



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD MATTERS ON DRUG AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG THE
YOUTHS IN ZAMBIA**

FOR THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Youth, Sport and Child Matters has the honour to present its Report for the Third Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are stipulated in Standing Order 209(o) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

In line with its Programme of Work for the Third Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly, the Committee undertook a study on the topical issue : *Drug and Substance Abuse among the Youths in Zambia*. The Committee held twelve meetings to consider the topical issue. In order to fully interrogate the topical issue, the Committee requested detailed memoranda from various stakeholders. The stakeholders were also invited to appear before the Committee and speak to their memoranda in order to afford the Committee an opportunity to make clarifications on issues contained in the memoranda. The list of stakeholders who provided memoranda and appeared before the Committee is at Appendix II.

The Committee's Report is organised in two parts. Part I presents the Committee's findings from its deliberations on the topical issue, including findings from the tours. Part I further presents the Committee's observations and recommendations on the topical issue. Part II of the Report is the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for the Second Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly.

The Committee is grateful to all stakeholders who tendered both written and oral submissions. The Committee further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it an opportunity to carry out its work. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly during its deliberations.



Ronald Chitotela, MP
CHAIRPERSON

June, 2024
LUSAKA

1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of: Mr Ronald Chitotela, MP (Chairperson); Ms Emelda Munashabantu, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Allen Banda, MP; Mr Alex Katakwe, MP; Mr Ackleo I Alves Banda, MP; Mr Heartson Mabeta, MP; Ms Jean Chisenga, MP; Mr Sipho Hlazo, MP; Mr George Chisanga, MP; and Mr Jay E Banda, MP.

PART I

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE TOPICAL ISSUE

2.1 DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG THE YOUTHS IN ZAMBIA

2.1.1 Background

Zambia, like many other countries in the world, was facing a problem of drug and substance abuse among the youths. This situation was worrisome as it had the potential to lead to physical, social and emotional harm which in turn could negatively affect the youths and also affect the socioeconomic development of the country.

The national illicit drug trafficking and abuse situation remained complex as production and consumption continued to increase. In recent years, drug crimes had led to the formation of gangs comprised of juveniles, which had been terrorising members of the general public. Key examples of such gang groups included the infamous destabilised Fluffys in Lusaka, the defunct Tokota Boys, 70 Babies and Ba Malinso on the Copperbelt Province. The formation of such groups served as a threat to public health, national security and social-economic development.

According to the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC), in terms of trafficking and abuse, the most commonly trafficked and abused illicit drugs included cannabis and opioids such as heroin;, synthetic drugs which included methamphetamines and cocktails of cannabis and heroin; tobacco; and alcohol. In 2022 alone, the DEC arrested a total of 5,061 persons. Drug and substance abuse accounted for 3,794 of the cases. Out of the arrested persons, 4,969 were Zambians representing 98.2 per cent, while 92 were foreign nationals representing 1.8 per cent. Further, out of the total number of arrested persons, 4,725 were males, while 336 were females, representing 93 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively. In addition, 325 of the arrested persons were children representing 6.42 per cent. These statistics did not only depict the scope of the problem at hand, but demonstrated the need for concerted efforts in combating drug crimes.

The 2021 World Drug Report, released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime revealed that around 275 million people used drugs worldwide in the last year, while over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders. This statement explained the magnitude of drug and substance abuse and its dangers to society, especially amongst the youths. The intake of

illegal drugs by the youths also resulted in academic difficulties, health-related problems, poor peer relationships, and it also exposed the users to the juvenile justice system because of being in conflict with the law. Accordingly, research by the DEC revealed that four out of every five children in the state juvenile justice system were arrested for committing a drug and substance abuse related offence. The majority of the offences were shoplifting, burglary, vandalism curfew violations, school truancy and fighting.

While it was the role of the Drug Enforcement Commission to emphasise on sensitising the youths about the dangers and effects of drug and substance abuse, much more needed to be done in order to save the youths from the vice. It was against this background that the Committee undertook a study on drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia.

2.1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

- (i) ascertain the adequacy of the policy and legal framework supporting programmes against drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia;
- (ii) appreciate the measures that the Government had put in place to address drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia;
- (iii) appreciate the role of the state and non-state actors in combating drug and substance abuse;
- (iv) ascertain the challenges if any, faced in combating drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia; and
- (v) make recommendations on the way forward in addressing the vice of drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia.

2.2 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

The submissions made by the stakeholders were as summarised below.

2.2.1 POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES AGAINST DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG THE YOUTHS IN ZAMBIA

The Committee was informed that there was an adequate policy and legal framework to support programmes against drug and substance abuse among the youths. However, there was still need to make amendments to some aspects of the existing policies and pieces of legislation.

(a) POLICY FRAMEWORK

Stakeholders submitted that key among the policy instruments were the National Policy on Drug and Substance Control, the National Alcohol Policy of 2018, the National Health Policy of 2011, the National Medicines Policy, the Juveniles Diversion Project, the Child Safeguarding Policy. Some detail on the key policy instruments vis-à-vis the administration and operations of the Zambia Police Service were as highlighted below.

- (i) **National Policy on Drug and Substance Control**
The Committee was informed that the National Policy on Drug and Substance Control was approved in 2023. The Policy offered standards for the provision of interventions in drug and substance misuse, as well as enhance prevention and treatment efforts related to drug and substance abuse. The Policy promoted the formation of strong alliances between diverse interests.
- (ii) **The National Alcohol Policy (2018)**
The Committee was informed that the National Alcohol Policy provided guidance on the application of coordinated efforts to curb alcohol abuse in Zambia. The Policy provided for a safer, healthier and a more productive nation that was free from alcohol related harm.
- (iii) **The National Health Policy (2011)**
The Committee was informed that the National Health Policy provided measures that guided strategies and programmes on primary health care, hospital referral services, human resource development and management, medical supplies and logistics, infrastructure development, legal framework and health care financing.
- (iv) **The National Medicines Policy**
The Committee was informed that the National Medicines Policy aimed at ensuring availability and accessibility of essential medicines of proven efficacy, safety and quality at an affordable cost.
- (v) **The Child Safeguarding Policy**
The Committee was informed that the Child Safeguarding Policy provided for oversight, compliance and enhanced reporting and acting on issues of child abuse, neglect and violence. It also provided for exploitation in matters related to drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country.

(b) LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee was informed that the legal framework supporting programmes against drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia was adequate, and this included the pieces of legislation outlined below.

- (i) ***The Controlled Substance Act, No. 2 of 2023***
The Committee was informed that *Controlled Substance Act No. 2 of 2023* provided for the application of a licence for any person who would manufacture, import, export, and deal in or advertise the controlled substance. The Act also prohibited the manufacturing, importing, dealing in or advertising of controlled substance. Further, the Act provided for suspension or revocation of a licence for being legally disqualified to undertake the activity for which the licence was issued.

- (ii) ***The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, No. 35 of 2021***
The Committee was informed that the *Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, No. 35 of 2021* provided for regulating the possession, trafficking, and abuse of narcotic drugs. The Act established stringent penalties for drug-related offences thereby, signalling the Zambian Government's dedication to combating illicit drug trade.
- (iii) ***The Mental Health Act, No. 6 of 2019***
The Committee was informed that *the Mental Health Act, No. 6 of 2019* provided for an intersection between mental health and substance abuse by embracing a progressive rights-based approach with the Mental Health Act. The Committee was informed that Act repealed *the Mental Disorders Act of 1949* in order to eliminate stigmatising language and promote the rights of individuals with mental health conditions, including substance use disorders.
- (iv) ***The Medicine and Allied Substance Act, No. 3 of 2013***
The Committee was informed that the *Medicine and Allied Substance Act, No. 3 of 2013* established a comprehensive regulatory framework for pharmaceutical products, including controlled substances. Through the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority, this legislation ensured the proper import, export, manufacture, distribution, and sale of medicines. The Act provided for upholding the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals within the country.
- (v) ***The Liquor Licensing Act, No. 20 of 2011***
The Committee was informed that the *Liquor Licensing Act, No. 20 of 2011* provided for the regulation of the manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages by establishing clear guidelines for responsible alcohol use. The Act provided for the grant of licence, display of licence and revocation of licence due to contravention of its provisions. The Act also provided for permitted hours of sale and also did restrict the sale or consumption of liquor except during permitted hours. Most importantly, it prohibited the sale, delivery of liquor to children.
- (vi) ***The Industrial Hemp Act, No. 34 of 2021***
The Committee was informed that the *Industrial Hemp Act, No. 34 of 2021* provided for prohibition of growing, processing, distribution, buying, exporting and researching on industrial hemp without a licence.
- (vii) ***The Cannabis Act, No. 33 of 2021***
The Committee was informed that the *Cannabis Act, No. 33 of 2021* provided for the regulation, manufacture, production, storage, distribution, import and export of cannabis for medicinal, scientific or research purposes. The Committee was informed that the Act designated the lead agency for the licensing of cannabis for medicinal or research purposes. The Act also provided for the constitution of the National Cannabis Coordinating Committee.

2.2.2 MEASURES INSTITUTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG THE YOUTH IN ZAMBIA

The Committee was informed that the Government had put in place a number of measures to address matters of drug and substance abuse, and these included the ones outlined below.

- (i) The Government had put in place laws that regulated the manufacture, production, cultivation, possession, sale, supply, storage, distribution, import and export of such substances.
- (ii) The Government established the DEC and empowered it to carry out specific functions which were aimed at combating cases related to drug and substance abuse.
- (iii) The Government had allocated sufficient financial and material resources towards programmes that addressed matters of drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country.
- (iv) The Government had collaborated with various stakeholders in addressing drug and substance abuse related matters.
- (v) The Government had enhanced youth empowerment programmes through initiatives such as Constituency Development Fund.
- (vi) The Government had incorporated drug and substance related topics in the school curriculum.
- (vii) The Government had enhanced school liaison activities in order to enlighten pupils and other youths about the dangers of abusing drug and other related substances.
- (viii) The Committee was informed that the Government had continued to implement mass sensitisation activities on drug and substance abuse.

The Committee was informed that in addition to the above the Juveniles Diversion Project was launched as a stop gap measure for juveniles that came in conflict with the law, subject to the nature of the offence. The Project was aimed at diverting juvenile offenders from the criminal justice system by facilitating restorative measures as opposed to retributive interventions.

2.2.3 ROLE OF THE STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS IN COMBATING DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Committee was informed that state and non-state actors were implementing programmes that aimed to combat drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country, as outlined below.

- (i) The Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security through the Drug Enforcement Commission enforced the laws that regulated the production, distribution, selling, buying and consumption of alcohol and other substances.
- (ii) The Ministry of Education provided the learners with information about drugs and related substances and the effects of abusing them.
- (iii) The Ministry of Health provided preventive, curative and rehabilitation services for drug and substance related harms.
- (iv) The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services facilitated the sensitisation of communities concerning drug and substance abuse.

- (v) The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development through the local authorities, enhanced laws governing drug and substance production, distribution and consumption.
- (vi) The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts facilitated youth empowerment programmes and promoted sports activities as a means of keeping youths productive, thereby staying away from drug and substance abuse.
- (vii) Civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations promoted advocacy on the need for effective use of measures to regulate the availability, affordability of rehabilitation services and medicines for persons addicted to drugs and other substances.
- (viii) Private companies complemented Government efforts by providing rehabilitative and curative services to members of the public in need of such services at a cost.

2.2.4 CHALLENGES FACED IN COMBATING DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG THE YOUTHS IN ZAMBIA

The Committee was informed that the country had continued to face a lot of challenges in matters relating to drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country. Some of these challenges were as set out below.

(i) Lack of a Clear Referral Mechanism

The Committee was informed that there was no clear referral mechanism for the youths who were involved in drug and substance abuse. The Committee learnt that the absence of a referral mechanism exacerbated the situation of those youths who were engaged in the vice.

(ii) Limited Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres

The Committee learnt that there were very few affordable treatment and rehabilitation centres in the country for youths who were involved in drug and substance abuse.

(iii) Inadequate Mental Health Specialists and Guidance Teachers

The Committee was informed that most of the health facilities did not have mental health specialists to provide mental health support to the youths who were addicted to drug and substance abuse. The Committee was also informed that most of the secondary schools in the country did not have qualified teachers to provide guidance and counselling services to the learners who were involved in drug and substance abuse.

(iv) Lack of Public Awareness and Sensitisation Programmes on Drug and Substance Abuse

The Committee was informed that there were not much public awareness and sensitisation programmes on the dangers and effects of drug and substance abuse. The Committee learnt that some communities were unwilling to cooperate with relevant officers to deal with the vice as they shielded some notable members who were involved in the consumption and sale of drugs to the youths.

(v) Absence of Drug Enforcement Commission Officers in some districts in the country
The Committee was informed that the Drug Enforcement Commission did not have presence in some districts in the country. This made effective coordination and management of drug and substance abuse-related cases very difficult. The Committee was further informed that the absence of Drug Enforcement Commission officers in some district resulted in the perpetuation of the vice.

(vi) Inadequate Financial and Material Resources for programmes against Drug and Substance Abuse

The Committee was informed that there were inadequate financial and material resources to support programmes and operations meant to combat drug and substance abuse in the country.

(vii) Poor Reporting and Documentation on Drug and Substance Abuse among the Youths in Zambia

The Committee was informed that there was poor reporting and documentation of drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country. The Committee was further informed that the DEC did not have its publications in the public domain, and the data that was shared was not disaggregated by age or gender, making it difficult to ascertain the actual prevalence of drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country.

(viii) Lack of Compliance to Sections 27, 29 and 36 of the Liquor Licensing Act, No. 20 of 2011

The Committee was informed stakeholders who appeared before it that there was lack of compliance with sections 27, 29 and 36 of the *Liquor Licensing Act, No. 20 of 2011*. This resulted in easy access to alcohol which was the most abused substance amongst young people in the country. Accordingly, the Committee was informed that young people and sometimes even under age children had access to alcohol from unlicensed persons at any time of the day.

(ix) Closure of the Zambia National Service Run Youth Rehabilitation Centres

The Committee was informed that the youth training centres which were operated by the Zambia National Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services were closed and were no longer functional. This had made it difficult to follow up cases and provide rehabilitation for the youth engaged in drug and substance abuse.

2.3 TOURS

2.3.1 Local Tours: Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt Provinces

In order to appreciate what was obtaining on the ground in relation to the Committee's topical issue, the Committee undertook local tours in three provinces namely; Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt Provinces.

The Committee toured a number of public and private institutions in the provinces. The Committee visited Chainama Hills Hospital, Teen Challenge Centre and Chisomo Children's Home in Lusaka Province. The Committee visited Don Bosco Children's Home and Chitetekelo Children's Home in Central Province. The Committee also visited Ndola Teaching Hospital; Friends of Street Kids; and Kansenshi Correctional Facility in the Copperbelt Province.

In addition, public hearings were conducted at Kabwe Town Centre, Chawama Compound in Lusaka District, Kitwe City Council Chambers in Kitwe District and Chibolya Market in Mufulira District. The main purpose of these meetings was to ascertain what interventions had been put in place to address matters relating to drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country. The key findings, observations and recommendations of the Committee are summarised below.

- (i) There were insufficient state-owned facilities in the country to offer a lasting solution to the rehabilitation of children and youths exposed to drug and substance abuse. Chainama Hills Hospital was the only tertiary mental health institution in the country which was treating psychiatric disorders, including drug and substance abuse related disorders.
- (ii) The majority of substance abuse cases seen at the Chainama Hills Hospital Out-patient Department were related to alcohol abuse. The Hospital attended to a total of 20,200 patients in the year 2022. Out of these, 65 per cent were treated for alcohol, drug and substance abuse. In 2023, the hospital saw a total number of 22,750 patients and 56 per cent of the cases were related to drug and substance abuse.
- (iii) The age group with the most cases of drug and substance abuse cases was between 13 to 24 years, a situation which was worrying for the future of the country.
- (iv) Children and youths affected by drug and substance abuse were only provided with detoxification services in order to lessen the physical distress in the dependent clients. However, this intervention was neither permanent nor was it rehabilitative.

2.3.1.1 Measures put in place to address matters relating to drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country

The institutions visited had put in place the measures listed hereunder, in the quest to address matters relating to drug and substance abuse among the youths.

- (i) Chainama Hills Hospital provided out-patients with daily filter clinic and counselling services. Clients were also administered with detoxification and other brief interventions in order to minimise the effects of drugs consumed.
- (ii) Chainama Hills Hospital also made follow-ups on clients with substance use disorders to deal with cases of relapsing.
- (iii) Ndola Teaching Hospital - The Psychiatry Department received referrals from Copperbelt, North Western, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Provinces. The Hospital offered rehabilitative, curative and therapeutic services to children and youths who were suffering from drug and substance addiction.
- (iv) Kansenshi Correctional facility provided custody and correctional services to youth who were found to be in conflict with the law on account of being in possession of drugs and related substances. In this regard, there were 188 youths confined in the various correctional facilities in the Copperbelt. The Zambia Correctional Service had introduced the Chaplaincy Unit under rehabilitation and extension services to provide transformation and rehabilitation support of the concerned youths through counselling services.
- (v) The Don Bosco Makululu Centre identified street kids, vulnerable and orphaned children who were provided with child home and rehabilitation services at no cost.

- (vi) Cichetekelo Children's Home was involved in the identification and recovery of street kids, with the sole purpose of rehabilitation and subsequently reintegration into society. The Centre provided the children with child-care services, skills development, recreation facilities and psychosocial counselling services.

2.3.1.2 Challenges faced in addressing issues of drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia

During the tour, the Committee was informed of the challenges listed hereunder.

- (i) Absence of public rehabilitation facilities in the country which had led to drug and substance abuse victims being left unattended to. Most of the rehabilitation centres which were operational were privately owned.
- (ii) High cost of rehabilitation and treatment of drug and substance abuse services by the private institutions.
- (iii) Lack of access to the few available services that could attend to chronic drug and substance abuse disorders.
- (iv) Insufficient and erratic remission of grants to the children's homes by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. This had made it difficult for the centres to plan and run the homes effectively.
- (v) Inadequate awareness programmes by the Drug Enforcement Commission had contributed to the increase in drug and substance abuse among children and youths in the country.
- (vi) There was scarcity of essential medicines critical for treating illnesses attributed to drug and substance abuse.
- (vii) Some emerging drug-related substances which were being abused by children and youths on the streets were not among those listed as prohibited drugs yet they had the potential to affect consumers and cause addiction in the same way as the listed drugs did.
- (viii) There was lack of collaboration among the Government ministries and institutions directly linked to the welfare of children and youths.
- (ix) Local authorities were failing to regulate the establishment and operational hours of bars.

2.4 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee notes that the Government has over the years supported programmes against drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country. However, there are a number of challenges that require the Executive's urgent attention in order to effectively address matters related to drug and substance abuse by the youths. The Committee is of the view that, in order to effectively address drug and substance abuse among the youths, the Government should take concrete steps to address the identified challenges. In this vein, having considered the submissions made by various stakeholders and taking into consideration the findings from the local tours, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations set out below.

(i) Lack of a Clear Referral Mechanism

The Committee notes that there is no clear referral mechanism for the youths who are involved in drug and substance abuse. The Committee is of the view that the absence of a referral mechanism exacerbates the situation of youths engaged in drug and substance abuse.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Government should put in place clear referral mechanisms for youths involved in drug and substance abuse.

(ii) Limited Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres

The Committee is greatly concerned that there are very few treatment and rehabilitation centres in the country for youths involved in drug and substance abuse.

The Committee strongly recommends that the Government should, as a matter of urgency, consider increasing the number of treatment and rehabilitation centres for the effective treatment and rehabilitation of youths who are suffering from the effects of drug and substance abuse.

(iii) Inadequate Mental Health Specialist and Guidance Teachers

The Committee observes with great concern that most of the health facilities in the country do not have mental health specialist to provide mental health support to the youths involved in drug and substance abuse. The Committee is also concerned that most of the secondary schools in the country do not have qualified teachers to provide guidance and counselling services to the learners who are engaged in drug and substance abuse.

The Committee strongly recommends that the Government should consider training and employing more mental health specialists and qualified guidance and counselling teachers for the purpose of offering quality services to the youths in need.

(iv) Lack of Public Awareness Sensitisation Programmes on Drug and Substance Abuse

The Committee observes that there is a lack of public awareness and sensitisation programmes on the dangers and effects of drug and substance abuse. The Committee notes with great concern that some community members are unwilling to cooperate with relevant officers and are shielding notable members of the community who are engaged in the consumption and sell of drugs to the youths.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Government should consider heightening public awareness and sensitisation programmes.

(v) Absence of Drug Enforcement Commission Officers in some Districts in the Country

The Committee observes that the Drug Enforcement Commission does not have presence in all districts in the country. The Committee is of the view that the absence of Drug Enforcement Commission officers in some district has contributed to the perpetuation of drug and substance abuse amongst the youth.

The Committee recommends that the Government should establish Drug Enforcement Commission offices in every district in the country. This will help to minimise the cases of drug and substance abuse in the country.

(vi) Inadequate Financial and Material Resources for Programmes against Drug and Substance Abuse

The Committee observes with great concern that there are inadequate financial and material resources to support programmes and operations meant to combat drug and substance abuse in the country.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that the Government should, as a matter of urgency, prioritise and allocate more financial and material resources towards programmes and operations to address matters related to drug and substance abuse amongst the youths in the country.

(vii) Poor Reporting and Documentation on Drug and Substance Abuse among the Youths in Zambia

The Committee is greatly concerned that there is poor reporting and documentation of cases on drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country. The Committee is also concerned that the DEC publications are not in public domain, and that the data shared is not disaggregated by age or gender, thereby making it difficult to ascertain the actual prevalence of drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the DEC should provide detailed documentation on the prevalence of drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country by disaggregating the total number by age and gender in order to enable the public to be aware of the magnitude of the problem, and for the provision of adequate and effective interventions.

(viii) Lack of Compliance to Sections 27, 29 and 36 of the Liquor Licensing Act, No. 20 of 2011

The Committee observes that sections 27, 29 and 36 of the *Liquor Licensing Act, No. 20 of 2011* provided for the selling of liquor without a licence; prohibition of the sale of liquor outside permitted hours; and restriction on the sale of liquor to children, respectively. The Committee is greatly concerned that there is lack of compliance with these provisions and this has led to easy access to alcohol among young people in the country. The Committee is also concerned that under age people have access to alcohol from unlicensed persons at any time of the day.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government, through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, should ensure that the law is upheld and enforced in its entirety in order to regulate the areas, times and age group that can access alcohol.

(ix) Closure of the Zambia National Service- Youth Rehabilitation Centres

The Committee is greatly concerned that the youth training centres which were being operated by the Zambia National Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services were closed and are no longer functional. The Committee notes that the

closure of the youth training centres has negatively affected the rehabilitation and treatment of young people involved in drug and substance abuse.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Government should take concrete steps to reopen and operationalise the youth training centres. In this regard, the Government should allocate financial resources to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services in order to ensure the collaboration on the youth training centres with the Zambia National Service is revamped.

(x) Lack of Adequate Funding at the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services for Disbursement of Grants to Child Homes

The Committee is concerned with the inadequate funding in form of grants provided by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to the existing child homes. The Committee observes that the existing children's homes only receive a grant of only five thousand Kwacha (K5,000) for the whole year, which is not sufficient.

The Committee, therefore, urges the Government to put in place measures that will ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services for onward disbursement of grants to child homes in the country..

(xi) Non-availability of Essential Medicines for Drug-related Complications

The Committee is greatly concerned about the non-availability of essential medicines to treat drug and substance abuse addictions in all the designated psychiatry sections of at the hospitals visited.

The Committee, strongly, recommends that the Government should ensure availability of the essential medicines in all the hospitals. This will ensure that drug and substance abuse addictions are effectively treated.

(xii) Inadequate Funding to the Education Department of the Drug Enforcement Commission

The Committee is greatly concerned that the Education Department of the Drug Enforcement Commission is not adequately funded. The Committee is of the view that the Commission focuses more on criminalising offenders than educating them on the dangers of being in possession of narcotic drugs and the abuse of drugs and related substances.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should deliberately allocate more resources to the Education Department of the Drug Enforcement Commission to heighten awareness campaigns in the communities, schools and tertiary institutions.

(xiii) Abuse of Emerging Drug-related Substances among the Youths

The Committee is concerned about the emerging drug-related substances which the children and youths are abusing on the streets. The Committee observes that these same substances once consumed have similar effects and intoxication as the known drugs, yet the law enforcers cannot arrest the perpetrators because such substances are not listed among the prohibited illicit drugs.

The Committee, therefore, urges the Government to renew the list and include all the known substances which cause intoxication. This will ensure regulation of the substances for the purpose of saving children and youths from addiction and other unhealthy effects caused by consumption of these substances.

(xiv) Lack of Collaboration among Institutions responsible for the Plight of the Children

The Committee is greatly concerned about the lack of collaboration among the institutions that are directly linked to the plight of the children and to matters related to drug and substance abuse.

The Committee, therefore, urges the Government to put in place stringent measures that will cause the ministries and institutions responsible to enhance effective collaboration to curb drug and substance abuse among the youths in the country.

PART II

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD MATTERS FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.1 THE PLIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

(i) Absence of Mother-baby Cells for Pregnant Women and Mothers with Children

The Committee was greatly concerned that pregnant women and mothers with children were confined together in the same over crowded prison cells with other female inmates irrespective of the offence. The Committee was further concerned that mothers were used as beds for their children due to overcrowding in the correctional facilities.

The Committee had recommended that the Government should consider constructing mother-baby cells that were specifically reserved for pregnant women and mothers with children. This would allow mothers to provide adequate attention and better parenting support to their children, and reduce the risk of children contracting communicable diseases.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Government recognized the need for good parenting in every set up and is doing everything possible to ensure that incarcerated pregnant women and mothers with children were provided with suitable conditions. In this regard, some facilities have incorporated specifically reserved structures for pregnant women and mothers with children. These include: Kabwe Female Maximum, Kansenji Female Correctional Facility; Lusaka Female Correctional Facility; Livingstone female Correctional Facility; Milima Female Facility among others. The Government would continue mobilizing resources to provide for infrastructure that responds to the needs of pregnant mothers and circumstantial children.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the need for creation of mother-baby cells for pregnant women and mothers with children.

(ii) Absence of Early Childhood Education needs for Circumstantial Children

The Committee had observed that there was no specific policy that addressed the educational needs of circumstantial children in Zambia, and the Ministry of Education had over the past years overlooked the early education needs of circumstantial children.

The Committee had, therefore, recommended the Government through the Ministry of Education should develop a policy that would address the early education needs of circumstantial children.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the National Educational Policy was in its advanced stage of development following the Cabinet's guidance. Cabinet had reviewed the Draft Policy and had since assigned the Ministry of Education to work on the observations and recommendations made.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the need to develop a Policy that would address the early childhood education needs of circumstantial children.

(iii) Lack of Non-custodial Sentence Mechanism for Mothers and Pregnant Women

The Committee had observed that mothers and pregnant women who came in conflict with the law, were not considered for non-custodial options first before a sentence was passed. The Committee had further observed that irrespective of the offence, there was no consideration for non-custodial sentences for pregnant women and mothers with children.

The Committee had recommended that the Government should develop a policy that ensured that non-custodial and suspended sentences were considered first for mothers and pregnant women, depending on the severity of the offence committed.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Government had been exploring the use of non-custodial sentencing especially for misdemeanour offences and would indeed engage stakeholders to develop guidelines to facilitate community service sentencing. The Committee was informed that many convicted pregnant women and women with circumstantial children had benefitted from the initiative.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the development of guidelines which will provide for community service and non-custodial sentencing.

(iv) Lack of proper coordination of private stakeholders in providing support to Circumstantial Children

The Committee had observed that there was no proper coordination among stakeholders over which prison facilities they should assist in order to supplement Government's efforts. The Committee had further observed that most of the stakeholder's efforts were concentrated along the line of rail and usually in the same correctional facilities. This had led to the duplication of assistance from different stakeholders, leaving out the children in other correctional facilities.

The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Government should come up with guidelines and a database that would link all stakeholders together. This would enhance coordination among them for efficient and effective support to circumstantial children.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the development of the stakeholder database was underway. This would be enhanced through the development and implementation of the Stakeholder Management Plan which was one of the initiatives in the draft Strategic Plan for the Zambia Correctional Service.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the development of the Stakeholder Management Plan which will address the lack of proper coordination in supporting circumstantial children by private institutions.

(v) Lack of Multi-skilled Correction Service Officers to provide various services to Inmates and Circumstantial Children

The Committee had observed that the mandate of the Zambia Correctional Service officers focused mainly on the welfare of the inmates and not the children of the inmates.

The Committee had recommended that the Government should amplify the Zambia Correctional Service recruitment to include aspects around child health and education or alternatively train the current officers in relation to children's welfare and development.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that, in the recent past, the recruitment of Zambia Correctional Service staff had been giving priority to the recruitment of multi-skilled personnel including those with skills that relate to child welfare. In addition, serving officers had been undertaking sponsored training in courses that were aimed at improving inmates' welfare including that of circumstantial children such as psycho-social counselling and psychology.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the need for multi-skilled correctional service officers who will provide various services to inmates and circumstantial children.

(vi) Lack of Stationed Vehicles at most Correctional Facilities

The Committee had observed that most of the correctional facilities did not have stationed vehicles that were needed to ease mobility. The Committee had noted with concern that in emergency cases, the correctional facilities used vehicles from well-wishers and at times their own personal vehicles to transport pregnant inmates and circumstantial children to the hospital for medical attention.

The Committee had recommended that the Government should consider purchasing motor vehicles for all the correctional facilities, as this would enhance the operations of the correctional service.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that in order to enhance the operations of the correctional facilities, the Government would continue providing motor vehicles and other logistics. For example, almost all correctional facilities benefitted when the Government procured motor vehicles for security wings in 2021.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the purchase of vehicles for all correctional facilities in the country.

(vii) Non-inclusion of Circumstantial Children in the *Children's Code Act, No. 12 of 2022*

The Committee had observed that while juveniles, probation of children and many other categories were highlighted in the *Children's Code Act, No. 12 of 2022*, the circumstantial children were not in any way highlighted in the Act.

The Committee had recommended that the *Children's Code Act, No. 12 of 2022* should be revisited to ensure that the plight of circumstantial children was explicitly highlighted.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security was currently in consultation with line ministries and other stakeholders to ensure that visibility of circumstantial children issues in the *Children's Code Act, No. 12 of 2022* is made by revising the Code.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the inclusion of circumstantial children in the *Children's Code Act, No. 12 of 2022*.

(viii) Lack of Interaction of the Circumstantial Children with other Children

The Committee had noted with concern that due to lack of socialisation with other children from the community, the circumstantial children imitated the actions and adopted the language used by their mothers and other inmates in the correctional facilities.

The Committee had urged the Government to come up with a law that would ensure that the children in the correctional facilities were allowed to interact with the other children from the

community. Further, the Committee had urged the Government to consider constructing schools near the correctional facilities that should cater for both the circumstantial children and the children from the community, as this would give the circumstantial children an opportunity to socialise.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Education had resolved to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Zambia Correctional Service under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security to provide education to circumstantial children.

In view of this, the Ministry would engage the ZCS on the modalities and possibilities of bringing Early Childhood Education (ECE) facilities closer to correctional centres for circumstantial children to access education. The Ministry of Education had annexed ECE centres to many primary schools, some of which were closer to ZCS facilities.

In this regard, there was a need to establish the possibility of enrolling children in correctional facilities in the nearest annex centres. In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would look into establishing ECE satellite centres in correctional facilities, where a primary school with an ECE centre was nearby. Further, the MoU would explore possibilities of utilising available spaces within ZCS facilities where ECE centres could be constructed.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.2 MANAGEMENT OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES IN ZAMBIA

(i) Strengthening of the National Social Protection Policy

The Committee had recommended that there was an urgent need by the Executive to double up its efforts in strengthening the National Social Protection Policy and also to effectively promote policies and programmes aimed at reducing the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusion in families.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services had begun preparations for the revision of the 2014 National Social Protection Policy with a view to incorporating emerging issues and enhance programming aimed at addressing poverty and vulnerability. This would result in reduced long-life consequences of poverty and exclusion.

The Policy would provide a framework that would facilitate implementation of programmes that would address the welfare of children and ensure the promotion of family values so that poverty would no longer be a reason for children to end up in child care facilities. Further, the framework would strengthen linkages among existing social protection programmes and families that had

children in child care facilities in order to alleviate their situation of poverty and prevent separation of children from their families.

The Committee had taken note of the response given by the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry Community Development and Social Services was finalising the revision of the 2014 National Social Protection Policy. The revision of the Policy was anchored on the life cycle approach, in order to effectively address the various vulnerabilities faced by different people. The focus of the life cycle approach was meant to respond to various vulnerabilities faced by people from conception to death. The five levels of the life cycle approach were maternity, childhood, youth, adulthood and old age.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

(ii) Irregular Inspections by the Department of Social Welfare

The Committee had recommended that the Executive would strongly review the operations of the Social Welfare Department to ensure that they successfully conducted their statutory function of inspections of child care facilities and ensured compliance to the minimum standards as well as to preserve the best interest of children.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services had directed district social welfare officers who were juvenile inspectors to ensure that they made efforts to inspect child care facilities in their jurisdiction using the available resources. The officers were further directed to submit independent quarterly reports on the inspection of child care facilities to the national office in order to track compliance of child care facilities to the minimum standards of care.

The Committee had taken note of the response given by the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Social Welfare Department had ensured that all child care facilities were inspected by the end of the year 2023 and quarterly reports submitted to National Office. This was in line with the Minimum Standards of Care where the sole responsibility of ensuring that children were protected and properly cared for in the hands of the Child Welfare Inspector. According to the Minimum Standards of Care for Child Care Facilities (2014), representatives of the Department of Social Welfare should make visits, inspections, investigations and consultations, to ensure that minimum standards of care were being met by child care facilities. The Officers were using the available resources to ensure that the facilities were inspected.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the need for regular inspection of child care facilities by the Department of Social Welfare.

(iii) Committal Orders

The Committee had recommended that the Executive, through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services as a matter of urgency should ensure that all the children in child care facilities country wide were given committal orders, as this was one of the ways that would help to legally grant custody of the children and also ensure proper accountability of the children in the facilities.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services had written to the Judiciary to consider waving off the prescribed fees for obtaining of committal orders from the courts for children in child care facilities. All the officers in the Department were also advised to ensure that all children in child care facilities had committal orders by December, 2022.

The Committee had taken note of the response given by the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services intensified the process of obtaining committal orders for children in child care facilities in the first half of 2022. The Ministry reported that almost 86 per cent of children in child care facilities had committal orders. The exercise was delayed by the change of legislation where the *Children's Code Act, No. 12 of 2022* required that the committal orders, which were later referred to as care orders, be obtained from the Children's Division of the High Court. The Ministry was working towards ensuring that the care orders were obtained for the remaining number of children in child care facilities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

(iv) Material for Artificial Limbs

The Committee had recommended that the Executive should implement measures that would eradicate the vice of shortage of material for the artificial limbs, and lighten the burden faced by facilities such as Solwezi Cheshire Homes and other facilities.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and the Ministry of Health through Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities would work towards the availability and accessibility of the material for artificial limbs for children with special needs. The Committee had noted the response and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, through Zambia Association for People with Disability, had engaged the Ministry of Health who had indicated that they were in the process of opening up provincial centres for prosthetics and orthotics in order to enhance the availability and accessibility of the material for artificial limbs for children with special needs in various centres across the country.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.3 THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ZAMBIA

(i) Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The Committee had recommended that there was an urgent need to review the Comprehensive Sexuality Education course content that was used when teaching pupils. The review needed to consider traditional values of Zambia. The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that comprehensive sexuality education was implemented in two tiers, one for the in school young people and one for the out of school youth. It should be noted that the out of school Manual on Comprehensive Sexuality had never been subjected to review the process from the time it was developed in 2016. However, the in-school Manual on Comprehensive Sexuality which sat under the Ministry of Education had been reviewed to incorporate traditional values of Zambia.

The Committee had noted the response from the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the review of the comprehensive sexuality education course for out of school youth.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Education revised the curriculum in 2014 and had been implementing it. The curriculum included vital information to help adolescents cope with numerous challenges as they transitioned from childhood to adulthood. The information drawn from various topics on the subject matter from Grades 5 to 12 was consolidated in a document called the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Framework.

The Technical Committee appointed to review the CSE Framework had since completed the exercise by addressing the concerns raised by stakeholders. Following the stakeholder's recommendations, the document's name had also been changed from CSE to Life Skills and Health Education Framework.

However, the revised Framework was yet to be validated. This was because of the Presidential directive to reform the curriculum. This implied that the CSE was also under review since it was integrated with carrier subjects in the curriculum.

The Technical Committee appointed to review the CSE Framework recommended that only one framework be used for both the in-school and out-of-school. This followed submissions from the stakeholders observing that certain sections of the content of the out-of-school CSE Framework needed to be more appropriate to the intended recipients.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.4 CHILD MARRIAGE IN ZAMBIA

(i) Inadequacy and Inaccessibility of Schools in Rural Areas

The Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the status of the forty-seven secondary schools under the one hundred and fifteen secondary schools being constructed country wide remained largely the same due to financial constraints. The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the remaining works.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Education had practically completed and operationalised fifty-nine projects. In addition, seventeen projects which were almost complete had been operationalised. This brought the total of operationalised projects to seventy-six out of the one hundred and fifteen projects countrywide. However, thirty-nine projects out of the one hundred and fifteen projects had remained the same.

The Committee had taken note of the response from the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Zambia Education Project Implementation Unit under the Ministry of Education, had planned to complete the 49 projects in the 2023 - 2025 Medium Term Budget Plan. The Plan had targeted to complete 20 projects in 2023, 20 projects in 2024 and 9 projects in the final year 2025. The Government had since secured 2023 funds to commence the works for 20 projects. Currently, the Ministry was working on pricing adjustments with the contractors before resuming the works.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.5 YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN ZAMBIA

(i) Apprenticeship Act, Chapter 275 of the Laws of Zambia

The Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the process of reviewing the *Apprenticeship Act, Chapter 275 of the Laws of Zambia* during the period under review had continued, and had requested a progress report on the matter.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Executive through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security was still in the process of undertaking stakeholder consultations.

The Committee had taken note of the response from the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Government had begun the process of reviewing the Apprenticeship Act. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security had developed a layman's draft of the Work Based Learning Bill which was envisioned to replace the Apprenticeship Act. The Executive was in the process of incorporating the tenets of the International Labour Organisation Recommendation on Quality Apprenticeship No. 208 of 2023 adopted on 5th June 2023. After the incorporation of the tenets of the recommendation, the draft layman's bill would be presented to the Tripartite Consultative Labour Council for consultations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

(ii) National Youth Development Council Board

The Committee had awaited a progress report on the review process for the *National Youth Development Council Act, Chapter 144 of the Laws of Zambia*, which would eventually provide for the appointment of the National Youth Development Council Board.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the process of drafting the Bill had not been finalised as the Ministry of Justice awaited the conclusion of the Executive's consultative processes and submission of further instructions by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts.

The Committee had taken note of the response from the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the then Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development engaged the Zambia Law Development Commission to commence the Executive Consultation regarding the Repeal and Replacement of the *National Youth Development Council Act Chapter 144 of the Laws of Zambia*. In 2017, the Ministry conducted consultative meetings with various stakeholders, including youth representatives, from all the districts in the country. To this effect the Executive Report

and the Layman’s Bill were developed by the Commission in collaboration with stakeholders. The Executive Report and Draft National Youth Development Council Bill were submitted to the Ministry of Justice for commencement of the review process.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.6 THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN ZAMBIA

(i) Inadequate Courtroom Space

The Committee had noted the response from the Executive and resolved to reiterate its previous recommendation on the necessity of court infrastructure in the delivery of justice.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that in the 2022 national budget the infrastructure allocation to the Judiciary was restricted to structures that were under construction and reached eighty percent and above completion stage. Therefore, inadequate courtroom facilities remained a challenge in the Judiciary. However, through UNDP-GRZ joint partnership, the Judiciary had constructed new Gender Based Violence Courts with juvenile facilities, which were also used for cases involving juveniles. Through the UNDP-GRZ joint partnership, new structures would be built that year in Solwezi, Mansa, Kasama and Chinsali.

The Committee had taken note of the Executive’s response and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive’s Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Gender Based Violence Courts that were constructed through a UNDP-GRZ joint partnership, had juvenile facilities which were also used as child-friendly courts, in Lusaka, Mongu, Choma, Kabwe, Ndola and Chipata. Through the same joint partnership, new court structures were under construction in Solwezi, Mansa, Kasama, and Chinsali.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

(ii) Failure to Bring Juveniles to Court

The Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the Government acknowledged the transport challenges that were being faced by the Judiciary in the execution of its mandate. The Committee was informed that, in August, 2020, the Treasury released twenty million kwacha for the purchase of fifty-five motor vehicles to ease transportation challenges for the Judiciary. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the response from the Executive as it did not address the Zambia Police as well as the Zambia Correctional Service but focused on the Judiciary instead. In light of the above, the Committee had reiterated its previous recommendation and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that due to the limited resources, the purchase of motor vehicles for all stakeholders involved in the delivery of justice would be executed in a phased manner, in the 2023-2025 Medium Term period.

The Committee had taken note of the Executive's response and resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Procurement of motor vehicles for institutions involved in the delivery of justice was an ongoing exercise. The Government had commenced the process to procure motor vehicles for the Zambia Police Service using Constituency Development Fund for the 2023 allocation. When more funds were made available, the Government would procure more motor vehicles for the Zambia Police Service and other institutions involved in the delivery of justice.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

(iii) Lost Documentation on Case Files

The Committee had resolved to await an update on the full implementation of the Electronic Case Management System in all courts in the country.

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Judiciary had administratively and significantly reduced the incidences of lost or missing documents from files through introduction of file and document tracking registers. However, the Judiciary needed a lot of resources to implement the Electronic Case Management System. The only electronic case management system in place was the scanning of documents and was only available in a few stations.

The Committee had taken note of the response from the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the full implementation of the Electronic Case Management System.

Executive's Response

It was stated in the Action-Taken Report that the Judiciary, through the Advisory Committee, had developed an information communication and technology (ICT) strategic plan that aimed at complementing existing initiatives and demonstrating the improvements in ICT that the Judiciary would need to make in order to get the desired results in the administration of justice. One of the initiatives, contained in the strategic plan, was the implementation of an Electronic Case Management System in all Superior Courts and Subordinate Courts. This demonstrated the Judiciary's commitment to reducing the incidences of missing case files by way of embracing technology and at the same time improving access to justice.

The Judiciary had since developed terms of reference that would be used to engage an implementation partner in the development of the Electronic Case Management System. When funds became available, the process of acquiring the system would commence.

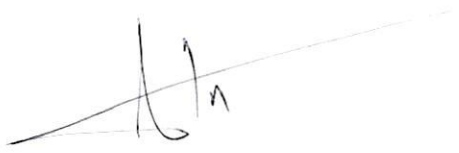
Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee takes note of the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The challenge of drug and substance abuse among the youths in Zambia demands for collective attention and concerted efforts. Despite sensitisation campaigns and efforts by various institutions, the alarming surge in drug and substance abuse persists within schools and communities. The statistics from the Ministry of Health and the Drug Enforcement Commission highlight the impact of drug and substance abuse prevalence on youths, emphasising the gravity of the situation.

The Committee on Youth, Sport and Child Matters has made some far reaching recommendations on the topical issue. Therefore, the Committee is confident that the Executive will act upon the findings and the recommendations contained in its Report.



Mr Ronald Chitotela, MP
CHAIRPERSON

June, 2024
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I – LIST OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS

Mrs Doreen C Mukwanka, Director of Committees (SC)
Mrs Chitalu K Mumba, Deputy Director of Committees (SC)
Ms Christabel T Malowa, Senior Committee Clerk (SC I)
Mr Evans Chilongu, Committee Clerk
Ms Grace Mbewe, Administrative Assistant
Mr Daniel Lupiya, Committee Assistant
Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Parliamentary Messenger

APPENDIX II – LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security
Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts
Drug Enforcement Commission
Zambia Police Service
Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection
Zambia Correctional *Service*
Human Rights Commission
Law Association of Zambia
Zambia National Education Coalition
Action-Aid Zambia
Zambia National Service
Teen and Alcohol Abuse