. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a comprehensive progress report on the Chiefdom boundaries.

Response by the Executive

In its update, the Government submitted that the Ministry had in its 2017 budget allocated funds totalling K574,247.00 for printing of the boundary and topographical maps and as such, the funds were released in the July Recurrent Department Charges (RDCs) disbursement. Currently, the Ministry was concluding the modalities of transferring funds to the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental

Protection for the purpose of re-designing the chiefdom boundaries map to include the topographic features.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to expeditiously conclude the printing of boundary and topographical maps. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

24/13 – Construction of Palaces for Traditional Leaders in Serenje

On 1st March, 2013, the Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs made the following undertaking:

Mr Speaker, the construction of palaces will commence this year, 2013, after the completion of preparatory work. As we all know in this August House, there is a provision in the 2013 budget for the construction and rehabilitation of palaces in amounts totaling to K11,215,500. The Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication has submitted the plans for palaces which will be discussed by the House of Chiefs as it convenes on 18th March, 2013.

Let me also take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to say to this August House that our assessment around the country depicts that we do not have many palaces as per the English dictionary. What we have are just little huts in some places or just what would be a house. So, I think we have a lot of work to do to construct these palaces. We have decided, as a Ministry, to do a lot of preparatory work of assessment, proper drawings, and to listen to histories of particular chiefdoms so that the palaces depict this history. We also want to add value to the palaces so that, like everywhere else in the world, they are part of our tourist attractions.

The Chiefs in Serenje District were as follows:

- 1. Senior Chief Muchinda;*
- 2. Chief Kabamba;*
- 3. Chief Chisomo;*
- 4. Chief Chitambo;*
- 5. Chief Mailo;*
- 6. Chieftainess Serenje;*
- 7. Chief Muchinka; and*
- 8. Chief Chibale."*

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and resolved to await a detailed progress report on the construction of Chieftainess Serenje's palace.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted that it had commenced the construction of Chieftainess Serenje's palace in Serenje District but it stalled on slab level due to reluctance by the local community to actively participate in the project as stipulated in the labour-based contract which required that they provide a thirty percent input to the project. In order to expedite the construction works, the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs had directed the Provincial Administration, Central Province to advertise for the award of full contract to address the reluctance of the local community to participate in the construction project. The Provincial Administration had since advertised in the national press soliciting for contractors bid for the completion of the palace through advert No. CPPC/MOCTA/W07/17.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to speed up the tender process so as to pave way for the construction of Chieftainess Serenje's palace. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

11/15 – Connection of Luena Barracks to new Water System

On Wednesday, 4th March 2015, the Deputy Minister of Defence made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, Luena Barracks, which was initially constructed with an independent water supply system, will be connected to the Western Water Company (WWC) system in the 2016 budget cycle.

Your previous Committee, in noting the submission, had urged the Government to expedite the drilling of the two boreholes and the subsequent connection of the water system in Chisuzi and Chavula. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that in 2016, the project could not be implemented due to insufficient funds. However, the Ministry in its 2017 budget allocated K1,500,000 for the implementation of the project as funds were made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee strongly urges the Government to ensure that the project is implemented as assured without further delay. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

30/13 - Resuscitation of Mulungushi Textiles

On Friday, 7th December, 2012, His Honour the Vice-President made the following undertaking:

Mr Speaker, the project to get Mulungushi Textiles working again is underway. There are negotiations between the Ministry of Defence, which happens to have a chunk of that, does not own the majority, but it owns a significant chunk of about 30 percent or 34 percent. We are expecting it to be open, again, as a textile factory, and not as a dairy or piggery, within the next year.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission, but strongly urged the Executive to ensure that resuscitation of Mulungushi Textiles was prioritised as it would, in turn, resuscitate the economy for Central Province and contribute positively to job creation. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee indicated as follows:

1. Following the transfer of Government shares in all State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) from the Minister of Finance to the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the IDC undertook a due diligence of operations of Zambia China Mulungushi Textiles (ZCMT). The due diligence revealed the following:

- (a) The existing workforce of 315 was unproductive and was being paid without any activity or supporting outcome to justify their continued stay in employment at ZCMT. There was need to reduce the number of employees as a matter of urgency.
 - (b) Most of the plant and machinery was obsolete.
2. Having regard to the foregoing, the IDC developed an interim plan that essentially focused on the:
- (a) Implementation of a draw down plan for staff effective 31st January, 2017 for getting the workers on a first-in, first- out basis using the month in which they were employed. Using the plan, all outstanding liabilities owed to workers were paid in February, 2017.
 - (b) Recruitment of an interim Manager who was tasked to be a property Manager during the period that IDC would engage investors with a view of recapitalising and refurbishing the plant.
 - (c) Planned rehabilitation of buildings and installation of new plant and equipment which would last an estimated eighteen to twenty-four months.

In view of the above, it was submitted that the ZCMT was now under management and oversight of IDC which sought to recapitalise and refurbish the plant and the Ministry had no management control over it. The IDC Interim Property Manager had since taken over the care and maintenance of the plant and was based at the plant.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and strongly urges the Government to ensure that the plant is recapitalised and refurbished as a matter of urgency to help resuscitate the economy in Central Province and contribute positively to job creation. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

43/14 - Construction of infrastructure in Sikongo District

On Wednesday, 10th December, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, as a Ministry, we have budgeted for the construction of the offices through the Local Government Equalisation Fund for 2015. We expect the construction works to start as soon as the money is released to that district.

Your previous Committee had noted the works done thus far with appreciation and urged the Government to expedite the remaining works to ensure that the offices were opened to the public as soon as possible. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee submitted as follows:

- (a) **District Administration Block**
As reported earlier, the Administration block had been roofed, and plastered both internally and externally. In addition, doors and window frames had been fitted. The contractor was working at finishing the external works.
- (b) **The Post Office**
The post office was at wall plate level, and the contractor was about to commence roofing. As of 6th September, 2017, the site was not very active due to financial challenges the contractor was facing resulting from non-payment of certificates for works done.
- (c) **Construction of 32 Staff Houses**
The said thirty-two housing units were being constructed by different contractors, under different contracts. Therefore, progress made to date would be based on individual projects.
- (d) **Construction of 20 Low-Cost Houses**
All the twenty housing units were at wall level and roofing had commenced on some houses though the progress was slow due to non-payment of work done on the issued certificates.
- (e) **Construction of 10 Medium Cost Houses**
The ten medium cost houses were at roof level with walls plastered both internally and externally. The contractor was still active on site though not operating at maximum speed.
- (f) **Construction of 2 High Cost Houses**
Two high cost houses were being constructed under one contract with the civic centre, contrary to the earlier reports that the houses were at roof level, the entire contract was initially terminated due to the contractor's non-

performance. At the time of termination, all the structures were at excavation stage. A new contractor had since been engaged to carry on with the works. As of 6th September, 2017, works were still at substructure (foundation) level.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the works done so far and urges the Government to speed up the remaining works. Your Committee further, urges the Government to ensure that full and correct information is submitted to your Committee at all times. This is in light of the earlier reports that stated that the two high cost houses were at roof level, when in fact not. Your Committee awaits a comprehensive progress report on the matter.

44/14 - National Fire Service Training School

On Wednesday, 10th December 2014, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform this august House that in an effort to improve the operations and training at the National Fire Service Training School, the Ministry of Local Government and Housing has acquired land in Kafulamase in Kabwe in order to construct a modern training school that will have modern facilities. The Procurement and Supply Unit in the Ministry is currently studying the terms of reference for consultancy services for the development of construction designs for the modern training school.

In addition, Sir, the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) has reviewed, improved and consolidated the courses into a three-year fire and rescue training programme. The Ministry is studying how the new programme will be implemented effectively. On the other hand, before the modern school is constructed, TEVETA has already assessed the facilities at the current school with a view to having it accredited to improve the standards of training.

Mr Speaker, it is also important to mention that training schools in developed countries have already been approached with a view of entering into partnerships so that we can groom capable fire fighters and instructors who will provide quality services to the community.

Mr Speaker, Kabwe Municipal Council is included under the 2015 budget for allocation of a fire-tender. Through the Ministry's 2015 budget, all the provincial headquarters will be provided with fire-tenders.

Your previous Committee was disappointed to learn that title for the land that was offered to the Fire Fighting School by the Kabwe Municipal Council in 2011, to build a state of art training school had not yet been secured. Your Committee subsequently urged the Ministry of Lands through the Kabwe Municipal Council to speed up the title deeds issuance to the School.

Your previous Committee had further urged the Government to prioritise funding to the project in the subsequent budgets so that the procurement process could commence at the earliest possible time and the eventual construction of the school to avoid further encroachment on the land. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry had submitted documentation to the Ministry of Lands to facilitate issuance of a Title Deed for the training school. The process was underway and the Ministry was awaiting the release of the Title Deed.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the training school would be constructed on a design and build basis, hence the contractor would fund the works for which he would be paid upon completion. The request for expression of Interest for the works was issued. Companies were shortlisted and issued with Request For Proposal (FTP). The procurement process was almost complete. A company was recommended and a contract was being drafted which would be submitted to the Ministry of Justice in due course.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to expedite the issuance of the title deed for the school. Your Committee further urges the Government to speed up the contract formalities, taking in account the time lapse from the time the activity was initiated. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

26/14 - Rehabilitation of Kabwe Venus Theatre

On Wednesday, 2nd October, 2014 the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Arts made the following assurance as regards the time frame for the rehabilitation exercise for the project:

Mr Speaker, all works are being done and will be completed in January 2015.

Your previous Committee had noted that the Venus Theatre Project was a very costly venture to be solely undertaken by the Council and consequently urged the Government, through the Kabwe Municipal Council, to consider the Private Public Partnership (PPP) avenue in undertaking the capital project.

In its update to your previous Committee, the Executive stated that the recommendation made was noted and would endeavour to consider the Public Private Partnership (PPP) to complete the project. Your previous Committee had further urged the Government to prioritise funding for the facility as it could save the Government a lot of money in terms of hiring costs for most Government functions in the Province and could also serve as a venue for many private functions. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Government in its response indicated that the Venus Theatre was on the Ministerial Budget for Rehabilitation works and was commenced in 2013. A Memorandum of Understanding was done on Venus Theatre between Ministry of Tourism and Arts and Kabwe Municipal Council, though the Council did not sign it. On 17th February, 2016, the Kabwe Municipal Council wrote to the Ministry of Tourism and Arts that they had taken back the Venus Theatre from the Ministry. This meant that from that decision, the Ministry was no longer responsible for the management and rehabilitation of the theatre house.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee strongly urges Government through the Ministry of Local Government to put measures in place to renovate the theatre without further delay. Your Committee further recommends that Venus Theatre be demolished and a new structure constructed as the building in its state is collapsing and is a danger to the community using it. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY

32/14 - Construction of Lunsemfwa River Bridge in Rufunsa Constituency

On Friday, 7th October, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Road Development Agency (RDA) has engaged Messrs Roughton International for the design and construction supervision of the Lunsemfwa and Chipaba bridges in Old Mkushi at a combined contract sum of K5,693,309. The contract was signed on 12th August, 2013, and is expected to be completed in October, 2014. The construction of a bridge across the Lunsemfwa River, which connects the Chiefdoms of Shikabeta and Mbosha in Rufunsa Parliamentary Constituency, is expected to commence in the second quarter of 2015, after the conclusion of the procurement process.

Your previous Committee was concerned with the inadequate information on the construction of the two bridges with reference to the assurance that was issued by the Minister and what was submitted later, given that Messrs China Railways Seventh Group was not even mentioned in the update to your previous Committee in the first instance.

Your previous Committee had urged the Government to expedite the works for the two bridges to avoid unreasonable escalation of contract prices and further sought clarification as to when the contract which was being negotiated by RDA due to escalation in the contract price was signed. Your Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive stated that the Road Development Agency (RDA) had engaged Messrs Roughton International for the design and construction supervision of the Lunsemfwa and Chipaba bridges in Old Mkushi at the contract sum of K5,693,309. The contract was signed on August 12, 2013, and was expected to be completed in October 2014. The construction of a bridge across the Lunsemfwa River, which connects the Chiefdom of Shikabeta and Mbosha in Rufunsa Parliamentary Constituency, was expected to commence in the second quarter of 2015, after the conclusion of the procurement process.

The Executive, further, stated that the contract for the construction of a bridge across the Lunsemfwa River, which connects the Chiefdom of Shikabeta and Mbosha in Rufunsa Parliamentary Constituency was awarded to Messrs China Rail Seventh Group at a total contract sum of K74,316,520.56, VAT inclusive with a duration of eighteen months. The contract was signed on April 5, 2017 and works were expected to commence once funds were made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the works for the two bridges to avoid unreasonable escalation of contract prices. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

42/14 - Construction of Immigration Department Offices at Nsumbu Border Post

On Friday, 5th December, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, the Immigration Department has budgeted for the construction of an Immigration office block and medium-cost house, and the sinking of a borehole and water tank at Nsumbu Border Post in Nsama District in the 2014 budget. The procurement process for the works, which will cost K3,400,000, is in progress and construction will start in 2015, after the procurement process has been completed.

Your previous Committee had noted the progress made so far and further urged the Government to speed up the works to avoid escalation of costs due to delayed completion of works as observed in other Government projects. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

The Executive in its update to your Committee indicated that the contract for the construction of an Immigration office block, medium-cost house, sinking of a borehole and equipping of a water tank at Nsumbu Border Post in Nsama was awarded to Messrs Pamoja Contractors and General Suppliers Limited at a contract sum of K3,101,419.00, with the completion period of twenty-five weeks. As at the beginning of 2017, the contractor had only been paid K620,283.80 and was paid K982,058.87 in August, 2017, giving a total amount of K1,602,342.67 paid, leaving a balance of K1,499,076.30 towards the project.

The contractor had done the superstructure of the office block and staff houses and was at roof level. Unfortunately, the contractor demobilised from site due to a misunderstanding regarding materials to be used for roofing. The consultant who was the Provincial Buildings Engineer - Northern Province, instructed the contractor to mobilise and work on the roof as all queries and concerns on the materials were clarified. The completion of the project had delayed mainly due to delays in the release of funds by the Ministry of Finance.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to release the remaining funds expeditiously to avoid escalation of costs due to delayed completion of works as observed in other Government projects. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

03/15 - Mbala-Kasaba Bay-Nsumbu Road

On Wednesday, 25th February, 2015, the Deputy Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication made the following assurance:

Mr Speaker, works to upgrade the road will commence after the completion of the feasibility studies and the detailed design, whose funding will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 budget.

Your previous Committee had noted the progress made on the matter and further urged the Government, through the Attorney General's office, to expedite the clearance process so that works could commence within the planned time frame. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive indicated that the Mbala to Kasaba Bay to Nsumbu Road was part of the Mbala to Kasaba Bay Road Project whose contract was awarded to Messrs China Civil Construction Engineering Corporation. The project consisted two components, namely, Lot 1 covering 33km of the Mbala to Nsumbu Road, 26km of the road to Chief Tafuna and 36km of the access Road to Chief Mpande's Palace; and Lot 2 which included the upgrading to bituminous standard of the following roads: Mbala to Kasaba Bay Road starting at Vyamba Turnoff (RD02) (93km); Mbala to Kalambo Falls (31km); Mbala to Chisanza (D7) - 19.5km; Samora Machel Airport through Mbala Town to Kaseshya (38.3km); and Mbala Urban Roads to

Bituminous Standard in Mbala District (18km). The project was currently under consideration for the Contractor Financing Initiative model with works expected to commence once the financing arrangements were concluded.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to speed up the financing arrangements so that works can commence. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

10/14 - Installation of the Zambia Integrated Land Management Information System (ZILMIS)

On Tuesday, 6th March, 2014, the Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection assured the House as follows:

Mr Speaker, in June, 2014, the Ministry will complete the implementation of the ZILMIS.

Your previous Committee had noted the progress made on the installation of the Zambia Integrated Land Management Information System (ZILMIS) and urged the Government to speed up Phase I implementation and determination of additional requirements for costing so that Phase II could commence in September, 2016, as planned. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report.

Response by the Executive

The Government submitted to your Committee in its update that it could not commence the implementation of Phase II of ZILMIS due to procurement procedures which the Ministry had to adhere to, such as the requirement to confirm the availability of resources before the Government could commit itself to Phase II. The Government, further, submitted that the Ministry was in the process of signing a maintenance and support contract for a period of one year with the developer of ZILMIS through which some critical issues that were not completed under Phase I and the warranty period that followed thereafter from September, 2015 to September, 2016 would be addressed. The enhancements and general maintenance and support shall improve the performance of the system.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is concerned with the shift in dates for commencement of Phase II due to the need to adhere to procurement procedures. Your Committee urges the Government to resolve and expedite these procedures so that Phase II of the project can be undertaken without further delay. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

20/14 - Mukambi and Luminu Farming Blocks for the Disabled

On Tuesday, 17th June, 2014, the Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child Health assured the House as follows:

Mr Speaker, plans are underway to develop the Luminu and Mukambi farming blocks.

Your previous Committee had noted the submission and resolved to await a progress report on the purchase of a tractor and progress on turning Mukambi farming block into a breeding centre.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Government indicated that the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities anticipated receiving K2 million from the Government to purchase the tractor for Luminu and restocking for Cottage Farm. However, only K800,000 was received. The funds received therefore, were invested in revamping eight farms and one production centre. These included Luminu and Mukambi (cottage) farms and other farm centres listed in the table below.

Farm	Location	Farm/production activities
Luminu	Chipili	Maize, Cassava, Vegetables
(Mukambi)	Chipili	32 Cattle
Lutembwe	Chipata	Soya Beans
Kambowa	Ndola	Soya Beans
Fisenge	Luanshya	Cassava
Mimosa	Lusaka	Poultry
Mitukutuku	Solwezi	Poultry, Bananas, Soya Beans
Linda	Livingstone	Vegetable Production
Kang'onga production Centre	Ndola	Cane Furniture making

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee appreciates the progress made towards revamping the eight farms and one production centre and urges the Government to ensure that the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities is considered in the subsequent budget to enable the Agency procure a tractor. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

24/14 - Review of the National Food and Nutrition Commission Act

On Wednesday 15th June, 2014, the Deputy Minister in the Office of the Vice-President assured the House as follows:

The review of the National Food and Nutritional Commission Act has been included in the Ministry of Health 2014 Policy. Therefore, the exercise will commence in 2014.

Your previous Committee had observed with serious concern that the National Food and Nutrition Commission Act had taken inordinately long to be reviewed despite the promise made in good faith.

Your previous Committee had strongly urged the Executive to ensure that the two Ministries liaised in order to have the matter resolved without any further delay. Your previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Government submitted that Cabinet had granted approval in principle for the introduction into Parliament of the Bill to repeal and replace the National Food and Nutrition Commission Act. Further, your Committee was informed that the Ministry of Health, working closely with stakeholders, had completed the development of the layman's Draft Bill and as soon as the drafting and the necessary approval processes were finalised, the Government would present the Bill to Parliament.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is seriously concerned that the repeal and replacement of the *National Food and Nutrition Commission Act* has taken inordinately long. Your Committee therefore, urges the Government to speed up the approval processes so as to facilitate the repeal and replacement of the Act. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

17/14 – Investments in Irrigation, Agro-processing and Livestock Sectors

On Tuesday, 17th June, 2014, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock made the following assurance:

Sir, the Government has made significant investments in the development of farming blocks, irrigation schemes, agro-processing, livestock and animal health services ...

Your previous Committee while noting the response had resolved to await a progress report on the dip tanks and the construction of regional laboratories.

Response by the Executive

The Executive submitted in its update that following the Presidential directive, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock did not undertake the construction of new dip tanks but aimed at completing the ongoing works. The Government made a provision of K30 million for the completion of ongoing works and mobilised sixty-four contractors to complete the outstanding works in all the districts.

The table below shows works undertaken in dip tank construction and rehabilitation during the period under review.

Dip-tanks constructed	64
Dip-tanks rehabilitated	143
Dip-tanks under construction	125
Dip-tanks under rehabilitation	75

Further, the Ministry provided dip chemicals for the first charge but farmers were expected to pay a contribution to sustain the programme. Farmers were encouraged to start a revolving fund through the cooperatives.

The Government had continued with the programme of rehabilitation and construction of dip tanks in nine provinces, except Western Province. To date, contracts had been awarded for construction and rehabilitation of 460 dip tanks which included 215 new and 245 old dip tanks. So far 143 dip tanks had been rehabilitated and sixty-four new dip tanks had been constructed, giving a total of 207 dip tanks completed. Currently, there were 196 dip tanks (seventy-five rehabilitations and 121 new) under construction.

Table 2 gives the status of dip tanks constructed and rehabilitated, province by province.

Province	Types of Works		Stage of Works		
	New	Rehab	Mobilisation	Construction	Completed
Central	18	14	2	18	12
Copperbelt	31	3	1	13	20
Eastern	9	72	5	24	52
Luapula	11	5	4	3	5
Lusaka	15	13	2	14	12
Muchinga	16	5	1	12	8
North Western	16	7	0	3	20
Northern	21	8	8	12	9
Southern	78	118	28	101	67
Total	215	245	53	200	207

Table 2: Province by Province dip tank status

The Executive further submitted that the total national requirement for dip tanks was about 702 dip tanks while the shortfall was 342 dip tanks.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the progress made and urges the Government to ensure that the shortfall in the dip tanks is met in the shortest possible time. Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

Livestock and Animal Health Services - Kasama Regional Laboratory/Local Tour

In May, 2018, your Committee undertook an on the spot check of the construction of the Kasama Regional Laboratory and found that the Laboratory was completed in February, 2018. The Laboratory was a replica of the Central Laboratory in Lusaka in terms of functions when in full operation. Once operational, it would eliminate the transport costs and waiting time for samples that were sent to Lusaka from the northern region of the country for testing.



Members of your Committee and officers from the Northern Provincial Administration pose for a photo in front of the finished Kasama Laboratory Building.

Further, the Laboratory shall host four major specialised laboratories as outlined below:

- (i) Parasitology—the study of parasites, their hosts, and the relationship between them;
- (ii) Bacteriology - the laboratory shall be involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of life-threatening bacterial infections in animal;
- (iii) Virology - shall be involved with the study of viruses; and
- (iv) Genetics - shall specialise in the continuous improvement of animal species.

Further, your Committee learnt that equipment for the laboratory was still undergoing the procurement process. Tendering was done in October, 2017 and equipment was expected to be received by the third quarter of 2018. The total cost for the project up to operationalisation level was expected to be in excess of K 6 million.

With regard to major challenges, your Committee learnt that Veterinary officers were very few at provincial level in relation to the required number. The required number of veterinary officers was fifty but the Province only had ten officers. Each veterinary officer at the current ratio was required to service 1000 farmers. The regional laboratory in Kasama shall require more staff to be employed to service the northern region of Zambia and it was hoped that from the 250 veterinary officers to be employed as provided in the 2018 budgetary provision in the Yellow Book, more officers shall be deployed to the Regional Laboratory.

The other challenge was that from the time the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries was disjoined from the Ministry of Agriculture, the officers under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries were still under the payroll of Ministry of Agriculture. The officers needed to be on their own payroll as a Ministry if the staffing levels were to be improved. The situation was that in the current set up in agricultural camps, where five agricultural officers had been deployed, only one veterinary officer was deployed at that particular agricultural camp. To effectively deal with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases, there was urgent need to deploy more veterinary officers in that region which was host to over 40,000 big animals.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee is highly pleased with the works done so far on the completed laboratory infrastructure as it will help farmers in the region to have quick access to veterinary services. Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to ensure that equipment is bought by the third quarter of 2018 as planned and ensure that out of the 250 veterinary officers earmarked to be employed in 2018, adequate staff is deployed at the regional laboratory in Kasama from that number. Your Committee also urges the Government to ensure that the payroll for the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is disjoined from the payroll for the Ministry of Agriculture to warrant accurate staff planning by the Ministry. In urging the Government to expedite the procurement of necessary equipment for the Laboratory, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

01/11 – Public Financial Management

On Friday, 11th November, 2011, the Minister of Finance during the budget presentation for 2012, made the following assurance:

Sir, to this effect in 2012, the Government will finalise and begin to implement a revised PFM strategy that practically integrates these core principles into its PFM practices. Further, the Government will bring to this House a Planning and Budgeting Bill and an amendment to the Public Finance Act to place these cardinal PFM principles on a legal footing.

Your previous Committee having noted the submission from the Executive, had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Response by the Executive

In its update to your Committee, the Executive submitted that the layman's draft of the Public Finance Bill, and the Planning and Budgeting Bill had been completed and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for drafting. The expectation was that the Bills would be submitted to Parliament during the September, 2017 meeting of the Second Session of the Twelfth National Assembly.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee commends the Government for having presented the Public Finance Management Bill to Parliament for enactment by the House. However, your Committee urges the Government to expedite the finalisation of the Planning and Budgeting Bill so as to further strengthen public finance management in the country. Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the Planning and Budgeting Bill.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to you Mr Speaker, for the guidance rendered to it during the Session. Your Committee further wishes to extend its gratitude to all the stakeholders who appeared before it and made both written and oral submissions. Your Committee also wishes to thank the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the advice and services rendered to it throughout its deliberations.

E Kamondo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

June, 2018
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I

List of National Assembly Officials

Ms C Musonda, Principal Clerk of Committees

Mr F Nabulyato, Deputy Principal Clerk of Committees (SC)

Mr S Chiwota, Senior Committee Clerk (SC)

Mr D Kunda, Committee Clerk

Mrs M H Mweele, Committee Clerk

Ms C Kabika, Typist

Mr M Chikome, Committee Assistant

Mr D Lupiya, Acting Committee Assistant