

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORT FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED ON 6TH OCTOBER, 2016

Consisting of:

Mr C Miyutu, MP (Chairperson); Mr E Singombe, MP; Mr P Kalobo, MP; Mr L N Tembo, MP; Mrs O M Phiri, MP; Mr C K Mwiinga, MP; Mr M Mutelo, MP; and Mr R Bulaya, MP.

The Honourable Mr Speaker
National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
LUSAKA

Sir,

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

Functions of the Committee

2.0 The functions of your Committee are to:

- a) study, report and make appropriate recommendations to the Government through the House on the mandate, management and operations of the Government ministries, departments and agencies under its portfolio;
- b) carry out detailed scrutiny of certain activities being undertaken by the Government ministries, departments and agencies under its portfolio and make appropriate recommendations to the House for ultimate consideration by the Government;
- c) make, if considered necessary, recommendations to the Government on the need to review certain policies and existing legislation;
- d) examine annual reports of the Government ministries and departments under its portfolio, in the context of the autonomy and efficiency of Government ministries and departments and determine whether the affairs of the said bodies are being managed according to relevant Acts of Parliament, established regulations, rules and general orders;
- e) consider any Bills that may be referred to it by the House;
- f) consider International Agreements and Treaties in accordance with Article 63 of the Constitution;
- g) consider special audit reports referred to it by the Speaker or an order of the House;
- h) where appropriate, hold public hearings on a matter under its consideration; and
- i) consider any matter referred to it by the Speaker or an order of the House.

Programme of Work and Meetings of the Committee

3.0 Your Committee carried out the following activities in line with its programme of work for the period under review:

- a) consideration of the Action-Taken Reports on the Committee's Report for the Fifth

- Session of the Eleventh National Assembly and on the Committee's Report on the Report of the Auditor General on the Youth Empowerment Programme of the Ministry of Youth and Sport for the Fifth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly;
- b) consideration of the topical issue on Youth Participation in the Decision-Making Process in Zambia;
 - c) conducting public hearings in Central, Copperbelt and North Western Provinces; and
 - d) consideration of the Committee's draft Report for the First Session of the Twelfth National Assembly.

In this regard, your Committee held sixteen meetings to execute its programme of work besides undertaking a benchmarking tour to Kenya.

Procedure adopted by the Committee

4.0 Your Committee requested detailed written memoranda on the topic under consideration from relevant stakeholders. The stakeholders also appeared before your Committee and made oral submissions. During the public hearings, youth organisations and the general public were invited to present their views on the topic under consideration.

Report of the Committee

5.0 Your Committee's Report is in three parts. Part I highlights the findings of your Committee on Youth Participation in the Decision-Making Process in Zambia. Part II reviews the Action-Taken Report on the Report of your Committee for the Fifth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly, while Part III reviews the Action-Taken Report on the Report of your Committee on Youth and Sport on the Report of the Auditor General on the Youth Empowerment Programme of the Ministry of Youth and Sport for the Fifth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly.

PART I

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN ZAMBIA

Background

6.0 Young people have a stake in the affairs of the State and can, therefore, legitimately hold the State and its decision makers accountable for their decisions and performance. This calls for their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, which can be facilitated through various opportunities. Such opportunities will ensure that the youth have influence over policy decisions and strategies that deal with issues directly affecting them.

According to the 2015 National Youth Policy, the youth constitute 36.7 percent of Zambia's population. However, it has been noted that the youth in Zambia have faced challenges in getting involved in any developmental activities in their communities and have been unable to meaningfully participate in decision-making on issues that directly or indirectly affect them. As a result, the programmes developed without the participation of the youth do not enjoy their support as they are unresponsive to the needs of the youth.

It is against this background that your Committee resolved to undertake a study on Youth Participation in the Decision-Making Process in Zambia with the broader objective of reviewing the status of youth participation, the challenges and opportunities associated with it, and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive on how to address the plight of the youth through enhanced youth participation in decision-making processes.

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

- i) ActionAid Zambia;
- ii) Caritas Zambia;
- iii) Common Grounds Network;
- iv) Ministry of General Education;
- v) Ministry of Higher Education;
- vi) Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development;
- vii) National Sports Council of Zambia;
- viii) National Youth Development Council;
- ix) Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council;
- x) Restless Development Zambia;
- xi) The United Nations;
- xii) University of Zambia Students Union;
- xiii) Young Men's Christian Association;
- xiv) Youth Alive Zambia;
- xv) Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities;
- xvi) Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations; and
- xvii) Zambia Governance Foundation.

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDERS' SUBMISSIONS

The meaning of youth participation

6.1 Your Committee was informed that effective youth participation in the decision-making process was about creating and fostering opportunities for young people to be involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to policy and the development of services and programmes. Therefore, youth participation entailed strengthening a culture where young people's opinions and contributions were recognised, valued and acted upon by the wider society.

Your Committee learnt that there were three principles underpinning youth participation as explained below.

- i) *Empowerment***, which is about young people having greater control over their lives through participation.
- ii) *Purposeful engagement***, which is about young people taking on valued roles, addressing issues that are relevant to them, and influencing real outcomes.
- iii) *Inclusiveness***, which is about ensuring that all young people are able to participate.

The policy and legal framework governing the participation of youth in the decision-making process

6.2 Your Committee learnt that there was a regional and national policy framework that ensured the promotion of youth participation in the decision-making process. At the regional level, the African Youth Charter (AYC) was adopted in 2006, by the African Heads of State and Government. Zambia was one of the twenty-eight (28) Member States that had ratified the AYC. The African Youth Charter served as a strategic framework that gave direction for youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels. It aimed at strengthening, reinforcing and consolidating efforts to empower young people through meaningful youth participation and equal partnership.

With regard to the legal framework at national level, your Committee was informed that the Constitution of Zambia provides for citizens' participation in political processes such as vying for the office of a Councillor, Member of Parliament and Presidency. In addition, the *National Youth Development Council Act*, Chapter 144 of the Laws of Zambia was enacted to provide the legislative framework necessary for the youth and youth entities to fulfil their role and address youth challenges. The Act establishes the National Youth Development Council (NYDC) and also regulates its functions. Therefore, the Council contributes to the promotion of youth participation in the decision-making processes in Zambia.

Your Committee learnt too that there were a number of other pieces of legislation that touched on youth participation such as the *Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission Act, No.9 of 2006* and the *Persons with Disabilities Act, No.6 of 2012*.

The *Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission Act, No.9 of 2006*, creates and mandates the *Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission* to promote the economic empowerment of citizens through ownership of productive assets, skills development, access to finance, preferential procurement and the fostering of a business and entrepreneurial culture to promote socio-economic equalities.

At policy level, your Committee was informed that the 2015 National Youth Policy sought to ensure youth participation at all levels of public and private sector planning, and in political decision-making bodies through close cooperation between the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Its overall objective is to promote the participation of youths in national development. To achieve this, the policy sought to provide an enabling environment that developed the potential and desire of the youth to participate in matters that affected them. In this regard, the National Youth Policy was cardinal in ensuring youth participation in the decision-making process in Zambia.

In addition, the Action Plan for Youth Empowerment and Employment had been devised as a tool for the implementation of the National Youth Policy provisions into actionable units. The Plan set out priorities among competing actions and resources critical to the realisation of the National Youth Policy objectives. The Plan's major goal was to boost employment opportunities for young women and men. It was hoped that the empowerment of young people realised through employment creation would facilitate and enhance their participation in the decision-making process in Zambia.

The benefits of youth participation in the decision-making process

6.3 The stakeholders highlighted a number of benefits including the ones outlined below.

- i) Youth participation promoted ownership and sustainability of interventions among the youth. Furthermore, youth participation led to better decisions and outcomes as young people had a body of experience unique to their situation, and they had views and ideas that they derived from their experiences. This entailed that the involvement of young people in decision-making processes brought in a dimension of views that would otherwise be missed if the young people were not consulted.
- ii) Meaningful youth access to information and participation in decision-making processes gave young people a say. Young people brought useful perspectives, skills, energy, qualities and experiences that were unique to their situation, which meant that they could play an active role in development. It also led to increased understanding of the youth's real issues, rather than perceived ones.
- iii) Research had shown that young people who were supported to participate in decision-making were more likely to have increased confidence and self-belief, exercise positive career choices and had greater involvement and responsibility in the future.
- iv) Youth participation strengthened a commitment to, and understanding of human rights and democracy. The youth needed opportunities to learn what their rights and duties were, how their freedom was limited by the rights and freedoms of others, and how their actions could affect the rights of others. They needed opportunities to participate in democratic decision-making processes within schools and local communities, and to learn to abide by subsequent decisions that were made.
- v) Youth participation in decision-making processes increased the levels of efficacy. When the youth spoke for themselves in national and international meetings, the impact was much greater than when the same arguments were made by an adult on their behalf. Thus, youth voices had greater potential to compel policy makers to become more accountable towards service delivery because they were based on lived experiences. Allowing the youth to participate on matters that affected them also contributed to justice for the youth in that it enabled them to enjoy their right to speak on matters that concerned them as guaranteed in the national Constitution.
- vi) Youth participation in decision-making processes led to empowerment of the youth by way of asserting their capacity to challenge the underlying structures of domination. By challenging the dominant cultural beliefs and politics of privilege that perceived the youth as mere objects of socialisation, the youth could gain recognition and respect from adults.

Strategies used in ensuring youth participation in the decision making process

6.4 The stakeholders pointed out the strategies used in ensuring youth participation as outlined below.

- i) The Government had established the National Youth Development Council to serve as a platform for the youth to voice their concerns.
- ii) Involving the youth in technical committees for specific tasks such as the development or review of the National Youth Policy.
- iii) Promoting the provision of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services that met the specific needs of the youth.

- iv) Advocating for the mainstreaming of youth issues in all Government and private sector programmes.
- v) Facilitating the participation of the youth in national and international youth fora.
- vi) Empowering the youth with resources to engage in income generating activities.
- vii) Providing the youth with information on issues that affected their lives such as sexual reproductive health. The information provided enabled young people to make informed decisions on their sexuality and was often done in collaboration with partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- viii) Providing the youth with timely feedback about the decision-making process and how their input was used.

The opportunities that exist for the youth to participate in the decision-making process

6.5 Your Committee was informed that Zambia presented a number of opportunities which the youth could take advantage of in terms of participation in decision-making. These included participation in the general elections. The youth could also play a vital role at both Parliamentary and Local Government level, if elected to occupy some of these offices. Furthermore, the many legal and policy reviews that were conducted in the country presented another opportunity for the youth to shape the legal and policy environment from a youth perspective.

Some stakeholders were of the view that there were limited opportunities and inadequate support from the Government to youth led organisations. This had negatively affected the youth, who in most cases ended up being used as tools for violence by some political leaders. Further, some stakeholders submitted that there were also no clear youth leadership programmes for the youth, especially by the Government, which could help the youth to start engaging in decision-making at different levels.

The challenges affecting youth participation in the decision making process

6.6 The stakeholders pointed out some of the challenges outlined below.

- i) An inadequate or weak legislative framework guiding youth development in the country. The *National Youth Development Council Act* no longer answered to the changing needs of young people as it had become out-dated.
- ii) The National Youth Development Council was inadequately funded for it to carry out effective youth development work.
- iii) The youth had inadequate information on available opportunities and procedures to follow in accessing the available youth programmes. In addition, there were high civic illiteracy levels especially among the rural youth, which impeded them from actively participating in decision-making processes. There was also limited access to information and communication technology tools especially for persons with disabilities.
- iv) The weak financial position of many youths impeded their participation in the decision-making process. The youth with disabilities were further disadvantaged by their physical and intellectual impairments.
- v) Poor education and training: The education system often failed to prepare young people adequately to participate in decision-making. Despite going through the education system, some of the youth did not develop the necessary analytical skills for critical thinking or problem-solving through participatory, active learning. In some cases the youth were given the opportunity to participate in decision-making without ensuring that

they received adequate training or were provided with the appropriate information that would enable them to make informed decisions. As regards the persons with disabilities, there was inadequate access to quality and affordable education for them.

- vi) There was inadequate skills development training and up skilling of the youth in different disciplines.
- vii) Weak infrastructure and systems: Young people had inadequate direct access to institutional systems and structures within Government, the media and private and civil society sectors. This severely impeded their ability to advocate for their rights.

Stakeholders' suggestions on how to promote and ensure youth participation in the decision-making process

6.7 The stakeholders made the recommendations on the way forward to promote and ensure youth participation in the decision-making process as highlighted below.

- i) There is need to promote civic education at both school and community levels, and conduct sensitisation programmes on youth participation. This will increase awareness among the youths of their right to participate in local decision-making processes and strengthen the urban and rural youth groups ability to influence decision makers.
- ii) The youth should have a voice in national and community programmes and be transformed from beneficiaries to partners and resources for programmes. The inclusion of the voice of the youth in the design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of strategies, policies and programmes and, in the drafting of laws that affect them, through consultation processes could enhance youth participation in decision making processes.
- iii) The Government should develop youth participation structures that are open, transparent and not aligned to political parties. This will enhance formal youth representation in decision-making processes.
- iv) A law should be put in place to compel all political parties to field a certain percentage of youth candidates as Members of Parliament to guarantee a minimum level of youth representation in Parliament through the quota system.
- v) The Youth Parliament should be held to ensure that there is a strong national platform where the youth could participate in decision-making processes.
- vi) Youth audits should be undertaken to ensure that relevant ministries' plans and budgets respond to the developmental needs of young people.
- vii) Youth development should have robust coordination at all levels, that is, national, provincial, District, constituency and ward levels. The coordination platforms should bring together the Government and stakeholders, with an acknowledgement that the youth are a major human resource for development and are key agents for social change, economic growth, and technological innovation.
- viii) There is an urgent need to allocate more funds to all youth programmes, including the Youth Development Fund, which are aimed at improving the economic and social wellbeing of the youth in Zambia. This includes increasing the financial support to the National Youth Development Council.
- ix) There is need to include youth with disabilities in all mainstream development efforts run by the Government, that target the youth.
- x) The Ministry of Labour and Social Security should develop a deliberate policy to reserve some jobs in every working place for the youth with disabilities.

TOUR REPORT ON THE PUBLIC HEARINGS CONDUCTED IN KABWE, NDOLA AND SOLWEZI

6.8 As part of its programme of work, your Committee conducted public hearings in Kabwe, Ndola and Solwezi on the subject of Youth Participation in the Decision-Making Process in Zambia.

The main objective of the public hearings was to engage the youth on issues that affected them, specifically focusing on the following:

- i. the views of the youth on whether the youth in Zambia have opportunities to participate in decision-making processes and examples of some of these opportunities ;
- ii. the ways in which the youth can participate in decision-making processes in a practical and meaningful way; and
- iii. the challenges that affect meaningful youth participation.

The attendance at the public hearings was as outlined below.

Attendance at Public Hearings

Town	Number of People in Attendance
Kabwe	150
Ndola	95
Solwezi	187

The findings of your Committee arising from the public hearings are set out below.

Whether the youth in Zambia have opportunities to participate in decision-making processes and examples of some of these opportunities

6.8.1 The views of the participants on the availability of opportunities in decision-making processes are presented below.

- i) The members of the public informed your Committee that it appeared there were a number of opportunities for youths to participate in decision-making processes. However, they were quick to point out that there was no evidence to show that these opportunities had resulted in widespread and effective participation of young people in decision-making processes. This was evidenced by the low levels of youths occupying leadership positions in political and social organisations.
- ii) It was further observed that the youth were not adequately represented in decision-making processes and they were not even consulted on issues that affected them directly such as public policy decisions.
- iii) The participants also contended that youth participation was not the focus of the Government as it had tended to promote the gender perspective much more than youth participation.

The ways in which the youth can participate in decision-making processes in a practical and meaningful way

6.8.2 The members of the public expressed the views presented below.

- i) The members of the public felt that there was need to genuinely recognise youths as partners in development and give them real opportunities to take part in decisions that affected them.
- ii) The members of the public stated that creating space in political parties for youths to compete for reserved elective positions would be one practical way of promoting youth participation in decision-making processes.
- iii) The participants stated that taking on board the views of the youth in all decisions that had a direct bearing on them would be another demonstration of meaningful youth participation.

The challenges that affect meaningful youth participation

6.8.3 The participants highlighted the challenges set out hereunder.

- i. There was lack of political will to involve the youth in public policy processes.
- ii. The youth faced economic challenges due to youth unemployment and the failure of the Youth Empowerment Programme to provide loans to the youth through the Youth Development Fund.
- iii. There were inadequate formal structures for the engagement of the youth in decision-making processes at all levels.
- iii. The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development had inadequate staff to provide services to youths and attend to youth issues. They argued that this had led to the youth having inadequate information on issues that directly affected them as there was no sensitisation conducted on various youth issues. It was further argued that the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development was not user friendly as it did not maintain an open door policy.

Concerns raised by the participants

6.8.4 The participants who attended the public hearings raised the concerns set out below.

- i. The participants were concerned that the youth were required to have experience in their chosen career when looking for employment and sometimes business opportunities, without consideration of their actual situation.
- ii. Another concern raised was that the youth faced challenges in obtaining the national Identity card, the National Registration Card, due to the cumbersome registration process.
- iii. The participants raised concerns that there were no recreation facilities such as play parks in communities to keep the youth from engaging in vices such as alcohol abuse.
- iv. A concern was raised that the process of acquiring bursaries for university education for school leavers was cumbersome, especially for the rural youth. The participants suggested that the process should be decentralised.
- v. The youth specifically raised concern on the revised retirement age of sixty-five (65) years. They contended that the retirement age had disadvantaged them in that older citizens would overstay on jobs.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.9 Having interacted with the various stakeholders and taking into consideration, the findings from the public hearings, your Committee's observations and recommendations are set out hereunder.

- i) Your Committee observes that the youth have inadequate information on the available opportunities for youth participation. Where the opportunities are identified, the youth have challenges with the procedures and processes for accessing and utilising the opportunities.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should partner with the relevant stakeholders and conduct massive sensitisation and education on the available opportunities, or whenever such opportunities occur through Government programmes and ensure that the youth participate and their input is considered. For example, the youth must be informed and sensitised whenever there is development and review of policies and legislation that directly or indirectly affect them such as the re- entry policy and the review of the school curriculum.

- ii) There are inadequate formalised structures such as the Development Coordinating Committees that promote youth participation in decision making processes. This has negatively affected the promotion of youth participation in decision making processes.

Your Committee recommends that in order to seriously address the inadequate participation of the youth in decision-making processes, the Government should develop formalised structures that promote youth participation such as the establishment of a Youth Parliament. The Government should then sensitise the youth and other stakeholders on the existence of such formal structures and encourage them to participate in decision making processes through such structures.

- iii) There is low participation of the youth in the political processes that ultimately open opportunities for participation in the decision-making processes at local and national levels. This is evidenced by the few young parliamentarians below the age of thirty-five (35), currently there are five (5) in the House. In order to promote youth participation in political processes, the Government should enact a law to guarantee a minimum level of youth representation in the House by the parties represented in Parliament.

- iv) Your Committee concurs with the stakeholders that the education curriculum has failed to adequately train and prepare young people to utilise opportunities for participation in decision-making processes and national development. It seems that the education system does not adequately answer to the labour market needs and appears to be skewed more towards theory than practical vocational training that enables one to acquire practical skills such as business entrepreneurship.

Your Committee urges the Government to consider revising the education curriculum to tailor it towards acquisition of labour market appropriate skills and also to provide

more practical skills that enable the youth to survive even without formal employment.

- v) Your Committee notes with dismay, the operational challenges being experienced at the National Youth Development Council. The Council currently has no board and cannot, therefore, perform its functions effectively. Further, the Council does not employ adequate youths to work with the older generation of professionals in order to champion issues that affect them.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should give this matter the urgency it deserves and appoint a board to ensure the smooth operation of the NYDC and the promotion of youth participation. The NYDC should further employ capable qualified youth to work side by side with other non-youth professionals to effectively champion youth issues.

- vi) Your Committee bemoans the high unemployment levels among the youth, both formal and non formal. Those that dare to even apply for employment, are discriminated against through the requirement of work experience of a specified number of years. This impedes their participation in decision-making in the private and public sector since employment is among the avenues for youth participation in decision making processes and national development.

Your Committee recommends that in order to address this challenge faced by the youth, the Government should prioritise employment creation in both the formal and informal sectors. In addition, the Government should abolish and legislate against the requirement of experience for jobs, except in exceptional circumstances, and instead develop an internship policy that enhances internship opportunities and encourages training on the job.

- vii) Your Committee is concerned with the absence of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development structures in the districts and consequently, the non-provision of services to many youths. This tends to marginalise the youth, who fail to seize the few opportunities available for youth participation due to lack of information.

Your Committee urges the Government to employ the relevant staff in all the districts to provide services to the youth so that they are informed on a variety of issues including their participation in decision-making processes.

- viii) There are inadequate recreation and sports facilities in many communities. This situation impacts negatively on the youth as they have nothing to attract their attention away from vices such as alcohol abuse and prostitution.

Your Committee recommends that the Government through the local authorities should ensure that they provide recreation and sports facilities in communities.

- ix) The youth are not empowered with land for them to contribute to national development through agriculture.

Your Committee urges the Government to secure land in each district to resettle the youth who are willing to engage in agriculture. The land should be protected from being sold off and should be repossessed and re-distributed if not developed within a specified period of time

- x) The youth with disabilities are affected by more challenges than their able bodied colleagues such as discrimination in employment opportunities due to disability.

Your Committee recommends that the Government takes keen interest in the plight of youth with disabilities by ensuring that they too have equal access to education and employment opportunities through provision of affordable education and affirmative action on employment of persons with disabilities.

REPORT ON THE FOREIGN TOUR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

7.0 Your Committee undertook a study visit to Kenya from 14th to 19th May, 2017. Kenya was chosen for the benchmarking visit because it has made strides towards enhancing youth participation for development, including the establishment of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and the National Youth Service. Specifically, your Committee wished to:

- i) understand the Government's policies and programmes on youth participation in decision making processes;
- ii) appreciate the successes of Kenya regarding youth participation in decision-making processes; and
- ii) appreciate the various challenges affecting youth participation, if any, and establish what is being done to overcome the challenges.

In this regard, your Committee visited and interacted with the following institutions:

- i) Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs;
- ii) Ministry of Sports, Culture and Arts;
- iii) Kenya National Youth Service;
- iv) Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association; and
- v) the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST).

The findings of your Committee are set out below.

General overview

7.1 Your Committee learnt that according to the Constitution of Kenya, the youth are those aged between eighteen to thirty-five (18-35) years. About 75 percent of Kenya's population is below thirty-five (35) years of age. In this regard, Kenya's population is considered 'young'. This youthful population has benefited Kenya in a number of ways. They have raised the Kenyan flag especially through sports and arts. However, this young population presents the Government with the major challenge of youth unemployment, which accounts for 69 percent of the total unemployed population aged fifteen (15) to sixty-four (64) years.

This unemployment situation further impacts negatively as it leads to dependence and makes the youth vulnerable to vices such as radicalisation, crime and sexual and reproductive health challenges. Furthermore, 90 percent of the unemployed youth have no vocational skills or training.

In addition, the participation and consultation of young people in key decision-making processes on national issues is dismally low. This has robbed the youth of their right to participate in all spheres of life.

The Government of Kenya's current focus to encourage youth participation in decision-making processes through empowerment

7.2 The Government has been focusing on the measures outlined below.

i) Increased voice, participation and leadership opportunities for the youth

This has been mainly through the strengthening of the National Youth Council and promoting the engagement of the youth in inclusive political processes and democratic practices.

ii) Increased livelihoods and economic opportunities for the youth

This is especially undertaken through the promotion of an entrepreneurship culture among the youth and increasing access to business development services, among others, such as micro credit services.

iii) Increased social and community opportunities for the youth

The youth are engaged in peace building, social cohesion and community services programmes and formation of cooperatives and empowerment groups. Youth participation in leadership at all levels is also promoted.

iv) Increased opportunities in art and culture, and sports

This is realised through the tapping, development and promotion of youth talent in creative arts and sports.

Specific Government policy measures

7.3 The policy measures outlined below were highlighted as some of the main policies being implemented to ensure that the youth are empowered and participate in decision-making processes effectively.

i) Establishment of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) is a Government institution that provides financial support and business development services to youth owned enterprises. It was established by the Government of Kenya in 2006. The vision of the YEDF is “to increase economic opportunities for, and participation by, Kenyan youth in nation building through enterprise development and strategic partnerships.”

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund operates as a state corporation under the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs and is 100 percent funded by the Government. Your Committee was informed that other than taking policy directives from the supervising Ministry, the Fund operates independently and that this has helped to ensure that the Fund is corruption free and not abused by politicians.

Why the Youth Enterprise Development Fund was established

Your Committee was informed that the Fund was established as a response to the request by the young people to establish the Fund in order to:

- a) address the challenge of youth unemployment in the country;
- b) create employment opportunities for young people through entrepreneurship;
- c) encourage the youth to be job creators, not job seekers; and
- d) overcome the challenges facing youth owned enterprises.

The beneficiaries are the youth aged eighteen (18) to thirty-four (34) years, who are:

- a) intending to start businesses;
- b) running businesses and wish to expand;
- c) looking for markets and other business development services; and
- d) looking for jobs abroad.

Accessibility of services

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund has thirteen (13) regional offices across the country, in an effort to enhance service delivery and presence at the grass roots. There is an officer in every constituency who helps the youth to form groups, takes them through the application process, and provides business advisory services. The officers have been provided with motorbikes to enable them reach all parts of their respective constituencies.

Progress on the Fund

The achievements set out below were highlighted.

- a. The Fund has advanced loans worth Ksh. 11.9 Billion to 904,830 youth enterprises across the country.
- b. 380,000 enterprises have been trained in entrepreneurship.
- c. 4,837 young entrepreneurs have been facilitated to market their products both locally and abroad through trade fairs.
- d. 25,000 youth have been facilitated to get jobs abroad through the Youth Employment Scheme Abroad programme.
- e. 353 youth entrepreneurs have been facilitated to secure trading spaces and business incubation services.
- f. Loan repayment is at 85 percent, on average.

Challenges of the Fund

The following challenges were highlighted:

- a) lack of entrepreneurial skills among many of the young people. The Fund has invested a lot of time and money in preparing the youth before they can be advanced loans;
- b) the Fund still experiences loan defaults, mainly as a result of lending to a risky clientele. This reduces the money available for lending; and
- c) some parts of Kenya have inadequate financial infrastructure, inhibiting disbursement and repayment.

ii) The Kenya National Youth Service

The National Youth Service (NYS) was established by an Act of Parliament in April, 1964. It had deteriorated in the past, however, the Government revamped it in 2013. Its mandate is to facilitate training of the youth with a focus on employment and to develop a sense of responsibility, service to the nation, promotion of discipline, citizenship, cooperation and national cohesion.

Currently, the NYS recruits about 30,000 youths annually, aged between eighteen (18) and twenty-two (22). The recruitment is not compulsory. The youth undergo four (4) months mandatory basic paramilitary training, which is weaponless. They are then trained in various skills, and prepared for service in national duties, such as armed forces, national reconstruction and disaster response and community development programmes.

The institution is headquartered in Nairobi and has presence in twenty-two (22) field stations spread all over the country. The mission of the NYS is “to discipline and empower youth through training to effectively participate in national development.”

Its activities cover the high potential areas, the arid and semi-arid regions and critical national issues such as food security.

Benefits of the programme to the youth and the community

Your Committee was informed that the programme has:

- a) increased the number of youth engaged in productive activities, including small business start-ups;
- b) inculcated a savings culture among the youth;
- c) reduced crime rates by over 80 percent;
- d) reduced alcohol and drug abuse;
- e) inculcated a sense of responsibility among the youth;
- f) increased income among the youth and women;
- g) improved livelihoods;
- h) improved health and sanitation conditions; and
- i) reduced exposure to radicalization and extremism.

The Service is currently operating under a Five (5) Point Vision Strategy, as outlined below.

a) Paramilitary training and service regimentation

The National Youth Service (NYS) recruits and undertakes four months mandatory basic paramilitary training for 30,000 youths every year. The paramilitary training is weaponless.

The youth are recruited from all constituencies across the country. About 52,005 youth have been recruited into NYS since 2013, compared to 4,200 per year previously.

b) National Service and youth re-socialisation

The youth, who are also referred to as service men/women, are transited into the second pillar of National Service upon pass out. There are three components where they are deployed namely; the NYS field stations, youth empowerment programme (YEP) and public duty.

Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP).

The servicemen/women are deployed to constituencies to disciple community youth engaged in the YEP. Your Committee learnt that 122,032 community youth in one hundred and thirty-four (134) constituencies have been engaged since 2013.

The community youth are paid five hundred and twenty-one Kenya Shillings (Kshs. 521) per day, of which one hundred and forty-one Kenya Shillings (Kshs. 141) goes to savings, fifty Kenya Shillings (Kshs. 50) is used to pay for food and the balance of three hundred and thirty Kenya Shillings (Kshs.330) is paid as wages to the youth through mobile money platforms.

The projects under the youth empowerment programme include informal settlements, civil works such as ablution blocks, clinics, police posts; constituency interventions such as water pans, boreholes, vector control; and youth livelihood projects such as bee keeping, livestock rearing and greenhouse farming.

c) Social transformation and vocational training

The pillar has two components namely the technical and vocational training and the social transformation training. After National Service, the youth are then transited to this pillar for technical and vocational training.

d) Enterprise development

This pillar aims at creating an enterprise and youth economy among the youth in the community. The specific objective is to inculcate a savings culture and establish youth cooperatives (SACCOs). The youth form and register SACCOs and access SACCO savings as credit for small scale businesses such as waste management and hospitality and sanitation business. They can also take up job placement in the NYS Public Duty Unit.

e) Bankable institutional architecture

This pillar concerns itself with the sustainability of the NYS through measures such as the commercialisation of selected NYS activities.

iii) The Access to Government Procurement Opportunities Policy

The access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) initiative was launched in 2012, by the Government of Kenya. It is an affirmative action whose main objective is to empower the youth, women and persons with disabilities-owned enterprises by, giving them more opportunities to do business with the Government.

In this regard, 30 percent of Government tenders are set aside for the youth, women and people with disabilities. To qualify, an enterprise owned by youth, women or persons with disabilities has to be a legal entity that is registered with the relevant Government body and has at least 70 percent membership of youth, women or persons with disabilities and the leadership has to be 100 percent youth, women and persons with disabilities, respectively.

iv) **Promotion of participation and representation**

Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya states that:

“the State shall take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth— (a) access relevant education and training; (b) have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; (c) access employment; and (d) are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.”

COMMITTEE’S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.4 Your Committee’s observations and recommendations are set out hereunder.

- i) Your Committee notes the efforts of the Government of Kenya to empower the youth through the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). It further notes the impressive culture of loans repayment by the beneficiaries as about 85 percent of the loans are repaid. This has been attributed to a number of factors. The loans are contracted mainly by groups of youth and are co-guaranteed by the group. There is also clearance from the Credit Reference Bureau and the Fund also undertakes pre-disbursement training to the beneficiaries in order to build their capacity in entrepreneurial skills.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee urges the Government to consider adopting some of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund’s success factors in order to save the Zambia Youth Development Fund from collapsing due to the non-repayment of loans, and ensure its sustainability.

- ii) Your Committee particularly observes that the Youth Enterprise Development Fund has been delinked from the supervising Ministry and operates as a state corporation with its own Board of Directors. Your Committee agrees with the Kenyan stakeholders’ observation that this semi-autonomous status contributes to ensuring that the Fund is free of political interference.

For this reason, your Committee recommends that the Government of Zambia should delink the Zambia Youth Development Fund from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development and allow the Fund to be managed professionally. The Ministry should remain in charge of policy direction only. This might help to get rid of the impression that has been created among the stakeholders that the Fund is mainly accessed by youth groups that have connections with the ruling party.

- iii) The Kenya National Youth Service programme is able to keep the youth away from the street, provide technical and vocational training and engage them in productive activities. One would also argue that the programme has been accepted by the youth,

considering that 30,000 youths are voluntarily recruited annually.

Your Committee is alive to the fact that a compulsory national service programme existed in Zambia before. However, your Committee is of the view that, perhaps, it is time to consider a non-compulsory programme with similar objectives to the Kenya NYS, but adapted to the Zambian situation. This will provide an opportunity for the prospective youth to acquire education and training in vocational skills and improve the chances to be employed. In considering this option, the Government must ensure comprehensive stakeholder consultation in order to come up with an informed position that is widely accepted.

- iv) Kenya has legislation targeted at ensuring that the youth and other groups are represented in Parliament and participate in all spheres of life, among other things. The Constitution of Kenya explicitly provides for the State to take measures to ensure youth and other groups are represented in Parliament and participate in all spheres of life, among other things. In addition to Article 55 quoted in paragraph 7.3(iv), Article 100 provides that:

*“Parliament shall enact legislation to promote the representation in Parliament of—
(a) women; (b) persons with disabilities; (c) youth; (d) ethnic and other minorities;
and (e) marginalised communities.”*

Article 98 (1) provides for the Membership of the Senate, of which two members should represent the youth.

Your Committee believes that this level of formalisation of provisions to ensure youth participation in the political processes is necessary in order to guarantee youth participation in Zambia, especially that the Zambian youth have complained that there are no formalised structures to promote and ensure youth participation in decision-making processes.

Your Committee also notes that the Constitution of Zambia may not have provisions specifically targeting the youth. However, it is aware that Article 69 of the Constitution of Zambia provides for the President to nominate some Members of Parliament.

In this regard, your Committee urges the Office of the Presidency to take into consideration the issue of youth representation in Parliament, whenever the President makes nominations of the eight Members of Parliament, in accordance with Article 69 of the Constitution of Zambia.

- v) Your Committee also appreciates the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) policy being implemented by the Government of Kenya as affirmative action to empower the youth owned enterprises, among others. The policy gives youth owned enterprises more opportunities to do business with the Government.

In order to promote youth empowerment and ensure that youth owned enterprises are nurtured to realise their full potential, your Committee urges the Government to consider piloting this policy with selected services. The pilot will then inform the

decision on whether or not to adopt the policy and implement it in full and adapt it to the Zambian situation.

PART II

CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

8.0 Your Committee noted the responses by the Executive to the recommendations made in the previous report. While noting the responses, your Committee resolved to follow-up the issues presented below.

The Effectiveness of the Juvenile Justice System in Zambia

8.1 Your previous Committee had observed that the inadequate funding towards programmes for juveniles had resulted in the number of challenges the portfolio was facing and recommended that the Government should prioritise and increase funding to the juvenile justice system. This should include full commitment towards the timely releases of the funds budgeted for.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Government was still in the process of seeing how best funding could be increased to the juvenile justice system.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee requests an update on how far the process of increasing funding to the juvenile justice system has gone.

8.2 Your previous Committee had recommended that as a matter of urgency, the Government should review the *Juveniles Act* in order to include pre-trial diversion as an alternative to trial. Diversion must not be at the discretion of the court, but must be an option at every stage of the trial.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry of Justice was in the process of drafting the Children's Code Bill under which a review of the *Juveniles Act* was being undertaken, including providing for diversion.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the process of drafting the Children's Code Bill and the review of the *Juveniles Act*. Your Committee further requests a time frame within which this exercise will be completed.

8.3 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should roll-out the construction of child correctional centres in each province in order to reduce the cost of transporting child offenders and for easy access to the facilities. In addition, the Government should ensure that all the child correctional centres are run by one Ministry, the Ministry of

Community Development and Social Welfare, which currently manages two of the three existing centres.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare was committed to improving the infrastructure in the correctional centres for juveniles in Zambia. The Ministry had embarked on an exercise to renovate its correctional centres that is, Insakwe Approved School for girls in Ndola and Nakambala Approved School for Boys in Mazabuka. So far, there had been a facelift at the two centres and the conditions had relatively improved. Further, the Ministry constructed a guest wing at Nakambala Approved School, and was in the process of constructing a brick wall to protect the premises from being encroached on by the surrounding communities. Further, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare was working with UNICEF to enhance the programmes being provided to juveniles and their general welfare. With regard to the construction of new correctional centres for juveniles, the Ministry had not yet commenced the works due to budgetary constraints.

The Executive acknowledged and appreciated the recommendation by your Committee for all the correctional centres for juveniles to be under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare. It was noted that this would facilitate effective coordination of all programmes for juveniles in correctional centres. However, the administration of correctional centres for juveniles was in accordance with the *Juveniles Act*, Chapter 53 of the Laws of Zambia under the Ministry of Home Affairs, currently, and as such Katombora Reformatory School was run by the Zambia Correctional Services. The Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare only seconded staff (Social Welfare Officers) to provide psychosocial counselling and guidance to juveniles. The Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare was yet to engage the Zambia Correctional Services on the possibility of having correctional centres run by one Ministry.

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Zambia Law Development Commission, had finalised and reviewed all the child related legislation to enhance the protection of children from all forms of abuse and maltreatment. Therefore, recommendations were made to ensure that the revised Act had provisions for correctional centres for Juveniles to be administered by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare with support from other line Ministries, including the Zambia Correctional Services through the Board. Further, the Ministry recommended for the introduction of diversion programmes in the Children Code Bill to reduce the number of juveniles placed in correctional centres. It was, therefore, necessary that the enactment of a Children's Act be accelerated to enhance effective dispensation of child justice in Zambia.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee still urges the Government to construct child correctional centres in all the provinces.

8.4 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should undertake a national study on the juvenile justice system, with the view to having baseline data for subsequent planning and monitoring of the juvenile justice system.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that in 2000, the Government through the Ministry of Justice commissioned a study on the juvenile justice system in Zambia, which resulted in the establishment of Juvenile Justice Forum. In 2005, another study was undertaken to update the 2000 Situation Analysis on the juvenile Justice administration. Another study to update the 2005 Situation Analysis on the Juvenile Justice Forum was expected to be undertaken before the end of 2016. The study was expected to analyse what was currently obtaining in the administration of Juvenile Justice with the view of coming up with the necessary interventions to improve the administration of justice among the Juveniles in the country. A national study was yet to be conducted, but as a preliminary measure, the Government through UNICEF bought Occurrence Books, which were meant to separate the information of adult offenders from juvenile offenders. In addition, the Government had put in place measures to enhance the continued separation of data between adult offenders and juvenile offenders in correctional facilities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on whether the 2016 study on the juvenile justice system was undertaken and what its findings were.

8.5 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should transform the Social Workers Association of Zambia into a legal body to enable the Association to effectively regulate the standard of training and practice of the profession in the country.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the transformation of the Social Workers Association of Zambia into a legal body was long overdue. The Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Social Workers Association in Zambia, had made tremendous progress. A draft Bill was in place and ready for submission to Cabinet for approval in principle, to commence consultations with stakeholders. Further, the Government had put in place stringent measures, such as regular supervision of staff in the Ministry to reduce malpractice and poor workmanship in the execution of their duties. Furthermore, the Government had embarked on a capacity building exercise aimed at orienting the staff on the implementation of programmes to enhance service delivery. A total of 810 officers in all the provinces and districts had so far been oriented.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee requests a progress report on the transformation of the Social Workers Association of Zambia into a legal body.

8.6 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should generate curricula for all training institutions involved in the dispensation of juvenile justice. This would result in not only equipping the respective officers with the much needed skills, but would also address the high turnover currently being experienced in the institutions.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Government with the support of UNICEF had attempted to review the police training curriculum to include juvenile justice matters. The Government invited training officers from Sondela Police Training Centre, Lilayi Police Training Centre and Kamfinsa Police Training Centre to review the police training curriculum and a draft was prepared. The draft was still awaiting approval, but once approved, it would be disseminated to relevant institutions.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the approval and dissemination of the draft revised police training curriculum to relevant institutions.

8.7 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Government must recruit lawyers at the Legal Aid Board in order for them to represent the juveniles. In addition, the Government must put up modalities for Para-Legals and Para-Social workers to assist in the implementation of legal socialisation projects, legal education and broader community awareness.

Government's Response

The Government responded through the Action-Taken Report that it was equally concerned at the low staffing levels at the Legal Aid Board, which had hampered the legal representation for the most vulnerable juveniles. This was mainly due to high turnover of officers employed by the Institution, who leave for greener pastures. The Government was considering the restructuring of the Board to improve the conditions of service in order to retain staff at the Institution. Further, the Government through the Ministry of Justice was in the process of finalising the draft Legal Aid Policy which would then be sent to Cabinet for approval. One of the objectives of the policy was to facilitate further decentralisation of the operations and enhanced capacity building, including recruitment. Recruitment of lawyers was ongoing and subject to availability of funds.

Meanwhile, the Ministry had put in place a programme that would build capacities of the structures (Community Welfare Assistance Committees- CWACs) at community level to participate in the rehabilitation of juveniles especially those released on licence, who required supervision until the expiry of their respective Orders. The structures would also be trained on how to conduct sensitisation activities aimed at preventing juveniles from committing offences.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee requests an update on the improvement of the conditions of service as a way of retaining staff at the Legal Aid Board.

Financing Mechanisms for Youth Development Projects

8.8 Your previous Committee had urged the Government to urgently review the operations of the National Youth Development Council (NYDC) in order to determine its relevance and the possibility of turning it into a department under the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development. Following a response from the Government that the *National*

Youth Development Council Act was undergoing review, your previous Committees had further requested an update on the revision of the *National Youth Development Council Act* and the review of the operations of the NYDC in order to determine its relevance and the possibility of turning it into a department under the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development.

Government's Response

It was reported in the latest Action-Taken Report that the review of the *National Youth Development Council Act* was ongoing. This had been necessitated by the need to take on board the new policies and strategies such as the 2015 National Youth Policy, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the new policy documents in the education sector. The Government was, in consultation with stakeholders, in the process of realigning the roles of the statutory institutions under the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development including the National Youth Development Council and the National Sports Council of Zambia.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the review of the *National Youth Development Council Act* and the review of the operations of the National Youth Development Council (NYDC).

Update on Zambia's performance in the 2014 Commonwealth Games

8.9 Your previous Committee had urged the Government to ensure that talent identification programmes were stepped up in order to ensure that future sports men and women were nurtured from an early age. As a follow up, your previous Committee had also requested an update on the development of strategic plans, which would enable the associations to tap talent and nurture it from an early stage.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Government had instructed all sports associations to come up with strategic plans before December, 2015, which would enable the associations to tap talent and nurture it from an early stage. The plans were expected to highlight short, medium and long term talent identification programmes. The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development was also closely working with the Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education to harness talent in schools which had been identified to follow the sporting career pathway under the new curriculum.

In the latest Action-Taken Report, the Government reported that most of the associations had difficulties in developing the plans due to limited capacities on strategic planning development. The Government through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development in April, 2016, organised a workshop on capacity building for national sports associations in developing strategic plans. The consolidated strategic plan for sports development, which would include talent identification, would be finalised by the National Sports Council.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the finalisation of the consolidated strategic plan.

8.10 Your previous Committee had urged the Government to construct modern state-of-the-art infrastructure similar to the Olympic Youth Development Centre in all districts of the Country. As a follow up, the previous Committee had requested an update on the replication of at least one facility similar to the Olympic Youth Development Centre at provincial level. Your Committee had further urged the Government to ensure that the construction of these facilities was funded.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development was developing a long term infrastructure plan. According to the plan, the Government envisaged to replicate at least one facility similar to the Olympic Youth Development Centre at provincial level. The Government through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development was in the process of constructing a multi-purpose sports complex in Chinsali, which was similar to the Olympic Youth Development Centre. However, rolling out of the programme around the country would depend on the availability of funds.

It was reported in the latest Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development remained committed to the construction of modern state-of-the-art sports infrastructure around the country. The Government through the Provincial Administration of Muchinga Province facilitated the tendering of works for the construction of the Chinsali Multi-Purpose Sports Complex. A contractor was identified and the contract was awarded. The contractor was yet to move on site awaiting the release of funds from the Treasury. The Ministry would continue liaising with the Treasury to secure funding for the project.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the replication of at least one facility similar to the Olympic Youth Development Centre at provincial level.

LOCAL TOUR

Chiyota Youth Resource Centre

8.11 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development should ensure that the management at Chiyota Youth Resource Centre improves its performance and begins to take care of the Centre's resources, failure to which a new management team would be appointed to manage the Centre.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry had directed the Provincial Youth Development Coordinator for Lusaka Province to supervise the current management team at Chiyota Youth Resource Centre. Further, a new organisational structure for the Ministry, which included youth resource centres had been approved and was awaiting

Treasury Authority for its implementation. Once the structure was implemented, all youth centres would be managed by qualified personnel. The organisational structure also provided for accountants and purchasing and supplies personnel in youth resource centres.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the implementation of the new organisational structure for the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development.

8.12 Your previous Committee had recommended that an audit be carried out to find out how the funds for the repair of the Centre's light truck were utilised.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development did not send the auditors to conduct an audit of Chiyota Youth Resource Centre due to limited funding.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the audit and the subsequent action by the Government in addressing the issue.

Expansion of Kalingalinga Youth Resource Centre

8.13 Your previous Committee had urged the Government to ensure that land was allocated to the Centre to enable it expand and provide skills training to more youths and assist it with suitable transport.

Government's Response

It was reported in the latest Action-Taken Report that the Government, through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, was in consultation with the Ministry of Lands to acquire additional land for the expansion of the Kalingalinga Youth Resource Centre. On the transport issue, it was reported in the Action-Taken Report that although the Ministry had planned to procure transport for all youth resource centres including Kalingalinga Youth Resource Centre, it had not done so due to budgetary constraints. However, the Government remained committed to ensuring that transport was procured for the Centre once resources were made available.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the sourcing of land for the expansion of the Resource Centre and the provision of appropriate transport.

Tour of Levy Mwanawasa Stadium

8.14 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should partner with the private sector in order to manage the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium effectively.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Government was currently pursuing the option of employing officers with relevant competencies to manage the Stadium before considering the other option of partnering with the private sector in order to manage the stadium effectively.

The Government further reported in the latest Action-Taken Report that officers with relevant competences to manage the stadium had not yet been employed as Treasury Authority had not been given by the Ministry of Finance.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the employing of officers with relevant competences to manage the Stadium.

8.15 Your previous Committee had urged the Government to upgrade the control room at the Stadium to include infrared cameras.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Technical Cooperation Agreement experts who were attached to the Stadium were waiting for the tools and equipment to enable them upgrade the control room to include infrared cameras.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee requests an update on the arrival of the tools and equipment needed to upgrade the control room to include infrared cameras.

The Football Association of Zambia Debt to the Stadium

8.16 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should intervene to ensure that the debt owed to the Stadium by the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) was settled without any further delay.

Government's Response

It was reported in the latest Action-Taken Report that the Government, through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, had engaged the new FAZ Executive on the issue. The new FAZ Executive had made a commitment to settle the outstanding debt.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee requests a report on whether FAZ had settled the outstanding debt.

Teenage Pregnancy in Zambia

8.17 Your previous Committee had requested an update on the progress made as regards the review of the *Marriage Act*.

Government's Response

It was reported in the latest Action-Taken Report that the Bill was still undergoing drafting and stakeholder consultations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee requests a progress report on the review of the *Marriage Act*.

Revision of the National Sports Council of Zambia Act

8.18 Your previous Committee had requested an update on the revision of the *National Sports Council of Zambia Act*.

Government's Response

It was reported in the latest Action-Taken Report that a Technical Working Group had been set up and the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development was working with the Zambia Law Development Commission to review the *National Sports Council of Zambia Act*. The consultative process with stakeholders was underway.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the revision of the *National Sports Council of Zambia Act*.

PART III

CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORT FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

9.0 Your Committee considered the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee on Youth and Sport on the Report of the Auditor General on the Youth Empowerment Programme of the Ministry of Youth and Sport for the Fifth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly and resolved to follow-up the issues presented below.

9.1 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should ensure that the database developed for effective loan tracking was decentralised to all provinces for easy follow-ups. Furthermore, a clear decentralised monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the performance of the beneficiaries and repayment procedure must be put in place.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development recently completed the development of the database at headquarters. The next step would involve installation of the database in all the provincial offices. The installation of the database at district level would be done once the revised organisational structure for the Ministry was implemented.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the installation of the database in all the provincial offices.

9.2 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government must revise the Youth Development Fund (YDF) guidelines to ensure that they improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the YDF. This would be done through ensuring that the roles of the guarantor were revised to include making follow-ups to ensure that the loan was paid back in time and that the guarantor's roles were fully spelt out. The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development must identify a different institution with the necessary micro-credit management expertise to administer the Fund while the Ministry could play a supervisory role. The Guidelines must also include a provision for eligible youth organisations to have the requirement for them to register with the NYDC as a pre-requisite as promulgated in Section 15 of the *National Youth Development Council Act*. This would not only result in compliance with the statutory requirement to register with the NYDC, but also answer the challenges raised in the Auditor General's Report of failure to locate the defaulting beneficiaries.

Government's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development had developed the terms of reference for the guarantor to participate in the follow-ups of loan recoveries and that the Ministry was consulting stakeholders on the establishment of a specialised institution to manage the YDF.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the establishment of a specialised institution to manage the Youth Development Fund.

CONCLUSION

10.0 Your Committee is grateful to you, Mr Speaker for the guidance rendered to it during the Session. Your Committee is also grateful to the office of the Clerk of the National Assembly and her staff for the support rendered to it throughout this Session. Your Committee is further indebted to all witnesses that submitted memoranda and appeared before it.

Finally, your Committee remains hopeful that its observations and recommendations will be considered by the Executive and go a long way in addressing some of the challenges associated with Youth Participation in the Decision Making Process in Zambia.

June, 2017
LUSAKA

C Miyutu, MP
CHAIRPERSON

APPENDIX I

List of Officials

Mr S C Kawimbe, Principal Clerk of Committees

Ms M K Sampa, Deputy Principal Clerk of Committees

Mr F Nabulyato, Senior Committee Clerk (SC)

Mrs A M Banda, Committee Clerk

Ms A Mulale, Typist

Mr M Chikome, Committee Assistant

Mr C Bulaya, Committee Assistant

Mr D Lupiya, Parliamentary Messenger