

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, WATER DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

ON

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Published by the National Assembly of Zambia

FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Energy, Water Development and Tourism has the honour to present its Report for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 206 (d) and 207 of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

In accordance with its approved Programme of Work, the Committee held ten meetings to interact with stakeholders on the topical issue "*Human Wildlife Conflict in Game Management Areas*". The Committee requested detailed memoranda from the various stakeholders, who were also invited to appear before it to clarify any issues arising therefrom. The list of stakeholders 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. This part further presents the Committee's Observations and Recommendations on the Topical Issue. Part II contains the Committee's Observations and Recommendations on the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for the Fourth 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.



Mr Romeo Kangombe, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

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List of Acronyms

ERB	Energy Regulation Board
NEP	National Energy Policy
IPPs	Independent Power Producers
MW	Mega Watts
OPPPI	Office for Promoting Private Power Investment
kWh	Kilo Watt Per Hour
OMCs	Oil Marketing Companies
SRF	Strategic Reserve Fund
TSA	Tourism Satellite Account
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
BRRRA	Business Regulatory Review Agency
LHPC	Lunsemfwa Hydro Power Company
MEL	Maamba Energy Limited
ZEMA	Zambia Environmental Management Authority
WARMA	Water Resources Management Authority
CCPC	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
CEC	Copperbelt Energy Corporation
SAAP	Southern African Power Pool
GMA's	Game Management Areas
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
CRBs	Community Resource Boards

1.0 Membership of the Committee

The Committee consisted of Mr Romeo Kangombe, MP, (Chairperson); Ms Mulenga Kampamba, MP (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Michael Z J Katambo, MP; Engineer Chanda Katotobwe, MP; Mr Binwell Mpundu, MP; Mr Lameck Hamwaata, MP; Engineer Raphael Mabenga, MP; Ms Miriam Choonya, MP; and Mr Davies Chisopa, MP.

PART I

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE TOPICAL ISSUE

2.1 Human Wildlife Conflict in Game Management Areas

Background

Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) remains one of the biggest and complex challenges, especially in settlements and Game Management Areas (GMAs). Different forms of HWC exist in GMAs where humans and wildlife share the same habitat. The HWC significantly harms livestock through predation by wildlife, destruction of pasture, and disease transmission, leading to economic losses for farmers and potentially impacting food security and local economies. Overcrowding and dwindling natural habitats due to agricultural expansion and settlements increase these interactions, forcing farmers to resort to retaliatory killings of wildlife, further disrupting ecosystems.

HWC exacerbated by climate change and drought, drives human hostility towards wildlife, posing a significant threat to biodiversity and local socioeconomic development.

In June, 2023, **21,442** human wildlife conflict incidences were reported to have occurred in 2022, representing a **239 percent** increase when compared to 2018 (Ministry of Tourism, Ministerial Statement). In addition, in 2025, the Ministry of Tourism recorded **16,512 incidents**, resulting in **127 deaths** and **123 injuries**, surpassing previous annual averages. The reported increasing trend in HWC is of great concern. In this regard, the Committee undertook a study to understand the causes, effects, and appreciate mitigation strategies and measures that the Government has put in place to manage HWC in Zambia.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

- (a) appreciate the adequacy of the legal and policy framework that govern human wildlife conflict;
- (b) identify the causes of human wildlife conflicts;
- (c) gain greater insight into the effects of human wildlife conflicts on both humans and wildlife;

- (d) appreciate the management and mitigation strategies in place, if any, to mitigate the phenomenon; and
- (e) make recommendations on how to enhance mitigation measures of human wildlife conflicts.

2.3 Summary of Submissions by Stakeholders

Stakeholders who appeared before the Committee made the submissions as summarised below.

2.3.1 Adequacy of the Policy and Legal Framework Governing Human Wildlife Conflict

Stakeholders submitted that the *Zambia Wildlife Act, No. 14 of 2015*, and the National Parks and Wildlife Policy of 2018 provides for the establishment and management of national parks, GMAs and wildlife sanctuaries. The Act allows for self-defense against wildlife attacks, permitting individuals to kill wild animals in defense of human life or property, where necessary. It also outlines mechanisms for Community Resource Boards (CRBs) to participate in wildlife management, promoting revenue-sharing from wildlife resources to offset conflicts.

Supporting policies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Policy of 2018, emphasised sustainable wildlife management and community involvement, and transboundary frameworks like those under the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, which facilitates regional cooperation on the HWC.

However, stakeholders observed that the framework had inadequacies. Firstly, because it lacked comprehensive provisions for preventive strategies, such as mandatory land-use planning or early-warning systems, and did not explicitly mandate financial compensation for the HWC related losses, leaving victims reliant on ad-hoc Government or Non-Governmental Organisation's (NGO) support. In addition, enforcement was weakened by limited resources for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), as there were notable gaps in addressing emerging issues such as climate-induced conflicts.

Overall, stakeholders submitted that while the framework enabled basic response, it was inadequate in the prevention, compensation, and integration of modern tools.

2.3.2 Causes of Human Wildlife Conflict in Game Management Areas

Stakeholders submitted that HWC in Zambia's GMA's was caused by a combination of changes in nature due to human activities and environmental factors, which was exacerbated by the country's reliance on agriculture and natural resources. The under-listed were identified as key factors contributing to the increase in HWC across the country.

1. Human Encroachment and Habitat Loss

Zambia's growing population and expansion of settlements, agriculture, charcoal production, infrastructure development in the GMAs and deforestation, continued to shrink the natural buffer zones. These activities drove wildlife into human areas resulting in increased direct contact between humans and wildlife. Further, encroachment into established wildlife corridors by humans had reduced safe movement of elephants, lions and other animal-species, forcing them to drift into agricultural lands and village areas.

2. Blocking of Wildlife Corridors

Stakeholders submitted that traditional wildlife migration routes had been obstructed by urban and rural settlements, forcing animals into human-dominated areas. A prominent example was in Livingstone, where development had blocked historical roaming paths. Additionally, in some chiefdoms, headmen were allocating pieces of land in the GMAs and animal corridors, hence increasing human animal interaction.

3. Agricultural Expansion and Resource Competition

Small-scale farming in the GMAs, where locals were dependent on crops and livestock, attracted wildlife such as elephants and hippos, which were in search of food, especially during dry seasons. It was also submitted that limited access to alternative land pushed communities deeper into wildlife zones.

4. Historical Land Designation Issues

Establishment of the GMAs without community consultation created long-standing grievances, fostering intolerance and illegal activities.

5. Increase in Wildlife Populations

Conservation efforts and anti-poaching measures had gradually led to the recovery of some wildlife species. While this was positive for biodiversity, it had also increased the likelihood of wildlife straying into human occupied spaces.

6. Climate Change and Environmental Factors

Stakeholders submitted that climate change had intensified shortages of food and water for both humans and animals. Droughts, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and periodic flooding displaced both communities and wildlife, thereby creating high-contact zones.

7. Mining Activities in National Parks and GMAs

The discovery of minerals in protected areas led to habitat destruction due to mining operations, road construction, and increased human traffic. As their habitats degrade, animals were forced to wonder further in search of food and water.

8. Inadequate Wildlife Police Officers

The Committee was informed that there were inadequate Wildlife Police Officers in the GMAs due to inadequate funding. This was affecting negatively enforcement of wildlife laws.

2.3.3 The Effects of Human Wildlife Conflicts on Both Humans and Wildlife

Stakeholders submitted that HWC in Zambia's GMAs created a range of ecological, economic and social effects on humans and wildlife, undermining livelihoods, health, and biodiversity. The effects included, among others, the following:

2.3.3.1 Effects on Humans

- a. **Economic Losses:** crop raids by elephants and hippos destroyed harvests, leading to food insecurity and financial hardship. Livestock predation by lions and crocodiles exacerbated poverty in the GMAs. From 2002 to 2008, elephants caused over 4,270 crop damage incidents, while crocodiles accounted for 53 per cent of human fatalities (185 deaths).
- b. **Physical Harm and Fatalities:** attacks resulted in injuries and deaths, with stray animals increasingly reported in areas such as South Luangwa, Livingstone and Chama.
- c. **Psychological and Social Impacts:** conflicts caused mental health distress, fear and community tensions including reduced school attendance due to safety concerns.
- d. **Community - Authority Tensions:** perceived slow response, inadequate relief mechanisms and limited benefits from wildlife reduced trust in management institutions.

2.3.3.2 Effects on Wildlife

- a. **Disruption of Natural Behaviours:** frequent disturbances pushed animals away from preferred habitats, affecting feeding, breeding, and migration patterns. As communities expanded agricultural activities and settlements, wildlife movement routes (corridors) became restricted, altering natural behaviour and increasing stress.
- b. **Retaliatory Killings:** wildlife may be injured or killed in response to crop raiding or livestock predation, contributing to population decline in some species.
- c. **Increased Vulnerability:** wildlife moving into human-dominated landscapes faced greater risks from snares, road collisions and accidental injuries.

Overall, stakeholders submitted that HWC in GMAs created a cycle where environmental change, livelihood pressure and wildlife behavior reinforced each

other, highlighting the need for a holistic, community-engaged management approach.

2.3.3.2.1 Management and Mitigation Strategies in Place to Mitigate the Phenomenon

Stakeholders submitted that several strategies were being implemented by the DNPW, NGOs and communities, though coverage varied.

2.3.4.1 Community-Based Natural Resource Management

This approach integrated local communities through Community Resource Boards (CRBs), enabling shared decision-making, benefit-sharing from wildlife revenues, and local participation in conflict response. This strengthened local ownership and encouraged coexistence by aligning conservation benefits with community welfare.

2.3.4.2 Problem Animal Control

Rapid-response teams to deter or remove dangerous animals from settlement areas were deployed by the DNPW. Non-lethal methods such as loud deterrents or relocation, where feasible, were prioritised when conditions allowed.

2.3.4.3 Use of Deterrent Techniques

Communities employed practical approaches including, chili-based deterrents (e.g. chili fences, chili briquettes), noise makers, lights, and patrols to keep animals away from crops and livestock. Beehive fences and apiaries, leveraging elephants' natural aversion to bees were also used to protect crops and promote honey production. These locally adaptable techniques helped reduce crop-raiding, especially by elephants.

2.3.4.4 Improved Land-use Planning

Efforts to improve land use included mapping and maintaining wildlife corridors, regulating settlement expansion, and zoning agricultural activities away from high-risk areas. Additionally, strategic placement of fields and homesteads reduced exposure to conflict hotspots.

2.3.4.5 Fortification of Livestock and Crop Protection Systems

The reinforcing of livestock kraals with stronger timber or wire was being used to reduce predation at night. Watchtowers or community guarding schedules were also being used in some areas to minimise field incursions during peak crop-raiding seasons.

2.3.4.6 Environmental Education and Community Awareness

The Committee heard that outreach programmes helped communities understand wildlife behaviour, peak risk periods, and safe practices. In addition, early-warning systems such as drumming and use of phones and community reporting networks were being used to strengthen preparedness.

2.3.4.7 Relief Schemes

In certain areas, such as the Liuwa Plains, relief or in-kind support for losses was being provided. In some cases, culling of rogue animals was being done by the DPNW. These pilot programmes were aimed at improving fairness, transparency, and responsiveness. Overall, successful mitigation in Zambia's GMAs was dependent on integrating community participation, adaptive land-use planning, practical deterrents, and effective institutional response, ensuring that both human safety and wildlife conservation were supported.

2.4 Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Having reviewed submissions from various stakeholders, the Committee notes that much still needs to be done to avert human wildlife conflict. In light of this, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations as outlined below.

(a) Adequacy of the Legal and Policy Framework

While the available legal and policy framework enables basic response to HWC, the Committee observes notable inadequacies such as lack of a comprehensive provision for preventive strategies, mandatory land-use planning or early-warning systems and mandatory financial compensation for HWC related losses, leaving victims reliant on ad-hoc government or NGO support. In this regard, the Committee recommends for the amendment of the Wildlife Act to include mandatory compensation schemes, preventive planning, and climate resilience measures. The Committee further recommends that there should be increased funding to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and clearer guidelines for community involvement in order to enhance enforcement.

(b) Causes of Human Wildlife Conflicts

The Committee observes that human encroachment, blocking of wildlife corridors, agricultural expansion and resource competition, climate change and drought and increasing wildlife population in some areas were some of the key causes of human wildlife conflict. In this regard, the Committee recommends that land use planning and mapping should be enhanced by identifying conflict hotspots and wildlife corridors. Further, the Committee recommends that the Wildlife Act should be further amended to provide for penalties for non-compliance with the general management plans and land-use plans.

(c) Effects of Human Wildlife Conflicts

The Committee observes that HWC has profound, multifaceted impacts on humans and wildlife, undermining livelihoods, health and biodiversity. In this regard, the Committee recommends increased investment in modern tools like collaring of some animals so that they are monitored to give pattern of movement and early warning, as well as fencing of the hotspots and water access points.

(d) Illegal Allocation of Land by Headmen

The Committee observes that in some Chiefdoms, headmen were allocating plots of land to people in restricted areas for financial gains without the consent of the Chiefs. It is concerned that the increased developments in the GMAs and corridors often results in frequent human and wildlife interaction. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Government should put in place stringent measures that will deter headmen from allocating land to people without the consent of the chief.

(e) Management and Mitigation Strategies in Place, to Mitigate the Phenomenon

The Committee observes that despite a number of strategies put in place to mitigate HWC, the phenomenon is on the increase. In this regard, the Committee recommends for enhanced education on wildlife, targeted at members of the public on the ethics of HWC to ensure public safety. Further, the Committee recommends that the Government should put measures in place for the expansion of the community-based Problem Response Teams (PRTs), so as to integrate local knowledge into strategies, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing to build tolerance. The initiative should also target schools especially those in hotspot areas.

Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the Government should invest in modern wildlife surveillance and monitoring systems, including drones, satellite collars, night vision devices, digital reporting tools, reliable patrol vehicles, capture equipment to enable real time situational awareness and rapid deployment. Additionally, the Committee urges the Government to recruit more Wildlife Police Officers to ensure rapid response to HWC.

(f) Establishment of a Dedicated National Human Wildlife Conflict Fund

The Committee observes that there is no fund in place to help relieve loss suffered by members of the community affected by HWC. In this regard, the Committee recommends that a dedicated National Human Conflict Fund be established to support community consolation payments to mitigate infrastructure, early-warning systems and field operations. The fund should jointly be financed by the Government, private sector partners (including tourism operators), NGOs, locals who own cattle and development partners. The Committee further recommends that the fund should be managed by the CRBs so as to strengthen community participation and governance in both rapid responses to conflict and consolation.

(g) Promote Alternative and Resilient Livelihoods

The Committee supports the submission by stakeholders to promote livelihood diversification (beekeeping, conservation agriculture, horticulture, nature-based enterprises) to reduce reliance on human wildlife conflict prone agricultural practices. In this regard, the Committee recommends for training and micro-financing options to help households around the GMAs to transition to safer, less vulnerable income streams such as beekeeping, chilli or ginger growing among others.

(h) Enhance Multi-stakeholder Collaboration

The Committee is concerned that there is limited collaboration between communities and stakeholders in HWC. In this regard, the Committee recommends enhanced partnership between the Government, traditional leaders, NGOs, private sector (safari operators) and communities to coordinate interventions and share information. Further, the Committee recommends for the establishment of regular conflict review forums at district and the GMA levels.

PART II

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, WATER DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.1 Private Sector Participation in the Energy Sector

3.1.1 Adequacy of Policy and Legal Framework

The Committee had recommended that the law should be flexible to allow for market changes without requiring change of the principal Act and that the *Electricity Act, 2019*, should urgently be amended to accommodate the existing dynamics.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Government was reviewing the *Electricity Act, No. 11 of 2019* and the *Energy Regulation Act, No. 12 of 2019*. The Government would ensure that the Principal Act (Electricity Act No. 11 of 2019) included provisions that allowed for future market changes without necessitating amendments to the Principal Act.

Further, the Government had developed the Electricity (Open Access) Regulations SI No. 40 of 2024, which outlined the procedures and requirements for implementing open access in the energy market. The Regulations allowed third-party access to Zambia's transmission and distribution infrastructure, enabling power trading.

Regulation 5 outlined the criterion for participation in open access, which included the following:

- a) a licensee to hold a licence to trade in electricity with a trading capacity of at least 1 Megawatt issued by ERB under the *Energy Regulation Act, No. 11 of 2019*, or an authorisation under any other written law;
- b) a supplier to have an installed generating capacity of at least 1 Megawatt; and
- c) a system user and/or consumer to have a consumption of at least 1 Megawatt.

Applications for open access were made to a transmission service provider or distribution network service provider in line with Regulation 6. Further, the Regulations were effective and were being implemented by energy players in Zambia, including ZESCO.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the process of reviewing the *Electricity Act, No. 11 of 2019*, and the *Energy Regulation Act, No. 12 of 2019* and resolves to await a progress report.

3.1.2 Fixed Capacity Charge

The Committee had recommended that, as a matter of urgency, the contract between the Government and Ndola Energy should be reviewed to allow Ndola Energy to generate and sell power to other off-takers other than Zesco and address the issues around the fixed capacity charge.

In its update to the Committee, the Executive submitted that the negotiations between Ndola Energy and the Government were ongoing and would in the process, address issues around the fixed charge. The Electricity Open Access framework had created a mechanism that made it possible for Ndola Energy to sell to alternative off-takers using the ZESCO network or the Copperbelt Energy Corporation Network.

Considering that the parties to these agreements were the Government (through the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Finance), ZESCO and Ndola Energy, the Energy Regulation Board would be ready to approve the revised agreement once the parties had revised the agreements. Section 19 of the Electricity Act only mandated the Energy Regulation Board to approve power agreement once agreed between the contracting parties.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the process of reviewing the agreement between the Government (through Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy and Zesco) and Ndola Energy and resolves to await a progress report.

3.1.3 Increase of Levies in New Projects

The Committee had observed with concern that the 1000 per cent increase in levies on new projects by Local Authorities and the 30 per cent on infrastructure were too high. The Committee had in this regard, urged the Government to reconsider the increase, as high costs were a hindrance to project development and double taxation would render power-generating projects unbankable, especially for the new entrants.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Government, through Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, was committed to supporting business growth and development in the country. The Ministry recognised that excessive levies and fees could be a burden on businesses, particularly power generating projects in the energy sector. Further, the Ministry had commenced engagement with councils and advocated for a harmonised fee structure, towards creating a more favourable business environment.

In the short-term approach, to address these concerns more comprehensively, the Ministry was in the process of developing a harmonised fee structure for all councils effective from 2026. This would:

- i simplify compliance as businesses would face a harmonised fee structure, reducing confusion and compliance;
- ii promote fairness because a harmonised fee structure would ensure that similar businesses were treated equally across different councils; and
- iii enhance predictability as a harmonised fee structure would provide businesses with greater advantage.

The Ministry of Energy had further taken a major step by issuance of guidelines through the Call Budget Circular to local authorities 2026, to ensure that levies and fees were reasonable and justifiable.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the harmonisation of fee structures across all councils.

3.1.4 Issuance of Permits by Water Resources Management Authority

The Committee had expressed concern at the approval by Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) to allow the Upper Lunsemfwa Dam Project to construct an irrigation dam, up-stream the Lunsemfwa River, which would result in the Lunsemfwa Power Station which was already operating at 40 per cent to permanently shut down due to lack of water. In this regard, the Committee had recommended that WARMA should carry out physical catchment assessments before issuing out permits. Further, the approval to construct an agricultural irrigation dam that would result in a permanent shut down of an already strained power plant amidst the power crisis in the country should urgently be reconsidered.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that the Ministry had taken note of a growing competition for water between irrigated farming and hydropower generation in the Lunsemfwa Sub-catchment. Further, the Government had set up gazette farm blocks for irrigation, which were located upstream of the hydropower dams being operated by the Lunsemfwa Hydro Power Company (LHPC). This situation could cause a problem during dry periods, as it could limit the availability of water for hydropower generation, leading to potential conflicts between the two sectors.

Through WARMA, a due diligence was undertaken for the purpose of granting a permit to the Upper Lunsemfwa Dam Project (ULDP) in order to construct a dam for irrigation purposes upstream of the hydro power dam. The due diligence included technical hydrological assessments that informed the issuance of the permit. Various factors were put into consideration, such as, annual average, minimum and maximum flows; existing water users demand and investments; eco-sensitivity of the area and environmental needs before consideration of the water permit.

The Committee was further informed that most of the water permit users who were part of the Upper Lunsemfwa Dam Project were existing water permit users who were now transferring their direct water abstraction permits into the water storage infrastructure. Ultimately, the long-term objective was to minimise direct water abstraction and to build water security during periods of low water availability. Additionally, the water permit was granted with special conditions to account for environmental flow requirements and consideration of downstream water demand, including hydropower generation by LHPC. The Ministry, however, acknowledged the Committee's recommendation to undertake a comprehensive water balance assessment in the Lunsemfwa Catchment. In this regard, through WARMA, the Ministry had commenced the implementation of this assessment.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the comprehensive water balance assessment in the Lunsemfwa Catchment.

3.2 CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF WATER HARVESTING INFRASTRUCTURE TO MITIGATE WATER SCARCITY IN ZAMBIA, 2021 – 2024 FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.2.1 Institutional and Legal Framework to Implement Water Harvesting Programmes

The Committee had urged the Government to expedite the operationalisation of the 2024 National Water Policy by developing and executing a clear dissemination and implementation plan for all provinces and districts. In addition, it was recommended that funds and technical assistance should urgently be secured to enable the review of the 1995 Master Plan, which was obsolete.

The Committee further recommended that the draft Dam Operational and Maintenance Guidelines should be urgently finalised and officially gazette to ensure standardised procedures for inspections, repairs, de-siltation, and water use regulation, so as to end the reliance on various non-domesticated international guidelines from international partners.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the 2024 National Water Policy had already been launched and was under implementation. The Policy consolidated the 2010

Water Policy and the 2020 Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, providing a unified and updated framework that included climate-smart and inclusive water harvesting provisions. A dissemination and implementation plan was under development and would be rolled out progressively across all provinces and districts.

Regarding the 1995 National Water Resources Master Plan, the Committee was informed that the Ministry had secured support from the Africa Water Facility (AWF) through the African Development Bank, which approved funding for the Plan's update. Additionally, with support from JICA, a Water Resources Assessment using digital satellite technologies was underway and would be concluded in 2026. This would inform the update of the Master Plan, ensuring it incorporated climate change projections and national water demand scenarios.

The Committee was further informed that the Ministry was drafting Comprehensive Operational and Maintenance (O&M) Guidelines for small and medium-sized dams. These guidelines were being piloted at selected sites and would address standard procedures for inspections, repairs, de-siltation, and regulation of water use. Moreover, Statutory Instrument No. 73 of 2024 on Water Harvesting and Storage provided the legal framework for enforcing these guidelines, marking a transition from reliance on non-domesticated international standards to standardised national procedures.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the Water Resources Assessment, which will provide an update on the National Water Resources Master Plan. Further, the Committee awaits a comprehensive report on the Operational and Maintenance Guidelines for small and medium-sized dams.

3.2.1 Availability of Water Harvesting Infrastructure

The Committee had urged the Government to explore home solutions and consider engaging the Zambia National Service (ZNS) or Zambia Army who had equipment and expertise in the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of dams just like the US Army Corps of Engineers operated in the United States.

Further, the Committee had urged the Government to ensure that the three-year dam development programme aimed at constructing sixty dams country-wide was actualised and delayed implementation of projects due to procurement and fund disbursement bottlenecks were addressed urgently.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that in 2026, the Ministry would allocate funds towards operational research, in collaboration with local academic and research institutions. In addition, the Ministry was exploring partnerships with the ZNS and Zambia

Army, leveraging their technical capacity and equipment to support dam construction and maintenance.

Collaborations with universities would also support applied research on alternative technologies such as sand dams and groundwater recharge systems already being piloted in arid areas.

The Ministry confirmed the implementation of the three-year Dam Development Programme, which targeted construction of sixty dams nationwide. This programme included comprehensive training for Ministry personnel and local contractors in dam design and construction. The Committee was informed that to address implementation delays, the Ministry was working with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning and relevant institutions to streamline procurement processes and improve the disbursement of funds. Additionally, key performance indicators were introduced to track progress and ensure timely delivery of infrastructure.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the allocation of funds towards operational research, in collaboration with local academic and research institutions. Further, the Committee resolves to await a progress report on the partnerships of the Ministry with the Zambia National Service and Zambia Army in dam construction and maintenance.

3.2.3 Sustainability of Existing Infrastructure

The Committee had urged the Government to ensure that inspection and monitoring was enhanced and title deeds for dam areas were obtained to avoid encroachments. Further, the Committee recommended that recharge areas should be delineated so that they were protected from encroachments.

The Executive in the Action Taken Report submitted that it had strengthened dam monitoring through biannual surveillance inspections by district staff. In 2024, WARMA inspected 185 dams and issued twelve stop orders against illegal constructions and fourteen for encroachments.

To address land encroachment issues, the Ministry was engaging the Ministry of Lands and Local Authorities to secure title deeds for dam catchment areas. Additionally, WARMA was working to delineate critical recharge zones using satellite data, ensuring long-term protection from encroachment and deforestation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the acquisition of title deeds for dam catchment areas and delineation of critical recharge zones to ensure protection from encroachment and deforestation. The Committee resolves to await a progress report.

3.2.4 Inadequate Funding

The Committee had recommended that the Government should explore innovative financing

mechanisms to support the development and timely completion of critical water harvesting infrastructure. It was further recommended that funding to water harvesting infrastructure amidst water scarcity in Zambia, should be ring-fenced, if the country was to attain a water-secure future.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that the Ministry was actively pursuing innovative financing options, including Public-Private Partnerships, climate financing facilities and result-based financing models.

Further, to improve public awareness, additional budget lines were proposed for stakeholder sensitisation on climate-smart water harvesting technologies.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee in noting the submission resolves to await a progress report.

3.2.5 Lack of Coordination

The Committee had urged the Government to ensure harmonisation of stakeholder-engagement in dam planning, design and construction to avoid fragmentation. It was further recommended that a dedicated taskforce be created to oversee the revision of key legal and policy documents, which should be chaired by MWDS. This would include representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE), WARMA and the Local Authorities to address the poor coordination challenge.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that to address fragmentation, the Ministry launched the National Rainwater Harvesting Strategy, which mandated stakeholder-engagement in the planning and implementation of water harvesting infrastructure. In addition, Statutory Instrument No. 73 of 2024, compelled all stakeholders to engage the Ministry prior to initiating construction.

Further, the Ministry was establishing a Multi-Stakeholder Taskforce comprising representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, WARMA, and Local Authorities. This Taskforce would lead the review and harmonisation of key legal and policy documents to ensure coordinated planning and implementation.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Taskforce comprising representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, WARMA, and Local Authorities, which will lead the review and harmonisation of key legal and policy documents to ensure coordinated planning and implementation of water harvesting programmes.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.3 The Implementation of Monthly Fuel Price Reviews in Zambia

3.3.1 Unpaid Fuel Invoices

The Committee had noted that despite the Government devising mechanisms to clear the accumulated unpaid invoices in excess of US\$890 million, including late payment interest and risk premiums, the debt still remained outstanding.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Government had made significant progress in managing petroleum-related debt. In 2024, the Government successfully negotiated discounts on late payment interest with Dalbit International Limited and Delta Energy Zambia Limited, reducing the amounts from US\$94,076,970.85 to US\$20,275,717.83. Consequently, the two suppliers were paid a total of US\$109,108,092.01, inclusive of the principal amount.

As of 31stDecember, 2024, the outstanding petroleum debt stood at US\$735,819,423.26. However, through continued negotiations in 2025, the Government managed to reduce this figure to US\$521,750,051.20. The Committee was further informed that settlement agreements had been signed with ER Industries, International Energy Resources, and Sahara Energy Resources DMCC to facilitate the dismantling of the debt. Negotiations were, however, still ongoing with BB Energy and Othniel Brooks International Limited.

The Committee also learnt that out of the six fuel suppliers owed by the Government, two were paid a total of US\$103.2 million in 2024. In the first half of 2025, agreements were reached with two additional suppliers. This would leave two remaining suppliers with whom reconciliations were still in progress and settlement agreements yet to be finalised.

Only suppliers who agreed to the settlement terms under the Fuel Arrears Liability Management Operation (LMO) were eligible for payment.

To facilitate these payments, the Treasury had been actively engaging local commercial banks to secure financing, following the National Assembly's approval of the Amended 2025 Annual Borrowing Plan. So far, the Treasury had received adequate commitments from the banks to support this initiative.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the full settlement of the unpaid invoices.

3.3.2 Tourism Sector Development and the Effectiveness of Tourism Development Strategies in Zambia

3.3.3 Multiple Licensing

The Committee had urged the Government to expedite the processes of reviewing pieces of legislations domiciled in different ministries and institutions.

In the Action Taken Report the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry through the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) had commenced the development and implementation of the Single Licensing System (SLS) for the Tourism Sector. The aim of the SLS was to reduce the cost of doing business; simplifying licensing processes and procedures; and targeted turnaround time for complying with various regulatory requirements to within seventy-two hours. The system covered fourteen licences under six participating Regulatory Agencies, namely: Patents Agency Companies Registration Agency (PACRA), Zambia Tourism Agency (ZTA), Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), Livingstone City Council (LCC) and Department of Tourism.

As of 31st December, 2024, the licences were reduced to twelve following abolishment of two retention licences for tourism enterprise and grading of accommodation licences as per reform recommendations. Regrettably, the implementation of the Single Licensing System (SLS) in the Tourism Sector had not been rolled out as planned due to challenges that were being experienced. These challenges included the following:

i) Legal Challenge

Delays in revising to the *Tourism and Hospitality Act, No. 13 of 2015*, had proved to be a major challenge as proposed amendments to the law were key to successfully implementing the Single Licensing System for the Tourism sector.

Notwithstanding the above, during the Public Private Dialogue (PPD) Forum Technical Working Group (TWG) on Tourism meeting held in March, 2025, the Ministry of Tourism submitted that, the Bill would be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and that stakeholders would be given a further opportunity to provide input during the Committee Stage at National Assembly.

ii) Systems integration Challenge

The Single Licensing System for the Tourism Sector was initially designed to be anchored on the One-Stop-Shop Integration System (OSSIS), which facilitated sharing of regulatory and administrative information on businesses among participating public bodies regulatory agencies. However, not all institutions participating in the Single Licensing System for the Tourism Sector were connected to the OSSIS due to poor ICT systems and therefore, lack of real-time sharing of licensing information.

In order to address this, the OSSIS was decommissioned and replaced with the National Data Warehouse (NDW) hosted on the Government Services Bus (GSB) to improve efficiency and integration through a robust and unified platform for regulatory services delivery. The NDW comprised National Data Registers (NDRs) for various sectors of the economy holding licensing and administrative information. As of 31st May, 2025, thirty-three National Data

Registers (NDRs), including the Tourism and Licensing NDR, were created on the national Data Warehouse (NDW) hosted on the GSB. However, the NDRs were not sharing administrative information due to delays to integrate in-house systems of regulatory agencies and public bodies to transfer data in real-time to their NDRs on the GSB.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee reiterates the need for the Executive to expedite the processes of reviewing pieces of legislations to successfully facilitate the implementation of the Single Licensing System for the Tourism sector. The Committee resolves to await a progress report.

3.3.4 Revision of Functions of the Zambia Tourism Agency

The Committee had urged the Executive to expedite the review process and ensure speedy approval and enactment of the three Bills, to facilitate for the streamlining of the functions of the Zambia Tourism Agency (ZTA).

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the review process of the *Tourism and Hospitality Act, No. 13 of 2015* was in progress. Additionally, the Ministry of Tourism had been engaging the private sector under the hospices of the Public Private Dialogue Forum on the matter and a roadmap was drawn for a comprehensive stakeholder consultation. The Committee was further informed that the Tourism Council of Zambia, Hotels and Caterers Association of Zambia (HCAZ) and other associations in the Tourism and Travel industry were yet to meet minds on this issue of these proposed Bills due to oversight views, hence the delays.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the review process and ensure speedy approval and enactment of the three Bills, to facilitate for the streamlining of the functions of the ZTA. The Committee resolves to await a progress report.

3.3.5 Lack of Reliable and Coordinated Statistics

The Committee had noted that the development of the Tourism Satellite Account, a mechanism that would ensure the collection of reliable and coordinated statistics, was still going on.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Zambia Statistics Agency, was developing a data management system with the support of the GREAT-TDP. This system would embed all components of the Tourism Satellite Account.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the submission and urges the Executive to expedite the development of the data management system and resolves to await a progress report.

3.3.6 Review of the *National Heritage Conservation Commission Act, Chapter 173 of the Laws of Zambia*

The Committee had urged the Executive to ensure that the review of the National Heritage Act, which was provided for in the 2025 Budget was undertaken without fail.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that the Ministry of Tourism had undertaken a detailed review of the gaps in the current National Heritage and Conservation Commission (NHCC) Act and produced an issue paper prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Justice seeking approval to review the Act. A no objection had since been given and legal officers to guide the process were assigned by the Ministry of Justice. Further, the Ministry had since prepared and submitted a Cabinet Memorandum seeking approval in principle, for the introduction of the NHCC Bill. Once approval in principle was granted, the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice would draft the layman's Bill and proceed to stakeholder consultations prior to the finalisation of the Bill.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes, with concern, the delay in reviewing the National Heritage Act and urges the Executive to expedite the review of the Act. The Committee resolves to await a progress report.

3.3.7 Management of National Parks in the Northern Tourism Circuit

The Committee had urged the Executive to ensure that the review of the operator agreement between Kasanka Trust and the Ministry of Tourism was expedited to facilitate the effective performance of the park. In this regard, the Committee had resolved to close the matter on the two regional offices in Eastern and Luapula provinces, which had been opened and resolved to await a progress report on the review of the agreement between Kasanka Trust and the Ministry of Tourism.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Tourism was yet to engage with both Management and the Board of Trustees for Kasanka National Park on governance matters, which include review of the Memorandum of Understanding on park management.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to urgently engage with both Management and the Board of Trustees for Kasanka National Park and ensure that the Memorandum of Understanding on Park Management is reviewed without further delay. In this regard, the Committee resolves to await a progress report.

3.4 Water Resource Management in Zambia

3.4.1 Review of the Water Resources Management Act

The Committee had urged the Executive to expedite the process of revising the *Water Resources Management Act, No. 21 of 2011* and had resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

In its update to the Committee, the Executive submitted that the review process of the *Water Resources Management Act, No. 21 of 2011* had commenced. A series of stakeholder validation meetings were conducted, leading to the consolidation of proposed amendments to the Act. Based on these inputs, a draft layman's Bill was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Justice. Upon completion of this process, the layman's draft Bill would be submitted in accordance with the legislative calendar.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the review process of the *Water Resources Management Act, No. 21 of 2011*, and resolves to await a progress report.

3.4.2 Intensify Efforts to Protect Ecologically Sensitive Water Recharge Areas

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the interventions put in place to protect ecologically sensitive water recharge areas.

In the Action-taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Government had continued to prioritise the mapping and delineation of Water Resource Protection Areas (WRPAs) as part of its efforts to safeguard water resources from human-induced threats. In support of this initiative, the Authority had developed a draft Statutory Instrument (SI) to formally declare three strategic water resource areas as WRPAs. These areas included: Shaft 5 Wellfield in Lusaka District, the Upper Luntembwe Catchment in Chipata District, and the Upper Kabompo River Catchment in North-Western Province.

Further, the Authority had initiated the mapping and delineation of water supply sources for all commercial water utility companies across the country, with the aim of declaring WRPAs. Upon completion of the mapping exercise, a comprehensive report would be compiled and submitted to the Committee. This work was being undertaken with strengthened collaboration between the Authority, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), and Local Authorities to ensure effective protection of critical water resource areas.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the mapping and delineation of water supply resources with the aim of declaring some areas as Water Resource Protection Areas to ensure effective protection of critical water resource areas.

3.4.3 Expedite Acquisition of Title Deeds for Commercial Utility Companies

The Committee had noted with concern, the delay by the Executive to obtain the properties under the report in order to facilitate their numbering.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that in 2024, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources wrote to the utility companies to request for property details in order to facilitate for their numbering. The status had since been submitted.

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources embarked on the titling of properties belonging to the Government, Quasi-Government and Parastatal institutions through the National Titling Programme. To this end, the water utility companies would be titled through the same programme. In addition, those with pending matters lodged under the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources would be dealt with accordingly.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the titling of commercial utility companies.

3.4.4 Stiffening of Vandalism Penalties

The Committee had urged the Executive to expedite the process of amending the *Electricity Act, No. 11 of 2019*.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive in its response to the Committee submitted that it was actively working to accelerate the amendment process of the *Electricity Act, No. 11 of 2019*.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee expresses concern at the inordinate time it has taken for the Executive to amend the *Electricity Act, No. 11 of 2019*. In this regard, the Committee strongly urges the Executive to expedite the process of amending the Act and resolves to await a progress report.

3.5 Accommodation Classification and Grading System in Zambia

3.5.1 Need to Amend the *Tourism and Hospitality Act, No. 13 of 2015*

The Committee had urged the Executive to expedite the processes of reviewing the *Tourism and Hospitality Act, No. 13 of 2015*.

In its update to the Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Tourism had been engaging the private sector under the auspices of the Public Private Dialogue Forum on the matter and a roadmap had since been drawn for a comprehensive stakeholder-consultation on the layman's Bills.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes, with concern, the delay in facilitating the review of the *Tourism and Hospitality Act, No. 13 of 2015*. In this regard the Committee urges the Executive to expedite the processes of reviewing the Act and resolves to await a progress report.

3.6 The Petroleum Industry in Zambia: Challenges and Opportunities

3.6.1 Review of the Petroleum Act, Chapter 435 of the Laws of Zambia

The Committee had expressed concern on the time the Executive had taken to finalise the processes of reviewing the *Petroleum Act, Chapter 435 of the Laws of Zambia*.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Justice had started the drafting process and the Petroleum Bill was undergoing the internal legislative process.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee expresses concern at the inordinate delay that the Executive has taken to finalise the processes of reviewing the *Petroleum Act, Chapter 435 of the Laws of Zambia* and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.7 Management of National Parks and Game Management Areas in Zambia

3.7.1 Harmonisation of Legislation

The Committee had urged the Executive to expedite the process of harmonising legislation.

In the Action Taken Report, the Committee was informed that consolidation and incorporation of submissions from various stakeholders had been completed. The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice would proceed to finalise the Bill in readiness for final approval by Ministry of Justice and subsequent approval by Cabinet.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the process of harmonising legislation and resolves to await a progress report.

3.7.2 Review of License Fees

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the review of licence fees under the Ministry of Tourism.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that in addition to the ongoing engagements with BRRA on the identification of pieces of legislation domiciled in various line ministries impacting negatively on tourism sector licensing, the Ministry had also been

engaging with the private sector through the Public Private Dialogue Forum and public entities in which such legislation was domiciled. This was in an effort to find ways of streamlining licenses in the tourism sector. Subject to the outcome of these ongoing engagements, a simplified licensing regime anchored on a digital platform would be considered to mitigate challenges posed by the current licensing regime. Finalisation of this process was envisaged to address the concerns raised with regards to the review of licensing fees.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the processes of reviewing of the licence fees under the Ministry of Tourism and resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR IN ENSURING AN INCREASE IN THE LENGTH OF STAY OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS, FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.8 DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

3.8.1 Data Collection Systems for International Tourists

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the implementation of the survey instrument and the training of enumerators prior to the execution of the survey. In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that the Ministry of Tourism was working in collaboration with ZAMSTATS as the lead, in developing a comprehensive tourism statistical management system under which the Tourism Satellite Account component would be imbedded. During this process, the survey instruments and actual surveys would be re-planned and undertaken with the output to feed into the system to be developed.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the implementation of the survey instrument and the training of enumerators prior to the execution of the survey.

3.8.2 Number of International Tourists Visiting the Northern Circuit in Comparison to the Southern Circuit

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the rehabilitation of the Mbala-Kabasa Bay Road.

The Executive submitted that the Mbala-Kasaba Bay Road, located in the Northern Province of Zambia, was one of the key tourist transit routes and a gateway to key destinations within the Northern Circuit. As such, the Government recognised the strategic importance and socio-economic benefits to be realised by upgrading the road. Upgrading of the road would provide developmental services and attract more international tourists to the region. Accordingly, the Government remained committed to upgrading the road to bituminous standard, subject to

the availability of adequate funding from the Treasury, as previously assured. To support continued accessibility in the interim, the Government undertook short-term interventions such as re-gravelling and grading of the existing road. As a short-term measure, the Government, through the Road Development Agency (RDA), had maintained approximately twenty-three kilo metres of the road from Mbala to Kasaba Bay under Package Seven of the World Bank funded Improved Rural Connectivity Project (IRCP), and the condition rating of the road was in good to fair condition. In addition, the Mpulungu Town Council had been undertaking maintenance works on the section of the road leading towards Kasaba Bay, as part of the short to medium term measures.

As a long-term measure, the Government intends to upgrade the Mbala-Kasaba Bay-Nsumbu Road to bituminous standard, once funds were secured from the Treasury. Furthermore, the Government through the Ministry of Tourism had also secured funding from the World Bank through the Green Resilient and Transformation Tourism Development Project (GREAT-TDP) for the rehabilitation of the Kasaba Bay-Nsumbu Road section of the road. The tender for the procurement of the civil works contractor was advertised and closed on 18th July, 2025, through which Government intends to maintain the road through a design and build, following the anticipated end of the IRCP Project in July, 2026.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the rehabilitation of the Mbala-Kasaba Bay Road.

3.8.3 Mporokoso-Nsama via Mutundu Gate to Kaputa and Nsumbu District

The Committee had resolved to await a comprehensive progress report on the construction of Mporokoso-Nsama via Mutundu Gate to Kaputa and Nsumbu District and the upgrading of Mporokoso-Kaputa via Mutundu gate.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that the Executive recognised the strategic importance of the Mporokoso-Nsama via Mutundu Gate corridor, as it complemented ongoing efforts to develop the Northern Circuit, which encompassed key attractions in Mbala, Mpulungu, Kasaba Bay, Nsumbu, and Kalambo Falls. The road would further contribute to regional initiatives aimed at positioning Zambia as a competitive tourism destination within the Great Lakes and Central African Regions. As a short-term measure, the Government, through the RDA, received funding in the first quarter of 2025 to undertake maintenance works on the Mporokoso-Nsama Road. In addition, the Nsama Town Council had been conducting maintenance activities on the Nsama - Mutundu Gate section, as part of continued short to medium term efforts.

In the long term, consultancy services for the detailed design review and tender document preparation for Mporokoso-Kasaba Bay Road via Nsama and Mutundu Gate procured in 2024 were ongoing. The Consultant submitted a preliminary design report in May, 2025, and was expected to submit the final detailed design in the last quarter of 2025. The tender for upgrading to bituminous standard would be procured and signed once treasury secures funding.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to secure funds for the upgrading to bituminous standard of the Mporokoso-Kasaba Bay Road via Nsama and Mutundu Gate without further delay. The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.8.4 Expedite Review of the *Water Supply and Sanitation Act, No. 28 of 1997* and Promote Investments in the Sanitation Sub Sector

The Committee had urged the Executive to expedite the review process of the *Water Supply and Sanitation Act, No. 28 of 1997*.

Executive's Response

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Justice had commenced the drafting of the Water Supply and Sanitation Bill following the receipt of additional instructions, which were being incorporated into the draft. It was anticipated that the Bill would be ready for possible introduction into Parliament in the subsequent sessions.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation for the Executive to expedite the review process of the *Water Supply and Sanitation Act, No. 28 of 1997*, and resolves to await a progress report.

3.10 CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT ON THE SPECIAL AUDIT REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE PROCUREMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM 1ST JANUARY, 2019 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2022 FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.10.1 Failure to Settle Outstanding Bills

The Committee had resolved to await a comprehensive progress report on the settling of the outstanding petroleum debt.

In the Action Taken Report, the Executive submitted that in 2025, the Government had continued to negotiate with suppliers and that the outstanding debt had reduced from US\$ 735,819,423.26 to US\$ 521,650,050.82. Additionally, settlement agreements had been signed with ER Industries International Energy Resources and Sahara Energy Resources DMCC to dismantle the outstanding debt. Negotiations were on-going with BB Energy and Othniel Brooks International Limited.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite the on-going negotiations with BB Energy and Othniel Brooks International Limited and resolves to await a comprehensive progress report on outstanding petroleum debt.

3.10.2 Questionable Decisions and Wasteful Expenditure

The Committee had resolved to await a report on the outcome of the investigations by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the ACC had not yet commenced investigations into the matter, as it was still awaiting a formal submission from the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry acknowledged the importance of this issue and was actively working to finalise and transmit the necessary documentation to facilitate the Commission's investigations.

The Committee was also informed that the Ministry remained committed to full cooperation with the ACC and would ensure that the required information was submitted without further delay. A progress report would be provided to the Committee once feedback from the Commission was received.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to expedite transmission of the necessary documentation to facilitate the Commission's investigations and resolves to await a progress report on the outcome of the investigations.

3.10.3 Wasteful Expenditure – Contract Termination Penalty: US\$7,157,625

The Committee had resolved to await a report on the outcome of the investigations.

In updating the Committee, the Executive submitted that the ACC had not yet commenced investigations into the matter, as it was still awaiting a formal submission from the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry acknowledged the importance of this issue and was actively working to finalise and transmit the necessary documentation to facilitate the Commission's investigations.

The Ministry was committed to fully cooperate with the ACC so as to ensure that the required information was submitted without further delay. A progress report would be provided to the Committee once feedback from the Commission was received.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the outcome of the investigations.

3.10.4 Unauthorised Contract Amendments

The Committee in the previous Session had resolved to await a progress report on the outcome of the investigations

The Executive submitted that the ACC had not yet commenced investigations into the matter, as it was still awaiting a formal submission from the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry

acknowledged the importance of this issue and was actively working to finalise and transmit the necessary documentation to facilitate the Commission's investigations.

The Ministry was committed to cooperating with the ACC to ensure that the required information was submitted without undue delay. A progress report would be provided to the Committee once feedback from the Commission was received.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes, with concern, the inordinate delay by the Ministry of Energy to finalise and transmit the necessary documentation to facilitate the Anti-Corruption Commission's investigations in unauthorised contract amendments. The Committee resolves to await a progress report.

3.10.5 Supply and Delivery of Commingled Feedstock -Sahara Energy Resources

The Committee had resolved to await a comprehensive progress report on the legal guidance from the Attorney General's Office and the action taken by TAZAMA Board on the failure by Intertek Testing Services to provide test results within the stipulated ten-day period.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that following a formal request from the Ministry of Energy, the Solicitor-General had rendered legal guidance on the matter concerning Intertek Testing Services. The opinion provided outlines, and a clear course of action aimed at resolving the issue and ensuring that all relevant stakeholders were appropriately advised.

In accordance with Government Gazette Notice No. 1123 of 2021, which assigned oversight of TAZAMA Pipelines Limited to the Ministry of Energy, the responsibility to act on the legal guidance and engage the TAZAMA Board lied with the Ministry. The Ministry of Justice had fulfilled its mandate by providing the necessary legal opinion, thereby addressing the matter from a legal standpoint.

The Ministry of Energy was reviewing the legal advice and coordinating with the TAZAMA Board to ensure appropriate action was taken regarding the failure by Intertek Testing Services to deliver test results within the stipulated timeframe. A comprehensive progress report would be submitted to the Committee once these engagements were concluded.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a comprehensive progress report on the engagements regarding the failure by Intertek Testing Services to deliver test results within the stipulated timeframe.

3.10.6 Failure to Conduct Due Diligence on Suppliers

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the outcome of the ACC's investigations.

In the Action Taken report, the Executive submitted that the ACC had not yet commenced investigations into the matter, as it was still awaiting a formal submission from the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry acknowledged the importance of this issue and was actively working to finalise and transmit the necessary documentation to facilitate the Commission's investigations.

The Ministry was committed to cooperating with the ACC in order to ensure that the required information was submitted without further delay. A progress report would be provided to the Committee once feedback from the Commission was received.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee expresses concern regarding the Ministry's delay to finalise and transmit the necessary documentation to enable the ACC commence investigations in the issue of not undertaking a due diligence before awarding a contract. The Committee resolves to await a progress report.

3.10.7 Failure to Recover Debts - K344,513,942

The Committee had resolved to await a comprehensive progress report on the status of recovery of debts from Oil Marketing Companies (OMC's).

In the Action Taken Report, the Committee was informed that of the seven OMCs that were owing, three of them had paid their debt and the matters were concluded. The following debts were still outstanding with four OMCs and their status was as follows:

- i. Kapesika Energy and Petroleum Limited, had a debt of K328,709,574. Trial in the matter had commenced but TAZAMA, being the 1st Plaintiff had made an application for Judgment on Admission. A date of hearing was yet to be issued;
- ii. Caliber Energy Limited, had a debt of K3,621,124.45. The matter was commenced and the defendant was served by way of substituted service but there had been no response. The State had applied for Judgment in Default and awaited a date of hearing; and
- iii. Midlands Zam-Mal Petroleum Oil Limited and Jaf Petroleum & Logistics Limited, had a debt of K1,083,946.00 and K321,227.00 respectively. After conducting a search in the registry, there appeared to be no record of these matters, however, the ministry had continued searching for the record.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes, with concern, the failure by the Ministry of Energy to find the records where Midlands Zam-Mal Petroleum Oil Limited and Jaf Petroleum & Logistics Limited, were owing K1,083,946.00 and K321,227.00 respectively. In this regard, the Committee resolves to await a comprehensive progress report on the status of recovery of debts from OMC's.

3.10.8 Excess Losses of Petroleum Products at Fuel Storage Depots - Loss of Petroleum Products - K138,760,375

The Committee had urged the Executive to ensure that ZMW 138,760,376.48, was paid by the agent to the Ministry and resolved to await a progress report.

In updating the Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Energy constituted a committee and reconciled the losses and re-verified the said amount. TAZAMA agreed to pay Government for the losses.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress on the payment of the losses by TAZAMA.

3.10.9 ERB (Strategic Reserve Funds) - Failure to Secure Title Deeds – Mansa and Chipata Depots

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on securing title deeds for the land on which Mansa and Chipata Fuel depots are constructed.

The Executive submitted that in order to secure title deeds for the Mansa Depot, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources had allocated a property number to the land where the depot was sitting as Stand Mansa/LN - 1001955/4. The land owner, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) had been advised to obtain a recommendation and Minutes from the Local Council and submit to the Ministry of Lands for issuance of the Offer Letter and subsequently Certificate of Title.

Further, with regards to the Chipata Depot, the property was still at planning stage with the Chipata Provincial Planning Authority. The property owner, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) was advised to follow up and secure planning approval from the Planning Authority. Once the property site plan was approved and submitted to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, then the property number, after which an Offer Letter would be issued upon submission of recommendations. This would then be followed by land survey and issuance of Certificate of Title.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on securing Title Deeds for the land on which Mansa and Chipata Fuel depots are constructed.

3.11 Construction of Fuel Depot in Lusaka

a) Irregular Direct Bidding

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the outcome of investigations by the ACC regarding the Irregular Direct Bidding of Gulf Stream International.

In its update to the Committee, the Executive submitted that the ACC had not yet commenced investigations into the matter, as it was still awaiting a formal submission from the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry acknowledged the importance of this issue and was actively working to finalise and transmit the necessary documentation to facilitate the Commission's investigations.

The Ministry, however, committed to fully cooperate with the ACC to ensure that the required information was submitted without undue delay. A progress report would be provided to the Committee once feedback from the Commission was received.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee expresses concern at the inordinate delay that the Ministry of Energy has taken to make a formal submission to the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate the irregular direct bidding. The Committee resolves to await a progress report.

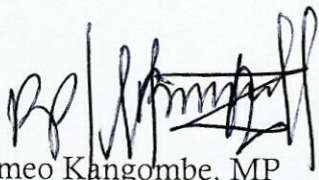
4.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee acknowledges that the human wildlife conflict situation in the country is escalating due to demographic growth, environmental pressures, habitat loss, and limited institutional capacity. Anthropogenic activities in GMA's such as construction and deforestation further shrink the natural buffer zones leading to frequent human wildlife interaction. The Committee also notes that the legal and policy framework has notable inadequacies, such as a lack of comprehensive provisions for preventive strategies. The Committee is therefore, of the view that with strengthened legal frameworks, increased staffing, improved equipment, enhanced land-use planning, and predictable financing mechanisms; Zambia can foster long-term co-existence between communities and wildlife that will provide a platform for both wildlife and humans to peacefully thrive. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Wildlife Act should be amended so as to enhance enforcement through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and facilitate for clearer guidelines that define what should be done within the General Management Plan and Land-Use Plan. Additionally, the amendment should also provide for penalties for non-compliance.

Further, the Committee recommends for enhanced use of modern methods of control such as GPS collars, ecological monitoring, incident mapping, and drone surveillance by DNPW and partners to anticipate animal movements and plan interventions. Furthermore, data-driven approaches that improve the targeting of mitigation efforts such as satellite imaging to track habitat changes and wildlife movement patterns, including statistical modeling to predict wildlife population trends and conflict hotspots, must be installed to enhance monitoring and early warning mechanisms.

Overall, successful mitigation of HWC in Zambia's GMAs is dependent on integrating community participation, adaptive land-use planning, practical deterrents, and effective

institutional response, ensuring that both human safety and wildlife conservation were supported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Romeo Kangombe', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Romeo Kangombe, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I - List of National Assembly Officials

Mr Stephen Chiwota, Director (FC)
Mr Geoffrey Zulu, Deputy Director (FC)
Ms Chitalu R Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk (FC)
Ms Media Hachombwa, Committee Clerk
Ms Eneless Njobvu, Administrative Assistant
Mr Danny Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant
Mr Muyembe Kantumoya, Committee Assistant
Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II - List of Witnesses

Ministry of Tourism
African Parks
Wildlife Procedures Association of Zambia
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
Copperbelt University – School of Natural Sciences
The House of Chiefs
Department of National Parks and Wildlife
National Heritage Conservation Commission