

THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE TENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, APPOINTED ON 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2009

Consisting of:

Mr C Kambwili, MP (Chairperson); Mr S Chisanga, MP; Mrs J Kapata, MP; Mr S Chitonge, MP; Mr J B Chongo, MP; Mr E Kasoko, MP; Mr B Sikazwe, MP; and Mr D M Syakalima, MP.

The Honourable Mr Speaker,
National Assembly,
Parliament Buildings,
LUSAKA.

Sir,

Your Committee has the honour to present the Third Report for the Fourth Session of the Tenth National Assembly.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

2. Under Standing Order No. 155(2) of the House, your Committee is mandated to scrutinise all assurances and undertakings made by Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers on the floor of the House with the objective of ensuring that the same are implemented.

PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

3. Your Committee examined all contributions made by the Executive as recorded in the *Daily Parliamentary Debates* and extracted statements which amounted to assurances. These were then referred to the Government ministries concerned to find out the actions taken to implement the assurances.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

4. Your Committee held ten meetings during the period under review. This Report deals with both outstanding and new assurances Ministry by Ministry. The assurances under each Ministry, are arranged with the outstanding assurances preceding the new assurances, where the two are available.

CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS ON VARIOUS ASSURANCES

SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF GENDER AND WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (GIDD)

NEW ASSURANCE

27/09 – Sensitisation Measures on Sexual Offences

On 29th September, 2009, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Gender and Women in Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the Government through GIDD and related Ministries and other wings have embarked on serious sensitisation programmes especially to address issues of silence with which our Zambian culture has been grappling."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that measures put in place to sensitise the nation of sexual offences included; television and radio programmes on Gender Based Violence (GBV); the Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, which ran from 25th November to 10th December, 2009; finalisation of national guidelines on sexual and gender based violence, which were awaiting printing and dissemination to the general public; and creation of 'One Stop Shops' at several Government hospitals, where a police officer, doctor and legal person were stationed to expeditiously attend to victims of sexual offences.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with satisfaction that GIDD has put in place adequate measures aimed at sensitising the public on sexual offences and how to respond to them when they occur in the communities.

Your Committee notes, however, that it has not been furnished with some statistics to show, whether or not the measures put in place are yielding results.

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

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

32/06 – Developing Border Control Computerised System throughout the country

On 28th February, 2006, the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"The department is in the process of developing a border control computerized system aimed at enhancing the monitoring of movement of persons. As a pilot project, the Lusaka International Airport is being computerized with the assistance of the International Organisation for Migration."

In her submission, the Permanent Secretary reported that after computerising Lusaka International Airport, the programme was rolled out to Immigration Headquarters, Livingstone International Airport, Chirundu and Victoria Falls Border Posts. Unfortunately, the programme had not spread to other border controls due to lack of funds.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the computerising of borders is progressing very slowly. The Committee urges the Government to speed up the rolling out of the programme to other borders, so as to safeguard national security.

In view of the aforesaid, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

41/08 – Construction of a Border Post at Namafulu in Chief Mweemba's Area – Sinazongwe

On 29th November, 2008, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Home Affairs is not reluctant to build a border post at the said place. The delay has been due to a lack of financial resources. The border post shall be conducted once funds are available."

The Permanent Secretary updated your Committee that drawings for the proposed border post had been completed and approved. However, construction could not commence as scheduled because the tenders floated by the Ministry of Works and Supply were far above the budgetary provision. This prompted the decision to float the tenders locally at provincial level. To this end, the Provincial Permanent Secretary constituted a technical team to spearhead the construction, expected to commence in 2010.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee is glad to learn that a provincial technical team has been constituted to spearhead the construction of the border, notwithstanding that the initial tenders exceeded the budgetary allocation.

Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter since construction is earmarked to commence in 2010.

27/05 – Use of Live Ammunition in Crowd Control

On 11th February, 2005, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Home Affairs assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker, we are very concerned about the use of live ammunition and all efforts will be made to ensure that we have non-lethal mechanisms of dealing with crowd control. Therefore, we are looking into this issue."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that tender authority had been granted at a total sum of K6, 053, 137, 500.00 for the purchase of crowd control riot kit. The contract had been signed with an initial amount of K2, 298, 749.00 paid. Delivery was expected in early 2010.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that significant progress has been made by the Government to purchase crowd control riot kit, albeit belatedly.

Your Committee resolves that since the contractual sum for acquisition of the riot kit has not been paid in full, it will await an update report on the matter.

28/97 – Establishment of a Police Air Wing

In reply to a question on when the Police Force would establish an Air Wing, the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs had informed the House that when the money became available, his Ministry would establish the wing.

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that limited budget allocation made it impossible to commence the recruitment and training of the pilots and purchase of an aircraft. The Government was still committed to establish the Air Wing when funds would be available. A ministerial statement would be made to this effect.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the assurance has been outstanding for almost thirteen years. The Committee resolves to await a ministerial statement on the matter as assured by the Permanent Secretary.

13/06 – Establishment of Forensic Laboratory

On 6th February, 2006, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Home Affairs assured the house as follows:

"It is the intention of the Zambia Police Force to establish a modern fully equipped forensic laboratory to train officers, both locally and abroad so as to prosecute such cases successfully."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that preparatory works for the project was undertaken successfully, with tender and contract procedures for the first phase completed at a sum of K2 billion, paid at the close of 2009. The contract provided that the project would commence subject to provision of electricity and water reticulation to the site. The first phase was expected to be completed in twelve months, commencing January, 2010.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that it has taken the Government nearly four years before any meaningful progress could be made on the assurance. The Committee urges the Government to give the issue priority attention so that it can be completed sooner rather than later.

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

17/03 – Completion of Mwembeshi State Prison

On 4th November, 2003, the Honourable Minister informed the House as follows:

"We are trying to make all effort to slot this requirement of Mwembeshi Prison in next year's budget and should that be approved, we are going to commence the work."

The Permanent Secretary updated your Committee that a company called Zamchin Construction had been awarded a contract, which would involve the construction of a second dormitory at the prison. The works were in progress and were estimated at K6.5 billion.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with satisfaction that steps are being taken to address the assurance, albeit at a slow pace. Your Committee resolves to tour the prison at an appropriate time, after which the Committee will consider, whether or not to close the assurance.

A progress report is awaited on the matter.

05/99 – Building of Two Juvenile Centres

On 26th November, 1999, the Honourable Minister made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"We are also discussing the issue of building two juvenile detention centres. Honourable Members are aware that we have only one juvenile reform school for males..... At the same time we are looking at another for females."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary stated that the two juvenile centres were supposed to be constructed using donor funds from the Access to Justice Project, but the funds were not released. Furthermore, the Ministry of Home Affairs budget did not make provisions for the project. However, a request had been made to the Access to Justice Project to reconsider access funds for constructing the juvenile centre.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with disappointment that there is absolutely no progress on the assurance, despite it being made in 1999. The Committee urges the Government to attach more commitment to addressing the matter.

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

06/03 – Nsumbu Immigration Office

On 31st July, 2003, the Honourable Deputy Minister gave the following response to a question raised on the floor of the House:

"A new immigration office will be built at Nsumbu Border Post as soon as funds are available. The Nsumbu Immigration Post will soon benefit from the fleet of vehicles which the Immigration Department will be sourcing soon."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the community in Nsumbu had constructed a make shift office, which both the Northern Province Regional Immigration Officer and the Provincial Buildings Engineer (PBE) did not approve. The PBE, therefore, came up with new drawings and Bills of Quantities at a cost of K253, 000, 000 but the same were presented late for inclusion in the 2010 budget. Further, due to financial constraints, the Ministry was unable to purchase a vehicle for the Department of Immigration at Nsumbu.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with concern that this is another matter where significant progress has not been made, despite the assurance being given many years ago. Your Committee urges Government to attach more commitment to address this matter.

A progress report is awaited on the matter.

45/87 – Construction of Ablution Blocks in Solwezi Police Camp 1, 2 and 3

On 8th December, 1987, the Honourable Minister assured the House that his Ministry was making every effort to secure funds to carryout necessary renovations of police camps country wide.

The Permanent Secretary updated your Committee that the construction of ablution blocks in two camps 1 and 2 was completed and in use. The new police camp 3, ablution blocks were not yet completed but most works were done.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with happiness that, finally, construction of ablution blocks in Solwezi police camp 1 and 2 have been completed and steady progress is on-going in camp 3.

In view of the progress made, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on camp 3 before closing the assurance.

NEW ASSURANCES

13/08 – Averting Delays in Issuance of Passports

On 12th August, 2008, the Honourable Minister assured the House in the following words:

"Madam Speaker, queuing up will be eradicated totally because the new equipment that we have put in place produces more than 1, 000 passports in 24 hours. Therefore, because of this new technology, there is no need for our people to queue up."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary confirmed that the passport issuance equipment was capable of producing 1, 000 passports in 24 hours. However, the number of passports printed each day depended on lodged applications forms and those cleared for issuance. The passport office had also made some adjustments to work processes and staff movements were undertaken to enhance efficiency. The Department had so far issued a total of 148, 260 passports from the time the new machine readable passports were introduced.

In line with the assurance, the Committee undertook a tour of the Lusaka and Ndola passports offices to ascertain the extent to which the assurance was being addressed.

(a) Lusaka Passport Office

Your Committee conducted a tour of the passport office to appreciate what it was briefed on. Your Committee was gratified to observe that passports were generally issued within the stipulated time-frame with very minimal or negligible delays.

Your Committee, however, could not help, but notice that the general surrounding of the passport office was untidy with plenty of dust. Files were piled on the floor due to lack of space and part of the ceiling board was about to fall off and this poses a serious occupation hazard to both staff and clients. Your Committee urged the management team to urgently address these concerns.

(b) Ndola Passport Office

Having visited the Lusaka Passport Officer, your Committee also visited the Ndola office so as to compare the two offices in terms of operations and decongestion.

Your Committee discovered that unlike Lusaka, the Passport Processing Equipment for Ndola was kept within the premises of the office. This had enhanced the efficiency of the process of issuing passports thereby decongesting the queues. The equipment was able to produce between 100 to 150 passports per day.

That notwithstanding, your Committee learnt with shock that the Ndola Passport office did not have a qualified Information Technology (IT) Technician and had to rely on Lusaka for this purpose.

Your Committee also learnt that a couple of officers were multi-tasking, thereby creating inefficiencies in the process of issuance of passports. To remedy this, the new Regional Officer had started putting measures in place to ensure that each officer concentrated on one task for easy monitoring and performance assessment.

Your Committee discovered that as at Lusaka office, there was a poor filing system at the Ndola Passport Office, with files lying on the floor including uncollected passports. In terms of cleanliness, however, your Committee noted that the Ndola Passport Office was by far cleaner than the Lusaka Office, despite being accommodated in an old building.

On the conducted tour, your Committee undertook a physical inspection of *inter alia* the interview room, the travel documents processing office, the registry and cashiers office. Your Committee was impressed with the general status of the said offices, except that the cashiers were not provided with adequate security, despite handling huge sums of money received from members of the public for various services.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes, that with respect to the Lusaka office, that there is a great improvement in the efficiency with which passports and travel documents are being issued. The Committee urges the Management and staff to continue with the good work so that the tag of inefficiency and corruption which the institution has been associated with over the years, could be removed.

Your Committee, however, recommends that the working environment at the institution should be thoroughly cleaned at the earliest possible time, as it has become a health hazard to both staff and clients.

With respect to the Ndola Office, your Committee observes that to a large extent the problem of queues has been taken care of, as there were very few people waiting to be attended to at the time of the tour. The Committee commends the Ndola Passport Office staff for keeping their surrounding clean. However, your Committee recommends that adequate security should be provided for the cash office as there were too many suspicious looking people loitering around the offices.

The Committee urges the Government to urgently deploy an IT Specialist to Ndola Passport Office so that there is no break in operations of the passport processing machines.



Ndola Passport Office

Your Committee further observes that despite acquisition of new passport equipment by the passport office, people have continued to queue up to receive services, because the new facilities are not available in all provincial centres.

Your Committee urges the Government to consider computerising the filling system of the passport office in general and decentralise its operations to cover all the nine provincial centres of Zambia.

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

11/09 – Building of Houses for Police Officers in Rural Areas

On 15th July, 2009, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"The Government has embarked on a programme of building and buying houses for police officers countrywide. Currently, this is being done in Ndola, Livingstone, Chipata and Kasama. Rural areas are also going to benefit."

The Permanent Secretary in her update to your Committee reported that construction of houses in Kasama, Chipata, Livingstone and Ndola were completed and what had remained were minor works and landscaping of the areas. Rural areas would only benefit after the programme in the urban areas had been completed and funds secured.

In order to assess the extent of implementation of the assurance in urban areas, your Committee resolved to tour Ndola, Kitwe and Kasama to ascertain for itself whether or not these urban areas had benefited.

(a) Masala Police Camp

Your Committee undertook a tour of Masala Police Station in Ndola. The main objective of the tour was to check on how far the construction of new police houses had gone in line with Government's assurance to embark on a programme of building and buying houses for police officers countrywide.

Your Committee was taken on a conducted tour of the new housing complex by the Administration Officer at Masala Police Station. The Committee noted that over fifty houses had been completed and had since been occupied. The houses had three bedrooms each.



Houses at Masala Police Camp

(b) Yobe Police Camp

Your Committee visited the Police Regional Commander's office with a view to ascertain whether or not Kitwe District Police Command had benefited from the construction and rehabilitation of police houses, as assured by the Minister of Home Affairs on the floor of the House.

Your Committee was informed that the exercise had not commenced in Kitwe generally and at Yobe Police Camp in particular. Infact there was no prospect of such an exercise because of lack of space to accommodate the construction programme.

Your Committee resolved not to visit the Police Camp since there were no new houses to inspect.

(c) Kasama Central Police Houses

Your Committee was accompanied to the site where new houses are under construction by the Deputy Regional Commander.

Your Committee learnt that sixty houses in total had been constructed at the site with minor final touches remaining. The Committee entered one of the houses to appreciate the design and sizes of the houses.

Your Committee was informed by the contractor that some of the geysers that were installed had since been stolen. Asked on why the road works had stalled, your Committee was informed by the contractor that they had not been paid by the Government for almost five months.



One of the new Police Houses in Kasama

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the assurance to build new police houses has become a reality for Masala Police Camp. The Committee was impressed with the quality of the houses seen and the general cleanliness of the surroundings.

Your Committee recommends to the Government to ensure that the project spreads to the rest of the country as assured. The Committee also urges the Ministry of Home Affairs not to neglect the new structures to the extent that they become dilapidated beyond repair as has been the case with the old police houses.

With respect to the Kasama Houses, your Committee observes that the houses are complete with only minor works remaining. The Committee notes that unlike the Ndola Masala houses, the Kasama houses are fairly spaced although the road works have stalled.

Your Committee recommends that Government should show commitment to the realization of the assurance by ensuring that the contractor is paid on time. The Committee recommends that the Kasama Police should provide security to the housing complex to protect installations like geysers from being stolen or vandalised.

Your Committee observes that the exercise of building and buying houses for police officers should have started with rural areas where the situation of shortage of accommodation is more desperate.

Your Committee urges the Government to reconsider its current position of implementing the project in urban areas first. Your Committee will await a progress report on the matter.

12/09 – Expansion and Decongestion of Prison Facilities

On 15th July, 2009, the Honourable Minister made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"As a Government, we are not sitting back because this year in the 'Yellow Book', there is money allocated for prison expansion and we hope that when our prisons are expanded, we are going to decongest them."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Zambia Prison Service had developed a programme to expand prison facilities. One such programme was the construction of Mwembeshi State Prison which had so far seen the construction of a dormitory made up of four cells.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Home Affairs in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, under the Access to Justice Project had established the Parole Board, which was aimed at allowing prisoners serving long sentences, but remaining with six months, to serve part of their sentence in the community.

Your Committee in recognition of the need to uphold the human rights of prisoners, decided to undertake a tour of two of Zambia's most renowned security prisons and one remand prison. The tour was meant to appreciate the conditions of the prisons in general and the expansion and decongestion programme in particular.

(a) Mukobeko Maximum Security Prison

Your Committee first paid a courtesy call on the Provincial Permanent Secretary for Central Province before proceeding to Mukobeko Prison. Your Committee was accompanied by the Director, Training and the Legal Officer from the Prisons Service, Headquarters. The Committee was received at the Prison by the Regional Commander and the Officer in Charge of Mukobeko prison, who gave a briefing in his office.

At Mukobeko Prison, your Committee was informed that the Maximum Security Prison was built just after Independence in 1964, with a capacity of 400 inmates. As at 7th April, 2010, there were 1, 676 prisoners held at the Prison which meant 1, 276 prisoners were held in excess of the 400 initial capacity.

In terms of efforts to decongest the prison, your Committee was informed that between May, 2007, to February 2010, a total of 837 prisoners had been transferred to Kamfinsa State Prison in Kitwe. However, despite these efforts, nothing had been done either to renovate the prison and bring it to modern security standards, or to expand the capacity of the prison.

Furthermore, there were only fifty-nine uniformed prison officers as against the large number of prisoners stated above. This further compromised the security of the prison and the lives of the officers as the ratio of prisoners to officers was 30:1.

Your Committee was also informed that there were about 276 male remandees held at the prison separate from male convicts, male condemned and male lifers. Your Committee also learnt that the prison had a female section guarded by female prison warders.

Your Committee visited three out of twelve cells where male convicts were held. The cells were initially meant to house about thirty-five prisoners but at the time of the visit, they were heavily congested, with extremely poor sanitation conditions.

Your Committee also toured the condemned section of the prison where 285 condemned prisoners were held. Ideally, the condemned section was supposed to house forty prisoners only and not the 285 currently held there. Your Committee was informed that the situation would get worse with time because death warrants had not been signed and executed for a long time now, and may not be signed in the foreseeable future. This meant that the number of convicts that would be sentenced to death would continue to add to the already congested condemned section.

Your Committee also learnt that in the condemned section of the prison, about seven prisoners shared a cell, which was initially meant for two prisoners and they shared a make shift toilet (bucket) to answer the call of nature.

Your Committee was also shown two carpentry and metal workshops, a tailoring unit, computer room and small library, where prisoners were trained in different crafts.

From the Maximum Security section, your Committee toured the female section of Mukobeko Prison. Unlike the Maximum security section, the female section was slightly smaller and cleaner, although the prisoners were complaining of being underfed.

Your Committee encountered about thirteen children whose mothers were being held as prisoners. Your Committee learnt that some of the children were born while their mothers were being held as prisoners while a number of them came with their mothers as infants.

(b) Mpima Prison

Your Committee visited Mpima Remand Prison situated about eight kilometres east of Kabwe town.

Your Committee learnt that Mpima Prison was ideally meant to be a remand prison but there were a few convicted prisoners with short sentences imprisoned there. Your Committee was informed that the capacity of the prison as against the number of prisoners was small thereby creating congestion. This was due to the fact that convicts were imprisoned there instead of remandees alone.

Your Committee was shown one new cell that had just been completed in an effort to decongest the prison. Your Committee also visited one old cell which was poorly ventilated and placed the prisoners at risk of contracting air borne diseases. Your Committee, however, was extremely impressed with the clean surrounding of the prison and commended the officer in charge for the cleanliness.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) Mukobeko Maximum Security Prison

Your Committee observes that the number of prisoners, who are incarcerated at Mukobeko Maximum Prison far exceeded the prison capacity, thereby creating unprecedented levels of congestion. Coupled with these high levels of congestion, the prison cells lacked proper or decent sanitation, thereby compelling prisoners to resort to the use of buckets to answer the call of nature.

Your Committee further observes that some cells were not properly ventilated, a situation which exposed the inmates to air borne diseases such as tuberculosis.

Your Committee observes that the Government's assurance to expand and decongest prisons country wide has not yet extended to Mukobeko Maximum Security Prison despite the prison having vast land where new structures can be built. The capacity of the prison has remained the same since its establishment, notwithstanding the increase of population of prisoners. The Committee also observes that the number of prison warders falls short of the recommended

establishment, hence posing a security risk. Your Committee observes that generally the conditions under which the prisoners are held are inhuman and, therefore, a breach of the prisoners' fundamental human rights.

In view of the foregoing observations, your Committee recommends that the Government should seriously embark on expanding and decongesting the prison as assured on the floor of the House.

The Committee also recommends that the current prison structures should be worked on to enhance security and improve sanitation and ventilation in the prison cells.

Your Committee recommends that the condemned section of Mukobeko Maximum Prison, being the only such section in the country, should be given urgent attention in terms of reducing the number of prisoners per cell and constructing adequate toilet facilities for the inmates unlike the current situation where six to seven inmates were confined in one small cell and subjected to use unconventional means to relieve themselves.

Your Committee urges the Government to urgently consider employing some more prison officers required to adequately guard the prisoners as well as the prison facilities.

Your Committee urges the Government to ensure that the basic human rights of the prisoners should be observed at all times despite the prisoners' current status. Your Committee also recommends that the Government should provide direction on the death penalty, which was still on Zambia's statute books, despite death warrants not being executed.

Your Committee is concerned with the psychological and social development of the children who are confined at the female section on account of their mothers' incarceration. Your Committee earnestly appeals to the Government to have the children removed from the prison and be placed in a place where they can develop normally. Your Committee proposes strengthening and funding of the Social welfare Department, to enable it to take care of such children.

(ii) Mpima Remand Prison

Your Committee observes that despite being a remand prison, Mpima Prison also houses convicted prisoners thereby putting more pressure on the already congested prison. Your Committee also observes that only one new cell has been constructed and it is not adequate enough to alleviate the problem of congestion. Your Committee also observes that one of the old cells has no proper ventilation hence predisposing the inmates to air borne diseases.

Your Committee, however, is impressed that the general surrounding of the prison is very clean including the prison cells themselves.

In conclusion, your Committee recommends that the Government through the relevant ministry should desist from mixing remandees with convicts, as this was a violation of human rights. The prison facilities at Mpima are meant to house remandees and not convicts as the case is at present, thereby creating congestion at the prison.

Your Committee also recommends that the sanitation facilities for the prisoners and the ventilation in one of the old cells should be improved. Your Committee, however, commends the Government for the new cell which has been constructed at Mpima Prison and for the efforts made by the officer in charge of the prison to ensure that the surroundings were clean.

(c) Kamfinsa State Prison

Your Committee also visited Kamfinsa State Prison situated on the outskirts of Kitwe, off the Ndola/Kitwe dual carriage way.

The visit to Kamfinsa State Prison was in line with the same assurance that had necessitated your Committee’s tour of Mukobeko Maximum Prison and Mpima Remand Prison in Kabwe.

The Officer in Charge informed your Committee as set out below:

Kamfinsa Prison was built in 1960 as an alternative to Bwana Mkubwa Prison in Ndola that was closed down. The prison was the largest in Zambia with a capacity of 800 inmates. The prison was also designed for other complementary reformation functions such as training in carpentry and upholstery, farming, poultry, gardening, ceramics, tailoring and brick laying.

Along side the main prison was built a juvenile receiving centre for lads who were to undergo a period of probation. This building now served as the section for female inmates.

Originally, Kamfinsa State Prison was meant to hold a total of 800 inmates at its full operational capacity. The current population was 1, 785. This represented more than double the intended capacity. In terms of staff levels, the recommended establishment was as follows:

Uniformed

(i) Officers in Administration	-	18
(ii) Officers under production	-	23
(iii) Officers in Shifts	-	90
(iv) Officers in the Clinic	-	5
(v) Officers in assorted Gangs	-	22
(vi) Officers at Female Section	-	30

Non-Uniformed

Carpentry instructors	-	6
Tailors instructors	-	4 (2 for female section)
Ceramics instructors	-	4
CDE’s	-	2
Clerical officers	-	2
Registry supervisors	-	2
Typists	-	2
Secretary	-	1
Cooks	-	4
Total	-	215 officers

Current Staff Levels

Superintendent	-	1
Assistant Superintendent	-	1
Chief Inspectors	-	3
Inspectors	-	10
Sub-Inspectors	-	20
Sergeants/Majors	-	4
Sergeants	-	22
Corporals	-	32
L/Corporals	-	5
Warders	-	17
Wardresses	-	7
J/Technical Officer	-	1
Trade Instructors	-	3
Registry Clerks	-	2
CE/Typist	-	1
Total	-	131 officers

The ratio of prisoners to officers in custodial duties was, therefore, 22 to 1. This was higher than the recommended ratio of 5 to 1 and thereby showing how under staffed the institution was.

In terms of infrastructure, the prison was rehabilitated partly in 2005 but still needed a lot of rehabilitation and expansion. The following needed rehabilitation:

- (i) the penal block;
- (ii) the plumbing section (water and sewer);
- (iii) the electrical section;
- (iv) the wire need more razor wire and need stronger diamond mesh wire for a prison not the ordinary one procured recently; and
- (v) there was need to build a Remand Prison that would be separate from the existing one in order to decongest because the capital remandees were overcrowded in the penal blocks that were meant for punishments.

In terms of staff houses, the statistics were as follows:

(i) Senior quarters	-	9
(ii) Junior quarters	-	134
Total	-	143

Occupied by Teachers	-	17 houses
Occupied by Clinic staff	-	9 houses
Occupied by officers	-	108 houses

There was need to build more staff houses and to rehabilitate the existing ones that had never been rehabilitated since they were built.

During the conducted tour, your Committee was shown the ordinary wire that was procured recently for use as security wire. Some officers demonstrated that the ordinary wire was not strong enough as it could easily be broken by prisoners intending to escape. It was learnt by your Committee that the wire was procured by the Ministry of Home Affairs contrary to professional advice by the Prison Service.

Your Committee further visited one of the penal blocks where about sixteen juveniles were confined. They learnt that because of the conversion of the Juvenile section into the female section, juveniles had to be separated and confined in the penal block, and were not allowed to come out at the same time as adult inmates.

Your Committee also noted that the challenges of congestion and poor sanitation as experienced at Mukobeko Maximum Prison were also present at Kamfinsa albeit on a reduced scale.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that Kamfinsa State Prison is highly congested with no prospect of expansion or decongestion in the near future.

The Committee also observes that the juveniles are held at the penal block that is not originally meant for them because their section has been taken-up by female inmates. The section is not conducive for juveniles.

Your Committee observes with great concern that part of the security wire at Kamfinsa is ordinary wire which can easily be broken. The Committee notes that the ordinary wire was procured by the Ministry of Home Affairs, contrary to professional advice from the prison service. Furthermore, the ratio of prisoners to officers of 22:1, compounds the already compromised security of the prison.

Your Committee recommends that in light of the above observations, the following measures should be put in place by the Government in order to address the assurance:

- efforts to expand and decongest prisons in general should be doubled so that some of the inmates held at Kamfinsa can be transferred elsewhere, considering that the prison is the biggest in Zambia;
- an alternative place should be found where the juveniles can be moved to, with facilities meant for juveniles to reform; and
- as a matter of urgency, the recommended security wire should be procured and installed to enhance security at the prison; similarly the Ministry of Home Affairs should create a budget line for the employment of more prison officers, to increase the ratio of prisoners to officers.

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

30/06 – Rural Affirmative Action in Acquiring Bursary Facility for University Students

On 14th February, 2006, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker, on the floor of this House, we mentioned that the Government has gone further to go for rural affirmative action and has increased the number from 250 to 400. This is with the view to catering for mostly those coming from rural areas to enable them acquire the bursaries facility which is running parallel with what is now a loan scheme."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that since the introduction of the Rural Affirmative Action by the University of Zambia in 2005, a lot of students from rural areas, who could not previously access University Education on account of the University cut-off point system, had been assisted greatly across the country to gain admission to the University.

The Bursaries Committee gave priority to students from rural areas in terms of student loans and remitted their tuition and accommodation fees directly to the Universities.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the Rural Affirmative Action in acquiring bursaries has been progressing well, despite the non-availability of the actual number of beneficiaries.

The Committee urges the Government to provide statistics of how many have benefited or left out from the programme.

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

23/07 – Ntambu and Lunga High Schools Science Laboratory Stocks and High School Construction in Chief Chibwika's Area – Mwiniluga

On 22nd November, 2007, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the two laboratories at the named schools, will be stocked in the 2008 Work Plan and Budget.....consideration of the construction of a high school in Chief Chibwika's area will be made, following the priority list made by the Province."

The Permanent Secretary updated your Committee, that construction of a high school in Mwinilunga, which the local community had named Kanyama Boarding School, was underway. The progress made as at 31st October, 2009, included the following: casting of slabs on ten staff houses, backfilling of substructures of six staff houses, erection of substructure block work on the domestic science department and ablution area.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that it has taken almost three years for the Government to make any meaningful development on the construction of a high school in Chief Chibwika's area. Your Committee also notes that the aspect of this assurance relating to laboratory stocks for Ntambu and Lunga High Schools has not been addressed at all.

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

01/96 – Provision of Sixteen Secondary Schools

On 3rd February, 1996, the Honourable Minister informed the House that the Government was committed to building sixteen secondary schools in various provinces.

In her update to your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported as set out in the table below.

S/N	School Name	Province	District	State of Works
1	Kopa	Northern	Mpika	Planned for 2010
2	Kaputa	Northern	Kaputa	Apart from the staff Houses that were on average, above slab level, progress on the other structures was mainly at slab level, foundation footing and block work. The contractor was progressing speedily, despite encountering rock in foundation trenches. Most of the equipment on site was in use.
3	Chilubi (Main Land)	Northern	Chilubi	The progress on the Staff houses was generally at window level, while other structures were at slab level. The contractor was slow mainly due to insufficient local labour.
4	Chilubi Island	Northern	Chilubi	A Basic School was upgraded into a high school and was operational.
5	Lunzuwa	Northern	Mbala	The construction works will be

				advertised in the first quarter of 2010. Meanwhile documents had been prepared.
6	Mufumbwe	North-Western	Mufumbwe	The contract for "Phase I" was completed it involved construction of 8 Houses. Tendering process for Phase II was in progress. The construction works would be advertised in the first quarter of 2010. Meanwhile documents had been prepared.
7	Chavuma	North-Western	Chavuma	Construction had progressed well with all 20 staff houses at gable level. The other buildings were being worked on and the project was on schedule.
8	Kyawama	North-Western	Solwezi	The school was operational.
9	Kafushi	Central	Chibombo	<p>Phase I was completed comprising 4 staff houses, 4 hostels, Administration block, two hostel ablution blocks, one borehole and one elevated tank.</p> <p>Under Phase II, 4, 1 x 3 CRB were at gable level, School hall was built up to 2.0m, Library Slab cast, setting out of walls had started.</p> <p>Home economics was Built up to 2.0m of walling 2 Laboratories were Built up to window level 2 Class ablution shattering for casting of ring beam Kitchen –slab cast Sick bay –Shattering for ring beam Tuckshop –Shattering for ring beam 2 Girls hostel –Ring beam cast 2 Boys hostel – ring beam had been cast 2 Ablution blocks –ring beam had been cast 12 houses Built up to gable level 4 houses built to ring beam</p>
10	Kazungula	Southern	Kazungula	Phase I was completed (4 teachers houses, 2 learning area ablution blocks, 1 dormitory)

				1 x 3 Classroom block was roofed, 2 trusses were fixed and are at gable level; Library was at gable level, 2 Laboratories were at ring beam level, sick bay was at window level; 4 Houses were at gable level, 6 was at window level & 2 were at slab level. 1 x 2 Home economics was at gable level, the kitchen was at slab level the other buildings were at sub structure level.
11	Sonja	Eastern	Petauke	Tendering Process was in progress The construction works would be advertised in the first quarter of 2010. Meanwhile documents had been prepared.
12	Kafumbwe	Eastern	Katete	Completed and operational
13	Lumezi	Eastern	Lundazi	Completed and operational
14	Sioma	Western	Shang'ombo	The construction works would be advertised in the first quarter of 2010. Meanwhile documents had been prepared.
15	Shang'ombo (At the Boma)	Western	Shang'ombo	The construction works would be advertised in the first quarter of 2010. Meanwhile documents had been prepared.
16	Milenge	Luapula	Milenge	6 staff houses were roofed 14 at gable level, boys and girls hostels were at gable level. Generally, works were on schedule.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that despite the assurance being made in 1996, to date, construction of some schools is still on-going. Your Committee urges the Government to urgently find resources to complete the remaining projects, as set out in the table above.

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

13/03 – Girls Secondary School – Kapiri-Mposhi Girls Technical School

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the contractor moved on site on 30th April, 2009, and progress as at 31st October, 2009, was as set out in the table below.

S/N	Target	Progress
1	Administration	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
2	Assembly/Sports Hall	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
3	Four 1 x 3 Classroom Blocks	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
4	Two Students Toilets	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
5	Sickbay	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
6	Tuck-shop	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
7	Home Economics Block	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
8	Library	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
9	Two Student Toilet Blocks	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
10	1 x 2 Wood Workshop Block	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
11	1 x 2 Technical Drawing Block	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
12	Eighteen Staff Houses	
	House nos. 1-6	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
	House Nos. 7-12	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
	House Nos. 13-18	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
13	Headmaster's House	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
14	D/Headmaster's House	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
15	Kitchen/Dining Hall	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
16	Eight Hostel Blocks	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
17	Four Hostel Ablution Blocks	Sub structure block wall erection complete and plinth plastered
18	Two Boreholes	Boreholes have been sunk one has been equipped and is operational

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that this assurance like the previous one has taken a considerably long time to complete. Your Committee urges the Government to desist from pursuing many projects at once as this makes it difficult to adequately allocate funds to all projects vis-à-vis the limited national resource envelope.

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

21/03 – Kabulu and Mung'omba Community Schools

On 5th August, 2003, the Honourable Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Samfya District Education has plans for the construction of the next schools at Kabulu and Mung'omba communities within the next five years."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that in 2008, the Ministry of Education started the construction of 1 x 3 classroom block at Kabulu Island and was now at gable level with spider trusses mounted. However, the Island was very small with a small population, therefore, space for more structures like staff houses and play grounds was not available.

Mung'omba Community was equally small with very few people living there. The population had not increased.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that Government is using the argument of small populations in the two communities as reason for not constructing schools there. Your Committee further observes that this undertaking will never be addressed as long as the two areas, especially Mung'omba Community remains with a small population. Your Committee urges the Government to acquaint your Committee on Government's considerations and policies pertaining to construction of schools.

Your Committee awaits a progress report.

19/07 – Teachers' Houses Renovations – Nalubanda and Chiwena Mumbwa District

On 20th November, 2008, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker the said schools, Nalubanda and Chiwena, will be considered in the 2008 rehabilitation budgets."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that rehabilitation of staff houses and all the seven classrooms at Nalubanda were completed. As for Chiwena Basic School, five classrooms were completed but staff houses remained unattended to due to inadequate funds.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that while rehabilitation has been completed at Nalubanda Basic School, the same is not the case for staff houses at Chiwena Basic School, despite the same being under the same assurance. Your Committee further observes that the Government has not indicated clearly what efforts were being made to complete rehabilitation of the staff houses of the latter school. Your Committee urges the Government to attach a time frame as to when the rehabilitation will be completed.

Your Committee resolves to close the assurance relating to Nalubanda Basic School and await a progress report with respect to Chiwena Basic School staff houses.

18/05 – Teacher Graduates

On 19th February, 2005, the Honourable Minister of Education made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, according to the Fifth National Development Plan, we have planned that we shall absorb all the teachers that will be graduating."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that in August, 2009, the Ministry recruited 5, 000 teachers as per Treasury Authority, which was granted by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning. In 2010, the Ministry would recruit 2, 500 out of the outstanding cases. It was expected that in the subsequent years the Ministry would recruit directly from colleges after absorption of all the graduates.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with gratification that 5, 000 teachers were employed in 2009 and that 2, 500 will be recruited in 2010, although the numbers are not sufficient enough to mitigate the shortage, especially in rural areas.

Your Committee urges the Government to quickly absorb the backlog of graduate teachers from previous years who are still unemployed, because it does not make economic sense to train teachers at huge Government's expense and later fail to utilise their expertise.

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

15/07 – Teachers’ Houses Construction – Mubende Basic School – Mwense District

On 20th November, 2007, the Deputy Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, it is Government's Policy to provide quality and decent accommodation to teachers serving in both urban and rural districts. Mubende Basic School has a total number of seven teachers housing, three houses have been included for construction in the 2008 work plan."

In updating your Committee, the Permanent Secretary submitted that the current status was on one staff house, which had been roofed, plastered and had the spoon drain done. The remaining works were fitting of door frames and doors, painting and glazing.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that from the last update to your previous Committee to date, only one staff house is receiving attention. Your Committee notes with grave concern the slow pace at which the project to construct teachers' houses at Mubende is progressing and urges the Government to urgently source for funds for the other two houses mentioned in the assurance.

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

NEW ASSURANCES

27/08 – Rehabilitation of Basic Schools in Shiwang'andu Constituency

On 15th November, 2008, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education assured the House as follows:

"The Ministry will rehabilitate Lwanya Basic School this year, 2008, and the rest of the schools will be budgeted for in 2009."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported as set out in the table set out hereunder.

S/N	Name of School	Target	Amount Released	Physical Progress	Comment
1	Lwanya M Basic	Rehabilitation of a 1 x 3 classroom block	30, 000, 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced the roof. • Fixed new window and door frames • Verandah construction 	<p>Funds were not sufficient to complete works e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooring, Glazing • Drainage construction • plastering both internal and external walls
2	Mwenge M Basic	Rehabilitation of a 1 x 3 classroom block	50, 000, 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstructed the roof. • casting of the concrete slabs in all the 3 rooms plus an office • Verandah construction • Drainages • Flooring 	<p>There are some works remaining as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glazing of rear window frame of the classroom block • More funds are needed for this work to be completed
3	Lupande M Basic	Rehabilitation of a 1 x 3 classroom block	20, 000, 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mending of cracks. • Construction of a verandah • Glazing • Replaced all the doors to the classrooms and office 	<p>insufficient funds to complete works such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage construction • Replacing of eaten up timber of the roof
4	Chumbu M Basic	Rehabilitation of staff houses	50, 000, 000	Completed	Well completed and teachers were occupying all the houses
5	Kanakashi M Basic	Rehabilitation of a 1 x 2 classroom block and 2 staff houses	50, 000, 000	Completed	In use
6	Mwika	Rehabilitation of 2 staff houses	20, 000, 000	Completed	In use by members of staff

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that out of the six Basic Schools under rehabilitation, three are fully rehabilitated and in use, while rehabilitation for the remaining three is incomplete due to insufficient funds.

In view of the above, your Committee urges the Government to quickly source for funds to complete the rehabilitation of the three affected schools.

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the three incomplete schools.

22/09 – Education for the Vulnerable and Physically Challenged

On 23rd September, 2009, the Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, currently we are working on plans to provide in each province, a centre of excellence. This centre will be a school for special education needs which will cater for various disabilities."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that progress made towards achieving this plan was that request proposal for the selection of consultants to undertake architectural, engineering and quantity surveying had been done. It was expected that once consultants were selected and drawings done, the Ministry of Education would engage contractors to start constructing the centres within the course of 2010.

The Permanent Secretary further submitted that the Ministry was constructing nine Resource Centres for the disabled and not centres of excellence. A centre of excellence for the learners of Special Education needs would be constructed at Munali Girls High School, once funds were available.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the undertaking made by the Honourable Minister of Education on the floor of the House, with respect to the number of centres of excellence to be built, is at variance with the Permanent Secretary's submission to your Committee. Your Committee observes that the Government plans to construct nine Resource Centres and not nine Centres of Excellence.

Your Committee urges the Government to clarify this position via a ministerial statement on the floor of the House, but resolves to await a progress report on the assurance.

44/07 – Construction of Teachers Houses

On 7th August, 2007, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the ideal situation for this Government is to have teachers' houses for every classroom..... We are aware that there are not enough teachers' houses, but we are in the process on constructing more teachers' houses."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that in 2008, the Ministry of Education constructed 229 teachers' houses and in 2009, the Ministry aimed at the construction of 956 teachers houses, but these were not completed because only 75% of the funds allocated for the construction of school infrastructure was disbursed to the districts by the end of the year 2009.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that it is not clear where the teachers' houses constructed in 2008 are located and where the ones currently under construction are situated. Your Committee requests for a schedule of where houses are being constructed.

In view of the aforesaid, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF LANDS

NEW ASSURANCES

01/09 – Land Audit and Re-allocation of Land

On 10th March, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Lands assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker, we are aware that there is a lot of idle land that foreigners are selling. As a result, we have started a land audit of the whole country to find out which land is not developed with a view of repossessing it so that the Government can re-allocate it to other developers."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary submitted that the Ministry of Lands had started the land inspections of listed plot numbers in Lusaka, Copperbelt, Southern and Central Provinces. A land audit however, involved getting satellite imagery, processing of the imagery, transport to go to the identified areas and coming up with documents showing the state of the land. This was an expensive exercise whose resources the Ministry had not yet managed to secure.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that despite the on-going land audit exercise, the Office of the Commissioner of Lands has not advertised to the general public to invite applications for land.

Your Committee urges the Government to allocate resources for the land audit exercise so that land could be equitably distributed to Zambians.

13/09 – Averting Delays in Issuance of Certificates of Title

On 17th July, 2009, the Minister of Lands made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"However, it is important that the time limit for the issuance of these titles is minimised so that we do not have too many people queuing up. We are looking at that and soon you will see a big change."

The Permanent Secretary reported to your Committee that to ensure that time to issue titles was minimised, the Ministry of Lands had developed a Customer Service Charter and a system to properly implement it. She informed the Committee that the number of days to issue certificates of title was dependant on whether the transaction was a secondary or primary transaction.

According to the Ministry of Lands Service Charter, issuance of secondary title, that is, change of ownership when property was already on title, took fourteen days provided the applicant had followed all the required procedures and was in possession of all the necessary documents. Issuance of primary title on the other hand, that is, issuance of title at first offer from the state, took seventeen days subject to the applicant adhering to all the laid down procedures.

In order to appreciate the operations of the customer service centre, your Committee resolved to include it in its tour programme.

Ministry of Lands Customer Service Centre

Your Committee toured the Ministry of Lands with a view to visit the New Customer Service Centre and learn how the officers in the Customer Service Centre were involved in the process of issuance of Certificates of Title and other land transactions. The Acting Permanent Secretary informed your Committee that although the Customer Service Centre was open to the Public, the Members of Staff manning it were doing so on *ad hoc* basis as there was no budget line to employ staff for the Customer Service Centre on permanent basis. This meant that staff was rotated from time to time.

In light of this revelation, your Committee resolved not to tour the Customer Service Centre, but urged the Acting Permanent Secretary to institute measures to have the Customer Service Centre manned by full time permanent employees. Your Committee will tour the Centre in their next programme of work.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the Customer Service Centre at the Ministry of Lands urgently requires staff on permanent basis so as to enhance efficiency in all land transactions.

Your Committee urges the Government to create a budget line in the next national budget for the employment of officers to administer the Centre on permanent basis, so that there is consistency in the flow of work and easier follow-ups by members of the public.

Your Committee observes that, notwithstanding the creation of the Customer Service Charter, people have continued to wait for unreasonably long periods of time before they are attended to by officers at the Ministry of Lands. This is attributed to poor work culture, bad staff attitudes towards work and corruption tendencies that have taken root at the Ministry.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee urges the Ministry of Lands to put their house in order by improving efficiency in service delivery, change staff attitudes towards work and work towards removing the corruption tag, which has dented the image of the Ministry.

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

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

27/06 – Dismantling of ZESCO into Separate Units: Generation, Transmission and Distribution

On 14th February, 2006, the Honourable Minister of Energy and water Development assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker, it is indeed correct that with regard to generation, transmission and distribution, the biggest burden in terms of cost is distribution. Should it be found necessary to separate, as part of the recommendations of the study, Government will consider that."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that due to the importance and strategic nature of ZESCO in the electricity sub-sector, the dismantling of ZESCO in separate units, required serious consideration. The Ministry of Energy and Water Development was re-assessing the issue with a view to deciding the way forward. The issue required professional and technical assessment by a professional consultant, it was, therefore, prudent for the Government to postpone the exercise.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that there seem to be a change in plan by the Government to implement the dismantling of ZESCO into separate units. Your Committee urges the Government to issue a ministerial statement on the current position.

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

29/06 – Developing of Available Hydro-electricity Potential Sites

On 17th February, 2006, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, in the electricity sector, my Ministry has stepped up efforts to develop the available hydroelectricity potential sites, which include Kafue Gorge Lower 600 mw, Itezhi-tezhi 120 mw, Kalungwishi 200 mw, Kariba North Bank extension 360 mw and several mini hydros..... The sequencing of the projects will be as follows:

- i. Itezhi-tezhi, within the next two years;*
- ii. Kariba North Bank extension within the next two to five years;*
- iii. Kalungwishi, within the next two to five years; and*
- iv. Kafue Gorge lower, within the next five years."*

The Permanent Secretary gave an update on each project as set out below.

(i) Itezhi-tezhi Project (120 mw)

The estimated cost of the project now stood at US\$ 250 million. The Government has made headway in securing part financing for the project by way of accessing a concessional loan of US\$ 50 million from the Indian Government. In addition, several financiers have been approached to finance the shortfall.

(ii) Kariba North Bank Extension (360 mw)

The construction of the Kariba North Bank extension was on schedule and was expected to bring an additional 360 mw into the country's generation capacity, by the time it was completed in 2013.

(iii) Kalungwishi Hydropower Project (210 mw)

The Government was currently negotiating with the developer of the 230 mw project, Lunzua Power Authority. It was expected that the negotiations would be finalised during the first quarter of 2010. Once the implementation plan had been finalised, the developer would mobilise financial resources and engage the services of an engineering procurement and construction contractor by the end of 2010.

(iv) Kafue Gorge Lower Hydropower Project (600 mw)

Feasibility studies under phase I had already been completed by the International Finance Corporation. Currently, the Government was considering various strategic options to move the project to implementation under a Public Private arrangement.

Implementation of Phase II of the project would involve pre-qualification of bidders and bid document preparation would be done by the end of the first quarter of 2010.

Phase III would involve issuance of draft transaction documents and ensuring contractual closure with the preferred developer, to be done by the end of 2010.

The project was scheduled for completion in 2017 at an estimated cost of US\$ 1.5 billion and would be developed at a capacity of 600 mw.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the delay in mobilisation of resources by the Government has greatly delayed the implementation of the projects. Your Committee urges the Government to adhere to its own undertaking by vigorously engaging in resource mobilisation for completion of the hydro electricity projects.

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

09/08 – Standard Fuel Prices Country Wide

On 6th August, 2008, the Honourable Minister of Energy and Water Development assured the House as follows:

"Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, I did indicate that the Government is working on having a uniform national petroleum price. I just said that in the statement. This will be realised by the measures which the Government is taking of rehabilitating storage facilities in the provincial or nearest provincial centre."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the first stages on the implementation of the Uniform Petroleum Prices (UPP) programme, would commence during the first quarter of 2010. The Government was, therefore, in the process of engaging a UPP Manager, who would be instrumental in the implementation of the programme.

He further submitted that there were inadequate storage depots in rural areas, thereby making it extremely difficult to achieve standardised fuel prices. In addition, there was no budgetary allocation in 2010, for rehabilitation of depots for fuel in rural areas. The Ministry was hopeful that there would be an allocation in the 2011 budget to enable the Ministry achieve its goal.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that there is lack of commitment on the part of the Government to implement standard fuel prices for the whole country. The only effort made has been to commence the process of engaging a Uniform Petroleum Prices Manager, despite the assurance being made in 2008.

Your Committee further observes that there is no budgetary allocation in 2010 for rehabilitation of fuel storage depots and it is unclear whether or not the Ministry of Energy and Water Development plans to budget for this exercise in 2011.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee urges the Government to take this matter more seriously by ensuring that it is included in the Ministry's 2011 work plan.

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

07/08 – Addressing Fuel Shortages

On 16th August, 2008, the Honourable Minister assured the House as follows:

"With the increasing demand for fuel, the Government will shorten the interval between shipments so as to insure that the fuel supply on the local market is not interrupted. Another option available is to increase the size of each shipment to 120, 000 metric tonnes, which option is provided for in the contract the Government signed with the Independent Petroleum (IPG), Zambia's current suppliers."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government had put in place a programme to supply petroleum feedstock in December, 2007. As a result, no shortages arising from the non-availability of petroleum feedstock for processing at Indeni Refinery had been experienced.

A two year supply tender for 2010 and 2011 was currently running and a new stock supplier would be engaged in April, 2010. As regards the issue of ensuring that fuel supply was not interrupted during the times that Indeni Refinery was undergoing routine maintenance, the Permanent Secretary reported that measures to stock pile fuel supplies before a shutdown had been put in place, namely; importation of finished petroleum products and completion and use of the storage tank in Ndola.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that despite measures put in place by the Government, fuel shortages have become an annual event in Zambia. Your Committee urges the Government to find lasting solutions to the problem of annual fuel shortages.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

08/08 – Five Year Recapitalisation Programme for Indeni

On 6th August, 2008, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Development assured the House as follows:

"Madam Speaker, as Honourable Members may be aware, the Government and TOTAL, the two shareholders in Indeni Refinery, are implementing a five year US\$ 65 million recapitalisation programme in the Refinery."

In updating your Committee, the Permanent Secretary reported that following the acquisition of total ownership of the refinery, the Government was reviewing the refinery's five year

recapitalisation with a view to expand its scope and the associated financial requirements. The outstanding works that were, therefore, supposed to be done with the US\$ 20 million would be embedded in the bigger programme.

In line with the assurance, your Committee undertook a tour of the refinery to assess if any progress had been made.

Indeni Oil Refinery Company

The Acting Managing Director briefed your Committee on the various operations of Indeni.

With regard to recapitalisation of the plant, your Committee was informed of the developments outlined hereunder.

In the course of September, 2010, the Refinery would be closed routinely for forty-five days to facilitate cleaning, replacement and installation of key equipment. Some of the new equipment to be installed would include; vessels, columns, reactors, boilers and exchangers shells. Your Committee was assured that other than the routine shutdown, the Refinery would operate normally without any interruptions through out the year.

Your Committee was informed that the equipment to be replaced had lagged behind and would be completely removed after ten years of continuous service. Your Committee also learnt that components such as coils, nozzles, air coolers and exchanger tubes and valves that were replaced every five years, would receive some attention. Most significantly, your Committee was informed that old instrumentation, which was born with the Refinery, would be replaced with modern equipment, some of which had been procured.

In terms of the technical challenges, the Refinery lacked the capacity to reduce sulphur content in gasoil from 500 ppm to 60 ppm, as per world trends, otherwise investment in an isomeriser or diesel hydro creator estimated at US\$ 25 million would solve this problem.

Your Committee was also informed that it would be desirable for the shareholder to invest in the upgrading of the bitumen plant so that the Refinery could start processing it for construction of roads. This would drastically reduce the cost of road construction in Zambia because currently bitumen was being imported from outside the country despite it being a by-product of crude oil.

Your Committee was informed that at the moment the greatest challenge to the full recapitalisation of Indeni was financing of the projects, which needed more Government involvement.

Your Committee was taken on a conducted tour to see some of the new equipment on site. Your Committee visited, among others, the Crude Unit, which was the primary unit through which crude is received, the Hydro-treating Unit, the Reforming Unit, the Fractionation Unit where oil was broken down into various products such as fuels gas, butane, diesel, Jet A1, kerosene, etc, and the control room where all the technical operations were controlled from.

Your Committee was able to appreciate some of the state-of-the-art equipment installed and some lying on site awaiting installation during the routine September shut down.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that full recapitalisation of the Refinery hinges on provision of finances by the shareholder. Your Committee observes that once the Refinery is provided with all the modern equipment it requires to operate at optimum capacity, the unplanned closures will be a thing of the past.

Your Committee observes that Indeni Refinery is well endowed with technical expertise required to operate the new infrastructure which will be installed. Your Committee further observes that the Refinery's indebtedness to Total Outré Mer to the tune of about US\$ 78, 000 poses liquidity challenges to the operations of the Refinery. Your Committee notes, however, that despite Assurances from Indeni Management that the Refinery would operate without any closures throughout the year, two days after your Committee's visit, the Refinery was abruptly shut-down for about six days.

In view of the foregoing observations, your Committee recommends that since the Government of the Republic of Zambia is the sole shareholder, it should provide sufficient funds for full recapitalisation of the plant and servicing the debt to Total Outré Mer.

Your Committee also recommends that although the Government is the sole shareholder in the Refinery, the professionals or experts at Indeni should be left to run the plant without any interference from the Government, especially with respect to the routine shut downs to facilitate maintenance works.

Your Committee strongly recommends that the Government should start planning for investing in a bitumen processing plant so that the country could use its own bitumen in road construction at a reduced cost.

Your Committee further urges the Government that the recapitalisation of Indeni Refinery should not be affected following the withdrawal of TOTAL Outré Mer as a shareholder and the subsequent acquisition of 100% shareholding by the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

Your Committee hopes that the recapitalisation will go on as assured, despite the alteration in the shareholding of the Refinery. Your Committee also demands to be briefed on what necessitated the sudden Closure of the Refinery two days after its visit despite being assured that Indeni Refinery would not suffer any premature closures throughout the year.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

27/07 – Construction of Dams in Nkonkola and Kalama Wards – Magoye Parliamentary Constituency

On 6th August, 2007, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Development assured the house as follows:

"Mr Speaker, the Government has plans to construct two dams, one each in Nkonkola and Kalama wards within the time frame of the current National Development Plan."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary submitted that the Government undertook feasibility studies to establish sites for dam construction in the two wards. The findings were that Nkonkola ward had a suitable site for dam construction and the same was included in the 2010 budget. As for Kalama ward, no suitable sites were found for dam construction.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that construction of a dam at Nkonkola ward has been budgeted for and will commence as planned in the year 2010. On the other hand, your Committee observes that after a thorough feasibility study, it has been revealed that it is impossible to construct a dam at any site in Kalama ward.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to close the assurance with respect to Kalama ward and await an update report on the construction of a dam in Nkonkola ward.

NEW ASSURANCES

24/08 – Enhancement of Shiwang'andu Mini Hydro Project and Kaputa Biomass Gasification Project

On 20th September, 2008, the Honourable Minister of Energy and Water Development made the following pronouncement to the House:

"Other projects to be developed to increase the generation capacity, improve energy needs and also contribute to the reduction to load shedding during peak hours include the following:

- (a) Shiwang'andu Mini Hydro Project, whose capacity is 1 mega watt, scheduled to be completed in 2009.*
- (b) The Kaputa Biomass Gasification, whose capacity is 1 mega watt, scheduled to be completed in 2009."*

The Permanent Secretary submitted to your Committee as set out below.

(a) Siwang'andu Mini Hydro Project

The contractor of the project had started mobilising on site and the works were expected to commence soon after the rainy season in early 2010. The construction works of the power station, estimated to cost US\$ 4 million, were scheduled to be undertaken over a period of twelve months.

(b) Kaputa Biomass Gasification Project

The project would involve the building and installation of 2 x 500 kw power generation units. ZESCO was in the process of identifying contractors to build the power house. The first 500 kw generation unit was scheduled to be installed by June, 2010, while the second 500 kw unit was scheduled to be installed by the end of 2010.

As part of their programme of work, your Committee toured the Shiwang'andu project to appraise themselves on the progress so far made on the project.

Shiwang'andu Mini-Hydro Power Station

On its tour to Shiwang'andu, your Committee was met and accompanied by the Chinsali District Commissioner.

Your Committee was welcomed at the site of the power station by a delegation from Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO), Ministry of Energy and Water Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Your Committee was informed that the whole project would cost about US\$4 million to be funded by UNIDO, ZESCO and the Government of the Republic of Zambia. Although actual construction of the project had not started, your Committee was shown the actual site on Mansha River, where the dam wall would be erected.

Your Committee was informed that detailed engineering designs had been developed and completed in China. Bush clearing for erection of pole lines had commenced and reached an advanced stage. Feasibility studies and the environmental impact assessment had also been done, and the Environmental Council of Zambia had given a go ahead.

Your Committee was also informed that ZESCO, as the developer, was in the process of acquiring a blasting licence and the same would be granted by the end of May, 2010. Equipment meant for civil engineering works had been shipped and had docked at the port of Dar-es-Salaam awaiting transportation to the site.

In terms of challenges, it was apparent even to your Committee that the gravel road leading to the site was extremely bad and too narrow to allow passage of heavy equipment to be imported for construction and installation at the project.



Foundation Stone at Shiwang'andu Mini-Hydro Project Site

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that works on both the Shiwang'andu and Kaputa hydro electricity projects is behind schedule. Your Committee notes that from the submission of the Permanent Secretary, it is difficult to confirm that the dates proposed as the completion time would be honoured by the Government.

Your Committee observes that contrary to the submission by the Permanent Secretary, works have not actually started in earnest at the Shiwang'andu site. Your Committee was, however, impressed by the level of commitment by all the stakeholders involved in the Shiwang'andu Mini Hydro Project and hoped this will continue so that the assurance can be realised. Your Committee observes that the access road to the project site is in a deplorable state and requires urgent attention. Your Committee urges the Government to fulfill its part of the financial obligation and also ensure that the road is repaired and widened.

Your Committee awaits a progress report on both projects.

14/09 – Electrification of Chasefu Constituency and Chief Mwanya's Palace

On 17th July, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Energy and Water Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Madam Speaker, it is still the intention of the Government to electrify Chasefu Constituency and Chief Mwanya's Palace."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the programme for electrification was proceeding according to plan. Part of the works were financed by the Japanese Government

through JICA, but implementation was being done through ZESCO and was at an advanced stage.

As regards electrification of Chief Mwanja's Palace, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Palace had already been electrified through solar energy effective May, 2005. Depending on the location and electrification design routes, the Palace may be put on the national grid supply.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that electrification of Chasefu Constituency has commenced in a few areas and is progressing steadily, with implementation being done through ZESCO.

Your Committee also observes that Chief Mwanja's Palace has been electrified by solar energy.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to close the assurance as it relates to electrification of Chief Mwanja's Palace and await a progress report on the electrification of Chasefu Constituency.

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCE

25/07 – Land Dispute between Chief Moomba and Senior Chief Inyambo

On 8th August, 2007, the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Housing assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker..... In this case, we have engaged the Office of the Surveyor General to go on the ground and look at the boundaries and define them so that the problem can be resolved."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government had decided to arrange a meeting with the two Chiefs who were disputing the boundaries before engaging the Surveyor General's office. However, the meeting did not take place because of the death of the then Minister of Local Government and Housing.

The Ministry of Local Government and Housing was still committed to bringing the two Chiefs together so that an amicable solution could be arrived at.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the resolution of the dispute between Chief Moomba and Senior Chief Inyambo, had dragged on for a long time. The submission that the two Chiefs could not be brought together in a meeting due to the death of the then Minister, did not suffice in light

of the fact that an Acting Minister had been appointed, who was not procedurally proscribed from performing the functions left by the deceased Minister.

Your Committee resolves to be updated on the matter.

NEW ASSURANCES

45/07 – Upgrading of Misisi Compound in Lusaka

The Honourable Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing, on 7th August, 2007, assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker I wish to inform this August House that the larger part of Misisi Compound will not be demolished, but instead, will be upgraded. My Ministry through the Lusaka City Council, has already started an upgrading programme for Misisi Compound that is expected to commence before the end of the year."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the upgrading of Misisi Compound was on course and the Government had to this end, commissioned a study for the Lusaka City in 2008. One component of the study, was to prepare an improvement area plan for Misisi Compound through the Lusaka City Council. This had to be done in fulfillment of the provisions of the Housing (Statutory and Improvement Areas) Act, Cap 194 of the Laws of Zambia.

The plan required to depict the proposed structural and infrastructure improvements to an area. The Permanent Secretary also reported that the Ministry of Local Government and Housing was expanding the Cairo Road Commercial Zone towards Kafue road, from Kafue road roundabout up to Makeni turn-off. This would affect some Misisi Compound residents as the area was freed for commercial development encompassing 300 metres on both sides of the road.

The affected people would be compensated by developers who would be allocated with plots. The Ministry was also working with Lusaka City Council to find adequate land for those who would be displaced.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee notes that the assurance was made in 2007, but to date very little progress has been made. Your Committee urges the Government to swiftly implement the assurance, but should take reasonable steps to ensure that the residents of Misisi Compound, who will be displaced, are fully compensated or resettled elsewhere in a comfortable manner.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

07/09 – Redesigning and Expanding of Roads

On 18th March, 2009, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, my Ministry has plans to assist not only the Lusaka City Council but all authorities to redesign and expand road infrastructure, whose carriage capacity has been exceeded by the ever increasing volume of motor vehicles."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that road works were progressing at different levels in various places around the country. Currently, work was advanced on the Mosi-oa-Tunya road in Livingstone. In addition, twenty-seven kilometres of road would be improved during the period 2010/2011 in Kitwe and Ndola. In Lusaka, the Lusaka City Council with the support of the Japanese Government had developed a Comprehensive Development Plan to guide developments up to 2030. The plan recommends the construction of an inner ring road network from Mosi-oa-Tunya road in Woodlands across Great North Road (Chibolya) up to Great North Road near Zanimuone.

A JICA study team was currently in Zambia working out the details of the project due to commence in 2011.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that preliminary work has commenced towards improving the road network across the country. Your Committee hopes that the momentum will not wither away, in due course. Your Committee expresses concern over the completion period of the Lusaka ring road set for 2030. This was too far fetched.

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

33/09 – Improvement of Drainage in Kanyama Compound

On 13th October, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Housing made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Madam Speaker, it is true that the issue of lack of drainage system in Kanyama is becoming perpetual and there is a need to have a long term solution to this particular problem. The House will be interested to know that the Ministry is undertaking an exercise to look into what long-term solutions can be reached with regard to Kanyama."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government had committed K10 billion towards the improvement of drainage in Kanyama. A contract of K9.7 billion had been signed between the Lusaka city council and Messrs Pet-Gyb Limited, for the construction of drains. The construction period was six months and the contractor had so far drilled and blasted over a distance of two kilometres. Twenty kilometres of drainage would be done up to Chilongolo area, West of Lusaka.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the Government has set aside K10 billion for improvement of drainage in Kanyama compound and a contractor has actually moved on site to commence the works.

Your Committee resolves to conduct a physical check of the drainage situation in Kanyama after the 2009/2010 rainy season.

Your Committee also questions the adequacy of the K10 billion considering the vastness of the problem.

Your Committee awaits a progress report.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

16/08 – Programme for Urban Self-Help (PUSH) Projects in Northern and Luapula Province

On 12th November, 2008, the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Social Services made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Madam Speaker, with regard to the Northern Province, I would like to report to the House that an assessment has been made and in due course, funds permitting, PUSH will be rolled out to the Northern and Luapula Provinces."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that there had been a slight increase in the PUSH budgetary allocation from K720 million in 2009, to K1.094 billion in 2010. However, the rollout plan to the provinces remained a priority in the programmes of PUSH. The total cost of rolling out to Luapula and Northern Provinces, amounted to K2.9 billion which was more than the budgetary allocation.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the budgetary allocation for PUSH programmes is inadequate thereby causing delays in implementation in Luapula and Northern Provinces. Your Committee urges the Government to find alternative means of implementing the programme so that people's lives in rural areas can be improved.

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

NEW ASSURANCE

31/08 – Removal of Street Children from the Streets in all Districts

On 12th November, 2008, the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Social Services made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, I would like to assure the Honourable Members of this August House that it is envisaged that all the districts experiencing this social problem will eventually be empowered to be able to employ preventive measures against streetism."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services has concluded various programmes and activities which included strategic planning, capacity building, provision of motorised transport, financial support and establishment of District Child Protection Committees and infrastructure development to address the problem of street children.

The Ministry has also adopted the National Child Policy as a framework of reference to address the problem of street children and has developed guidelines to manage the problem of children found on the streets.

The Permanent Secretary also reported that a number of other measures have been put in place to address the problem of street children, namely, training of Child Protection Committees in thirteen districts, training of District Social Welfare Officers in all the seventy-two districts of Zambia, in child witness court preparation and establishing child protection structures at the district level. In conjunction with the Zambia Police Service, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services has established the child protection unit meant to create a safe environment for children.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the measures put in place by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services are adequate to address the problem of streetism. However, your Committee notes that street children have reappeared on the streets, especially in Lusaka and their number is rising steadily, despite the measures put in place. Your Committee also observes that beggars in wheelchairs have also emerged on the streets, especially at the Manda Hill Fly over bridge in Lusaka. The beggars risked being runover by motorists because their area of operation is extremely busy.

Your Committee urges the Government to adequately fund the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services so that the problem of street children including the beggars that are roaming the streets can be attended to adequately.

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

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY

NEW ASSURANCES

47/07 – Improvement of Ntambu Road and Kabompo Bridge

On 23rd November, 2007, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"The Ministry has plans to improve the existing Ntambu Road including the Kabompo Bridge."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry of Works and Supply through the Road Development Agency (RDA) intended to include the periodic maintenance of the Ntambu road including the improvement of the Kabompo bridge in the 2009 Annual Work Plan. However, the budget was streamlined and re-aligned to meet costs for on-going road projects, to ensure their timely completion. The trend had continued in the 2010 Annual Work Plan where priority had been given to the completion of on-going projects.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with great disappointment that absolutely nothing has been done to improve Ntambu road and Kabompo bridge despite the assurance being made in 2007. Your Committee urges the Government not to make hasty assurances without taking into account the availability of funds required for implementation of the assurances.

Your Committee strongly urges the Government to find alternative ways of securing funds for the project, since it is not included in the Ministry of Works and Supply work plan for 2010.

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

22/08 – Rehabilitation of the D56 Kasama – Safwa – Chinsali Road

On 13th March, 2008, the Deputy Minister of Works and Supply assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the Minister has immediate plans to upgrade the existing Kasama – Safwa – Chinsali road to bitumen standard."

Your Committee was updated by the Permanent Secretary that the Ministry of Works and Supply through the Road Development Agency, awarded the contract to carryout periodic maintenance of 125 kilometres of the road, to a local contractor in July, 2008, for a duration of eight months.

The contractor has carried out and completed sixty kilometres out of the 125 kilometres. The works were scheduled for completion in April, 2009, but due to inadequate funding, the project has been extended to March, 2010.

Your Committee was further informed that the assurance has shifted from upgrading the road to bitumen standard to mere periodic maintenance of the road because the local residents felt that maintenance was more urgent.

On its tour of duty, your Committee inspected the road to assess the extent of rehabilitation and the quality of the works.

Kasama – Safwa – Chinsali Road

On the tour of the Kasama-Safwa-Chinsali Road, your Committee was accompanied by engineers from the Roads Development Agency (RDA) and the engineers from Sable Construction Company, the Company contracted to rehabilitate the Road. Although the assurance was to raise the road to bitumen standard, the road had only been graveled. The gravelling was almost complete with only seven kilometres remaining.

Your Committee travelled on the road from one end to the other. Your Committee observed that although drainage had been created parts of the road had been washed away by heavy rains, before the works could even be completed. In some portions your Committee's bus had to pass over logs that were used in places where rain and burst rivers had created gullies on the road.



Parts of the Kasama-Safwa-Chinsali Road washed away by heavy rains

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that instead of raising the road to bitumen standard, the Government has opted for mere maintenance as purportedly advised by the local residents. Your Committee wonders how the Ministry of Works and Supply sought consensus from the locals, over a road which stretches over 120 kilometres.

Your Committee observes that the road was a vital link between Chinsali and Kasama and, therefore, recommend that the Government should adhere to what was assured on the floor of the House.

Your Committee further observes that the road has already been damaged before repairs are complete. Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to stick to its original plan as assured since it is economical to construct a bitumen road which is more permanent than undertaking maintenance every rainy season.

Your Committee awaits an update report on the matter.

34/09 – Completion of Mongu – Kalabo Road

On the 25th September, 2009, the Minister of Works and Supply made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"It has been the intention of the Ministry to alleviate the difficulties being faced in travelling by the people between Mongu and Kalabo. The Ministry is still desirous to complete the project."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry through the Road Development Agency, had immediate plans to carryout and complete the construction of the Mongu – Kalabo road. Currently, the Ministry was finalizing discussions with the Chinese Government on the financing of the road project, following the completion of the review of the design and preparation of tender documents.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that despite some efforts to attend to the Mongu – Kalabo road, there is no clear time frame as to when the project will start and end. Your Committee urges the Government to ensure that the road works begin before the end of 2010, as the road in question is of great economic importance to the people of Western Province.

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

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

NEW ASSURANCES

10/09 – Rehabilitation of Chishimba Zambia National Service Camp in Kasama

On 15th July, 2009, the Minister of Sport, Youth and Child Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Madam Speaker, the Government through my Ministry has plans to expand the street children rehabilitation and reintegration programme..... as soon as we mobilise adequate resources, my Ministry will start the rehabilitation of facilities at Chishimba ZNS Camp in Kasama."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development had budgeted for the rehabilitation of Chishimba ZNS Camp in the 2010 budget and had since communicated in writing to the Ministry of Defence proposing that the works commence in January, 2010, in phases.

Your Committee being alive to the importance of eradicating children from the streets, undertook a tour of Chishimba ZNS Camp to get first hand information on the constraints to the commencement in time of the rehabilitation project.

Chishimba ZNS Camp

Your Committee was welcomed to Chishimba ZNS Camp by the Officer in command and his delegation and was joined by officials from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development from Lusaka.

Your Committee was informed by the Officer in Command that ZNS had done its part in so far as the project was concerned. All the paper work in terms of plans had been done including the Bills of Quantities, which were sent to Lusaka in 2007. The former Permanent Secretary of Sport, Youth and Child Development had actually visited the camp and assured that works would commence in January, 2010.

K220 million was released by Government, but this was for two other ZNS camps. Your Committee learnt that the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development did not have adequate resources for the full construction of the youth camp, therefore, a phased approach has been proposed.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the removing of children from the streets to train them in life skills could not be over emphasised. The Committee urges the Government to attach great importance to the issue by ensuring that it is budgeted for in 2011.

Your Committee observes that the K220 million, which has been released for three ZNS camps is inadequate to cater for meaningful rehabilitation or construction of proper facilities. The Government needs to release more money if any meaningful progress on the assurance is to be made.

Your Committee resolves to await a progress report since rehabilitation has been scheduled to commence in 2010.

17/09 – Rehabilitation Works at Independence and Maramba Stadia

On 29th July, 2009, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and Child Development assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker, my Ministry is also making arrangements to rehabilitate the Independence stadium in Lusaka and the Maramba stadium in Livingstone in order to attract teams that will qualify to the world cup to train and acclimatise here prior to the world cup."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary informed your Committee that the Government had changed the focus from rehabilitation of the two stadia, to construction.

With respect to Independence stadium, construction would commence when contract negotiations were completed and financial resources were made available through a concessional loan from the People's Republic of China.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee notes the change from rehabilitation to construction of two stadia. The Committee welcomes the change, but urges the Government to formally inform the House on the new position.

Your Committee appeals to the Government to hasten the commencement of works on the stadia owing to the general poor state of stadia countrywide. However, your Committee is disappointed that Zambia has been robbed of an opportunity to host some FIFA world cup 2010 teams, due to inordinate delays to commence refurbishing of the two stadia.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to await a progress report.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

20/08 – Development of New Railway Lines

On 13th March, 2008, the Honourable Minister of Communication and Transport made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

"The Ministry will continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in further exploring the possibilities of attracting private sector investment opportunities for the development of new railway lines such as the Chingola-Lumwana, Nseluka-Mpulungu, Chipata-TAZARA, Mulobezi-Caprivi and the Lions Den Kafue railway lines."

(a) Chingola-Lumwana Railway Line

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in August, 2008, with a consortium of three foreign companies to develop the railway line. However, works on the project did not commence due to litigation by an interested party. The High Court ruled in favour of the Government, but the plaintiff appealed to the Supreme Court, which was yet to decide on the matter.

(b) Nseluka-Mpulungu, Chipata-TAZARA, Mulobezi-Caprii Railway Lines

The intention of the Government on the above railway links has been to have them developed through private sector participation. To this end, advertisements were issued, but there was no response from the private sector.

At the moment, the Government was still looking for either funds to carryout feasibility studies on the projects, or investors who could undertake the projects on turnkey basis.

(c) Kafue to Lions Den Railway Line

With respect to the Kafue railway to Lions Den railway in Zimbabwe, discussion with potential financiers were held and indications were that the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), was interested in partnering with the Government of Zambia and Zimbabwe to undertake the project. The Zambian Government was still awaiting a response from the potential funder.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the Government is not clear on the time frame within which the railway development projects will commence and when they will be completed. Your Committee notes that no meaningful progress has been made by the Ministry of Communications and Transport, since their last appearance before your previous Committee.

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

21/08 – Resumption of Njanji Commuter Services

On 13th March, 2008, the Honourable Minister of Communication and Transport made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Further, the Ministry intends to resume the operations, through private sector participation, of the Njanji Commuter Services, which will provide alternative mass transit transport to the road sector."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government through the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) invited expressions of interest from the private sector to develop and operate the commuter service. None of the bidders were responsive, thus, stalling the

entire project. The Ministry has, therefore, re-advertised the Njanji Commuter Services so that a quality concessionaire was chosen to manage and operate the sub-urban train service. The Ministry was eager to actively make the Njanji Commuter Service a reliable alternative mode of urban transport for Lusaka.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that just like in the case of the other railway links under construction, it was unclear when the Njanji Commuter will be resuscitated. Your Committee observes that real estate developments have taken place close to the railway line, contrary to the Law. Your Committee urges the Ministry of Communication and Transport to liaise with their counterparts at the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, to intervene in the developments that are sprouting up very close to the railway line.

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

NEW ASSURANCE

05/09 – Conversion of Lusaka International Airport into an Air Cargo Hub

On 11th March, 2009, the Minister of Communications and Transport, made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, there are also plans to turn Lusaka International Airport into an air cargo hub to cater for the anticipated traffic from the economic zones."

In his submission, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government still has plans to turn Lusaka International Airport into a cargo hub, as was evidenced from the now compiled Lusaka International Airport Master Plan. The plan proposed that the Airport would have two runways to accommodate increased traffic.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the plans to convert the Lusaka International Airport into an Air cargo hub are still alive. Your Committee urges the Government to avail the Lusaka International Airport Master Plan, to your Committee, as merely referring to its availability is hearsay. The Committee further urges the Government to attach a time frame to show the activities which will be implemented and to show how the Master Plan will assist in developing an Air Cargo hub.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee requests a progress report on the matter.

06/09 – Construction of Terminal Buildings at Mbala Airport

On 11th March, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Communication and Transport, made the following assurances on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the Government will also construct a new terminal building at Mbala Airport to facilitate commercial and civil operation."

The Permanent Secretary submitted to your Committee that the Government has plans to construct a Civilian Terminal Building at Mbala Airport through the Northern Province Administration. However, at the moment, Government's priorities were Kasaba Bay, Mansa, Kasama and Solwezi Airports. Mbala Airport was a military base for that reason it would prove difficult to construct a Civilian Terminal Building there. That notwithstanding, the Ministry of Communication and Transport was in discussion with the Ministry of Defence regarding the same.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that despite the Minister of Communication and Transport making the assurance on the floor of the House, the implementation of the assurance is not on the Government's immediate list of priorities. Further, your Committee notes that construction of a Civilian Terminal Building at Mbala Airport will prove difficult because Mbala Airport is a Military base.

Your Committee wonders why the Government made the assurance when it is apparent that the airport apart from being a military base, is not on the Ministry's list of priorities, in terms of construction of a terminal building for civilians.

In view of the impediments that surround the construction of a terminal building at Mbala airport, your Committee urges the Government to clarify its position on the assurance, via a ministerial statement on the floor of the House.

16/02 – Kasama Airport Rehabilitation

On 7th March, 2002, the Honourable Minister of Communication and Transport informed the House that it was just a matter of time before the Government moved in and started working on Kasama Airport.

Your Committee undertook a follow-up tour of the Airport following a similar tour by your previous Committee in 2008. At that time, the terminal building was under construction.

Your Committee inspected the terminal building which had been fully completed albeit awaiting installation of fixtures required for it to begin operating.

Your Committee also inspected the 1.8 km runway which was still gravel with no prospects of being tarred. Your Committee was informed that there were plans to extend and tar the runway but it was not definite when the plans would be fulfilled.

Your Committee learnt that although the Airport had two fire engines, it did not have a fire station. Plans for a fire station were submitted to the department of civil aviation headquarters, but to date, there has been no response. The Province received monthly grants of K11 million which were never adequate to meet the needs of all districts in the Northern Province, which all had airstrips, except Nakonde.

Your Committee also noted that the airport had no fuel pumps at all, while its control tower could not meet any minimum standard of any Airport in the world.



Complete Terminal Building at Kasama Airport



Parts of the 1.8 km Gravel Runway at Kasama Airport

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that although the terminal buildings erected at the Kasama Airport are of acceptable standard, the rest of the facilities at the airport are sub-standard.

Your Committee observes that Kasama Airport can meet international standards owing to the abundant tourism potential in Northern Province.

Your Committee urges the Government to upgrade the standards of the Airport by extending and constructing a new runway, build a new control tower, install fuel pumps and construct a fire station.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

22/07 – Procurement and Delivery of Ambulances to Hospitals and Health Centres Countrywide

On 22nd November, 2007, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Health made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the tendering process for procuring ambulances has already been identified and done. The order has already been made and we are waiting for Toyota Zambia to deliver the ambulances. Therefore, until such a time that Toyota Zambia delivers the ambulances, we are not able to say exactly when they will arrive."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported to your Committee that the Ministry of Health had started procuring ambulances for all major hospitals in the country. In addition the Ministry had recalled some of the Toyota Hardtop Land Cruiser motor vehicles which were being converted into ambulances, in order to make them comfortable for patients. The Government has since received support worth K144 million, from Standard Chartered Bank to convert ten Land Cruisers into ambulances for Health Centres. The policy of the Ministry however, was that ambulances were procured and stationed at major referral hospitals only, which provided the facility to respective catchment areas.

In order to assess whether indeed hospitals did not experience shortages in terms of Ambulances, your Committee decided to sample Kasama General Hospital.

Kasama General Hospital and Nursing School

Your Committee was informed by the hosts that their tour of the Hospital and the Nursing School was combined because the two institutions coexisted in the same premises.

Your Committee was informed that Kasama General Hospital consisted of the old wing built in the early 1920s and the new wing which opened in 1978. Some of the structures had remained at slab level from the 1970s to date.

The hospital had twelve wards, a 400 bed capacity and was the largest in Northern Province, with a catchment of the whole province which has a large population.

In terms of staffing, the Hospital has fifteen Doctors, eight clinical officers and seventy-nine nurses against an establishment of eighty-four nurses. Other qualified staff in Accounts and Human Resources Departments were available.

The Hospital has a fleet of six Land cruisers, one Pajero and one Bus which was being used to transport members of staff. The Hospital only has one Ambulance, which at the time of the visit could only start after pushing. The Ambulance was not fully equipped with life support facilities such as oxygen, but was expected to service the whole of Kasama and other distant areas within reach of Kasama.

In terms of the Hospital buildings or infrastructure, your Committee was informed that the buildings in some places were dilapidated although there were renovations currently taking place at the main Theatre, the minor Theatre and the kitchen. The intensive care unit was not functioning and did not have specialized ICU equipment. Your Committee learnt that although the Hospital receives funding every month, it was not adequate to meet all the needs.

In terms of communication for Ambulance or emergency callouts, your Committee was informed that Radio Communication was available at every hospital and health centre in the province. Your Committee learnt, however, that in this era of advanced technology, where cellphones were readily available, it was not allowed to use them as means of communication at Health Centres.

On the rehabilitation of facilities at Kasama General Hospital Nursing School, the Director of the School informed your Committee that since 2008, the school had received a sum of about K705 million from the Government meant for general rehabilitation and construction of a cafeteria, kitchen and lecture theatre. Currently, construction was on-going except that funding was erratic thereby causing inordinate delays in completion of the construction of the said infrastructure.

Your Committee also learnt that the shortage of staff at the Hospital also affected student training at the Nursing School, further, there was no training equipment and specialized wards at Kasama General Hospital from where students could be adequately trained. To mitigate this, students were sent to UTH and Chainama Hospital for practicals at a very huge cost.

Your Committee was taken on a conducted tour of the nursing school where they inspected projects under construction such as the lecture theatre, the kitchen and the office block.

Your Committee found the contractor on site and was impressed with the general outlook of the works, as illustrated by the picture below.



Construction of a Lecture Theatre at Kasama School of Nursing

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that parts of Kasama General Hospital infrastructure has remained incomplete for over twenty years. The hospital is understaffed despite servicing a large catchment area.

Contrary to submissions by the Permanent Secretary that the Ambulances have been distributed to major hospitals in the country, the Kasama General Hospital was serviced by one

Ambulance which is not fully equipped with life saving equipment. The said Ambulance can only start by pushing.

Your Committee observes that the Hospital's Intensive Care Unit is in a state of disrepair and remains disused. Staffing levels are generally low thereby creating a strain on the skeleton staff at the Hospital. In addition, the Hospital does not have an anesthetist among its staff.

Your Committee recommends that the Ministry of Health should consider budgeting for infrastructure improvement at Kasama General Hospital as a matter of urgency. Your Committee also recommends that at least two more fully equipped Ambulances should be procured for Kasama General Hospital to adequately service Kasama District and the surrounding areas. Your Committee recommends that staffing levels at the Hospital should be increased to adequately cater for the needs of all patients. An anesthetist should be employed as a matter of urgency.

For the Nursing School, your Committee recommends that more attention should be turned towards the completion of rehabilitation/construction of the institution so that more nurses are trained to mitigate the staff shortages in the Ministry of Health generally and Kasama General Hospital in particular.

Your Committee urges the Government to immediately provide training equipment for practicals at the Nursing School, instead of students travelling a lot of kilometres to Lusaka's UTH and Chainama Hospital for practicals. The money spent on sending students to Lusaka for practicals can be channeled in equipping Kasama General Hospital so that students are trained locally.

Your Committee urges the Ministry of Health to consider revising the policy of stationing the Ambulances at major referral hospitals only and forbidding usage of cell phones at health centres for communication so that people who live in remote areas of the country can also benefit from Ambulance facilities.

In view of the aforesaid, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

25/06 – Expansion of Chainama Hills Hospital into a Second Level Provincial Hospital

On 13th July, 2007, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Health made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, Government..... will instead expand some other urban clinics like Chawama, Chilenje, Kanyama and Matero to mini-hospitals which will provide laboratory, x-ray, dental, in-patient, theatre and blood transfusion services."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government signed a contract with a Chinese Company, China Jiansu in October, 2009, to construct a second level hospital at Chainama Hills grounds. The Hospital would serve as a second level referral hospital for Lusaka.

Your Committee was informed that once completed, the Hospital would operate as an independent second level hospital and not an extension of the Chainama Hills Hospital, which was a specialist third level hospital.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that construction of a second level hospital in Lusaka has progressed very well. However, your Committee notes the shift from the initial assurance of expansion of Chainama Hills Hospital into a second level hospital, to construction of an independent second level hospital.

In view of the aforesaid, your Committee wishes to know through a ministerial statement what necessitated the shift in the assurance and the stage at which construction has reached, before any considerations to close the assurance are made.

Your Committee, therefore, resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

05/01 – Rehabilitation of Chipata, Kasama, Kabwe and Livingstone Nurses Training Schools

The Honourable Deputy Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House on 20th February, 2001:

"Also we have some money to improve Chipata, Kasama, Kabwe and Livingstone Nurses Training Schools. We are going to rehabilitate these training schools and buy new equipment."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary informed your Committee that rehabilitation of Chipata, Kabwe and Livingstone Nursing Schools had been completed. With regard to Kasama Nursing School, a contractor has been engaged to complete an office block, kitchen, lecture theatre and carryout general maintenance of the institution. K1 billion had been released by the Government, to complete the said works.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that K1 billion has been released by the Government to complete the rehabilitation of Kasama Nursing Training School, which is the only one yet to be finished in the assurance.

Your Committee notes however, that the submission is silent on acquisition of new equipment for all the schools.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to be updated on the on-going works at Kasama Nursing School and acquisition of new equipment for all the nursing schools referred to in the assurance.

NEW ASSURANCE

15/09 – Establishment of a Medical School at Ndola Central Hospital and a Nursing School at Chitambo Hospital

On 17th July, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Health made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Madam Speaker, at the moment, we are considering starting a medical school at the Ndola Central Hospital and this has reached quite an advanced stage..... we also want to start a Nursing School at Chitambo Hospital."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government has constituted a committee of experts, who were doing an in depth study of the modalities on how this could be done. The committee has already identified accommodation in existing buildings at Ndola Central Hospital. The Government intended to implement this through the Public-Private Partnership as a way to leverage private sector resources. The Ministry has since drafted the relevant Cabinet Memorandum for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

On the re-opening of Chitambo Nursing School, the Permanent Secretary reported that thus far, the Government in 2009, carried out an assessment of what needed to be done before the School could be re-opened. Bills of Quantities were done and an initial funding of K325 million was released for rehabilitation of the infrastructure at the School. In 2010, the Ministry allocated K870 million for rehabilitation of hostels, kitchen and classrooms.

The Ministry was, therefore, committed to ensuring that the school commenced training in 2010, after the on-going rehabilitation works have been finished.

In order to appreciate the progress made on the assurance, your Committee visited the two institutions.

(a) Ndola Medical School

Your Committee made a follow-up on the assurance by the Government to open a Medical School at Ndola Central Hospital under the supervision of the Copperbelt University.

Your Committee was received at Ndola Central Hospital (NCH), by the Vice-Chancellor of Copperbelt University (CBU), the Provincial Medical Officer and the Board and Management of NCH.

Your Committee was briefed on the efforts/progress made on the assurance. Your Committee heard that it was the intention of Government to establish the country's second Medical School in Ndola. In pursuit of this objective, the Government with the support of the World Health Organisation in January, 2010, appointed a consultant to study and recommend a model for the development of the Ndola Medical School.

According to the consultant's recommendation, the responsibility for training of medical students at the new Ndola Medical School would be vested in the Health Sciences Centre (HSC). The HSC would be a joint venture between the Ministries of Health and Education and would conduct its teaching at four Ndola institutions namely; the Arthur Davison Hospital (ADH), the Ndola Central Hospital (NCH), the Ndola School of Biomedical Sciences (NSBMS) and the Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC).

The HSC would be an affiliate of the CBU which would provide the academic accreditation of the HSC. The CBU would also offer Natural Sciences courses for students wishing to enroll in the Medical School.

It was planned that the new Medical School would open in April, 2011.

In the long term, it was planned that the HSC would have its own purpose built facilities within Ndola. However, as this would take a few years to build and in view of the desire of the Government to open the Medical School in April, 2011, it was proposed that in the interim the HSC should be accommodated within the existing facilities of the four institutions in Ndola.

Overall, the four institutions possessed the infrastructure and scope to provide for the training of medical students. Both the Ndola Central and Arthur Davidson's Hospitals had adequate numbers and a variety of wards to equip the new doctors with sufficient skills and knowledge. The Hospitals were backed by well developed laboratories at the TDRC and the Ndola School of Biomedical Sciences. In addition, the CBU has an established School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences through which the new students could enroll.

After the briefing, your Committee was taken on a conducted tour to inspect some of the infrastructure earmarked for use by the Ndola School of Medicine.

Your Committee visited the main Lecture theatre at Ndola Central Hospital where they noted that the general state of the lecturer theatre did not even meet the minimum standards of a college or university. The Lecture theatre was not well lit, the floor had suffered serious damage and the ceiling board had come off in some places.

Your Committee further visited the Library, which was in a dilapidated state with archaic stock of books. The dining hall, which was currently being used by students from the Biomedical College and Nursing School, was equally in bad shape.

Your Committee ended its NCH tour by visiting the Ndola School of Biomedical Sciences, whose premises were within the Ndola Central Hospital. Your Committee notes that the school was recently built as all its infrastructure from offices, laboratories and lecture theatres were in excellent condition.



Dilapidated Ceiling Board at NCH Lecture Theatre

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that although a lot of work towards establishing the Medical School has been done on paper, there is no marching infrastructure at Ndola Central Hospital suitable for university requirements.

Your Committee recommends that the infrastructure they inspected should be repaired or rehabilitated by the Government as a matter of urgency, if the dream of opening the University by April, 2011, is to be realised.

Your Committee further recommends that although the infrastructure at Ndola School of Biomedical Sciences is in good condition, it is not advisable to strain the facilities by extending them to the Medical School when the same are being used by Biomedical students. Infrastructure meant for one school should be left for that school alone otherwise it will suffer multiple wear and tear due to over usage.

(b) Chitambo Mission Nursing School

Your Committee visited the Chitambo Mission Hospital to inspect the extent of rehabilitation/construction of infrastructure to be used by the Nursing School. Your Committee was received by the officer in charge of the Hospital who took them on a conducted tour.

Your Committee inspected the classroom block, which had been fully rehabilitated, although furniture had not yet been procured.

The visit to the thirty-two bed space hostels revealed that rehabilitation works were completed with minor works remaining.

Your Committee was informed that the hostels were for females only, therefore, male students could not be enrolled at the institution due to lack of space. The institution was supposed to be opened in July, 2010, but this would only be possible if all the furniture and kitchen equipment were procured.

The Mission Hospital was capable of training nurses because the basic facilities were available in the maternity ward, surgical ward, medical ward and pediatrics ward.



Complete Classroom at Chitambo Mission Hospital awaiting to be furnished



Complete Students Hostels at Chitambo Mission Hospital

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee was impressed by the quality of construction works of the classrooms and the hostels. Your Committee urges the Government to provide funds for the Hospital to acquire furniture and kitchen equipment so that the Nursing School can open as planned in July, 2010.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on both institutions since implementation of both projects is still in progress.

THE JUDICIARY

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCE

15/08 – Construction of Nyalugwe and Luembe Local Courts

On 12th November, 2008, the Honourable Minister of Justice assured the House as follows:

"As for the construction of Nyalugwe and Luembe Local Courts in Nyimba Parliamentary Constituency, these will be considered for inclusion in future budgets as and when funds became available."

In his update, the Chief Administrator reported that construction of a local court at Luembe had been included in the 2010 budget, while that of Nyalugwe Local Court had been ear-marked for the 2011 budget.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that construction of Luembe Local Court has been catered for in the 2010 budget while that of Nyalugwe will be catered for in 2011. Your Committee is concerned at the slow pace at which the assurance is being implemented.

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

NEW ASSURANCE

09/09 – Construction of Magistrate's Court and Deployment of Magistrate to Chienge District

On 4th August, 2009, the Deputy Minister of Justice assured the House as follows:

"Mr Speaker..... being a new district, Chienge is one of the very few districts with no Magistrates Courts. The Government will construct a court and send a Magistrate to Chienge on resident basis when funds are available."

In his update, the Chief Administrator reported that the Judiciary recognised the importance and usefulness of constructing a subordinate court in Chiengwe District. However, the Judiciary was unable to construct one due to budgetary constraints. For the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period, funds for infrastructure development had been "ring fenced" for the construction and rehabilitation of local courts.

Chiengwe would, therefore, continue to be circuitised by Magistrates from Nchelenge until a subordinate court in the district is constructed.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that construction of a subordinate court and sending a Magistrate on resident basis to Chiengwe District is neither in the short term, nor long term plans of the Judiciary due to budgetary constraints.

Your Committee notes that despite the assurance being made by the Minister of Justice, who is a member of the executive, the Judiciary is independent and distinct from the Executive and has its own programmes to implement.

In view of this observation, your Committee is at pains to constrain the Judiciary to implement this assurance, which is not in its immediate plans.

On the basis of the foregoing, your Committee recommends that the Ministry of Justice should give a time frame when funds will be made available for implementation of the assurance.

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEW ASSURANCE

21/09 – Increase of Trade between Zambia and Angola

On 4th August, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker..... we are vigorously trying to increase trade between Zambia and Angola..... we hope that this together with the follow-ups will increase trade between Zambia and Angola."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government was working towards improving trade between Zambia and Angola, within the framework of the Joint Permanent Commission of cooperation (JPC) between the two countries.

The Zambia/Angola JPC, held its third session from 14th to 16th April, 2009, in Luanda, Angola to take stock of and explore ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation between Zambia and Angola in various sectors. During the JPC session, a number of agreements were signed.

Further, the JPC was pursuing a number of trade facilitation initiatives that were aimed at improving access to the Angolan market and encouraging interaction by the two countries' respective private sectors.

In the area of basic infrastructure, the two countries were currently pursuing various projects aimed at opening up direct routes between the two countries, through the construction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, rail and air transport infrastructure, in order to improve the movement of goods and business persons.

Some of the links that were currently at different stages of implementation between the two countries, for cross border trade facilitation were, the Mongu-Kalabo-Sikongo Road and the Chingola-Solwezi-Lumwana-Mwinilunga-Jimbe Road. With respect to air links, the two countries agreed during the third session of the JPC, to review and negotiate the Bilateral Air Services Agreement, which was signed in July, 1991, with a view to facilitating direct air link from either country. Currently, only the Angolan airline flies to Lusaka.

With regard to railway link, the two countries had agreed in principle to have a railway link, which would provide the shortest route to the sea for products from the Copperbelt. To this effect, the Zambian Government had undertaken to construct a railway line to the border with Angola to link with the Banguela railway on the Angolan side.

In the area of telecommunication, serious effort was being made to upgrade the existing telecommunication links between the two countries to the optic fibre network. Furthermore, a number of possible border points had been identified and discussions were on-going to ensure the establishment of formalised border control, with a view to facilitating cross-border trade.

Plans were also underway to review the current Bilateral Trade Agreement and to strengthen cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce of the two countries, in order to enhance commercial ties. To this end, a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce of the two countries was under consideration.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that efforts to increase trade between Zambia and Angola are apparent under the framework of the Zambia/Angola JPC, although most of them are still on paper.

Your Committee notes, for example, that it is not certain when the proposed railway link from Zambia to Angola will be constructed, as undertaken by the Zambian Government. It is also not clear when Zambia will establish formalised border controls on the informal border points with Angola and when telecommunication links between the two countries will be connected to the optic fibre network.

In view of the foregoing observations, your Committee recommends that the Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should state clearly when some of its efforts, under the Zambia/Angola JPC, will begin to bear fruit, so that your Committee can ascertain whether or not to close the assurance.

Your Committee resolves to await an update on the assurance.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

39/07 – Review of the Zambia Institute of Human Resource Management Act

On 29th November, 2007, the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Security assured the House as follows:

"My Ministry will, therefore, consider reviewing the Zambia Institute of Human Resource Management Act to ensure that all human resource practitioners adhere to appropriate code of practice and advise their employers accordingly."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that her Ministry had received the proposed amendments to the Act. The proposed amendments would be tabled at the next meeting of the Tripartite Consultative Labour Council, scheduled for January, 2010.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the pace at which the process of reviewing the *Zambia Institute of Human Resource Management Act* is moving is extremely slow. Your Committee notes that the assurance to review the said Act was made in 2007, and to date, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security has only received proposed amendments to be tabled at the tripartite consultative labour council.

In view of the aforesaid, your Committee urges the Government to quickly dispose of this matter. A progress report will be awaited by your Committee.

40/07 – Recruitment of Labour Officers and Inspectors and Opening up of New Labour Field Stations

On 29th November, 2007, the Minister of Labour and Social Security assured the House as follows:

"My Ministry plans to continue recruiting and opening up new labour field stations in various parts of the country next year."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that vacancies still remained unoccupied due to budgetary constraints. Her Ministry still remained one of the least funded ministries and regrettably, the budget allocation for 2010, was only increased by K1.4 billion and currently stood at K15 billion. Funding of about K30 billion would be ideal for the Ministry to adequately execute its mandate.

The inadequate and erratic funding to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, made it difficult for it to employ more officers and effectively carryout important tasks such as labour inspections.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that, as long as, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security remains poorly funded, this assurance will not be fulfilled. Your Committee notes that the issue of inadequate funding to the Ministry has come up again, as was the case in 2009, during the Ministry's submissions to your previous Committee.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee recommends to the Government to seriously consider increasing the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security starting with the 2011 budget. The Committee recognises that the Ministry of Labour and Social Security is extremely critical in the social and economic development of the country and should, therefore, be given priority in terms of financial and technical support.

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

NEW ASSURANCE

32/09 – Employment of Zambians at Luanshya Copper Mines Plc (LCM)

On 7th October, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Security made the following assurance of the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the new owners are in the process of settling down..... we hope, as they settle down, more Zambians and less Chinese will be employed."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that during the rebuilding and rehabilitation process of the Luanshya Copper Mines Plc (now called China Non-Ferrous Metal Company [CLM]), workers were employed on six months fixed term contracts. There were 1, 164 employees engaged under this arrangement. Currently, a total of 2, 500 Zambian nationals and thirty-six Chinese nationals were employed at the Baluba mines and general office, by the new LCM owner.

In order to verify the forgoing submission, your Committee undertook a tour of the Luanshya Copper Mine.

CNMC Luanshya Copper Mines Plc (CLM)

Your Committee on its tour to Luanshya was accompanied by the District Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer with his management team. Your Committee was briefed in the company's boardroom on matters pertaining to safety, operations of the mines, infrastructure/equipment development and industrial and labour matters.

On labour matters to which the assurance relates, your Committee was informed that the current Mine Investors and Management were different from the previous Luanshya Copper Mines (LCM) investors.

In terms of the number of Zambians employed by the mine, the statistics set out hereunder were provided:

- Labour force before LCM was placed on care and maintenance – 1701;
- CLM Labour Force as at 10th April, 2010 – 2448
- Ex LCM currently employed by CLM – 1446
- Ex LCM who were employed but have since separated – 58
- Ex LCM not employed due to bad disciplinary record – 10
- Ex LCM above normal retirement age – 81
- Ex LCM not employed on account of Health – 42
- Ex LCM who were offered employment but rejected offer – 15
- Ex LCM working elsewhere – 6
- Ex LCM waiting to be employed – 32

Your Committee heard that of the 2448 currently employed, 661 were recruited from service contractor employees while 341 were sourced from the open market.

Your Committee appealed to the new Management team to consider reemploying those who were on the waiting list and those who had previous bad disciplinary records.

Your Committee also heard from Union officials, who submitted that the thirty-two ex-LCM employees waiting to be employed were overlooked when the mine employed from service providers and the open market. They alleged that this was pure discrimination as the thirty-two possessed the necessary skills that the other group from the open market possessed.

They further submitted that the ten, who were not employed due to bad disciplinary records with the former Management, should be given a second chance since they were not dismissed by the previous Mine owners.

Your Committee was then taken on a conducted tour of the mine infrastructure to appreciate some of the state of the art machinery and equipment that had been invested in the Mine. Your Committee also toured the Baluba Mine and the site where the Mulyashi Open Pit Mine would be established.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee notes that the submission of the Permanent Secretary and the Management of CLM, in terms of the number of employees were at variance. It was observed by your Committee that there are still several ex employees of LCM that have not yet been employed by the mine. Your Committee appeals to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the CLM management not to sideline the former employees that are still anxiously waiting to be re-employed, especially that priority has been given to those that are not even on the waiting list.

Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the employment of the thirty two ex-employees on the waiting list.

MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCES

35/07 – Replacement of a Rotary Kiln at Ndola Lime Company Limited

On 15th November, 2007, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Mines and Minerals Development made the following undertaking on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, there are plans that are already being implemented to replace the old rotary kiln at Ndola Lime Company Limited in order to increase the production levels and meet the growing demand for lime..... The project has commenced and is expected to be completed by March, 2009."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that sourcing of funds for the Ndola Lime Company recapitalisation project which primarily involved installation of a vertical kiln and a hydrator has continued. In the meantime, Ndola Lime has continued to pay from its funds for the said equipment.

As a result of the payments made by Ndola Lime, it was reported that the manufacturer of the hydrator was at an advanced stage and the same would be ready for shipment in March, 2010, and would be commissioned by December, 2010.

As for the vertical kiln, a bridge finance of US\$ 6 million had been secured and was expected to be disbursed in January, 2010. The amount would guarantee further payment for the equipment so that the manufacture of the vertical kiln could commence. The bridge fund would also instigate the commencement of engineering designs and civil works. The vertical kiln was expected to be commissioned by March, 2011, subject to the securing of the funding.

In line with the assurance, and owing to the length of time it had taken to implement the assurance, your Committee decided to undertake a tour of the Ndola Lime plant.

Ndola Lime Company Limited

Your Committee was welcomed at Ndola Lime Company by the Management team and were briefed in the company's board room.

Your Committee was informed that Ndola Lime Company (NLC) was a 100% subsidiary of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Investment Holdings (ZCCM-IH), a Zambian parastatal company, 87% owned by the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

The company was the only producer of quicklime in Zambia, having been originally founded on 10th January, 1931, as Northern Rhodesia Lime Company.

Today, Ndola Lime Company had two lime burning kilns, with associated crushing equipment which could produce up to 900 tonnes per day (tpd) with a labour force of 418. The company had a large scale mining license area of 385 hectares in extent, with reserves of about 34, 322, 545 tonnes and resources of about 10, 948, 515 tonnes.

The current extraction rate was at 800, 000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of acceptable limestone, with a mine life of forty-three years from the current quarry based on a depth of 90 metres from the surface.

In terms of recapitalisation in general and replacement of key equipment in, particular, your Committee was informed that following the privatisation of the mining industry in Zambia, starting in 1997, NLC was left as a subsidiary of ZCCM-IH waiting to be privatised later. The process of privatizing NLC dragged on for ten years, till 2007.

Your Committee heard that prior to 2007, the Company was not allowed to undertake substantial capital re-investment, resulting in poor operational inefficiencies and inability to satisfy the market, the selling prices of the company's products were fixed up to December 2006, by the Government through the off-take agreements that had been signed with the private mining companies, denominated in US dollars. The condition of the plant and equipment deteriorated due to frequent breakdowns, reduced productivity, high cost of maintenance and production. The Company had a weakened balance sheet hence employees' salaries remained low in comparison to equivalent jobs in the mining industry resulting in disenchantment and low morale among the workforce.

Following the lapsing of the previous contracts in December 2006, Management of NLC negotiated and signed new contracts that were competitive and whose payment was denominated in Zambian kwacha, resulting in tremendous improvement in the financial performance of the Company.

In terms of technological improvements, the Company obtained a lease loan amounting to US\$ 3, 000, 000 from Barclays Bank. Using the lease facility, management bought new capital equipment and carried out rehabilitation of front end loaders in 2007/2008.

The main key project, which the Board approved, was the implementation of the Recapitalisation of Lime Plant Project on 28th June, 2007, at an estimated cost of US\$ 74, 000,

- 10th November, 2009 – US\$ 6.0 million approved by ZCI Board as loan finance to NLC. Perfecting of loan documentation and sharing the security over NLC’s assets delayed actualization of the funds till March, 2010.
- 11th to 18th December, 2009, inspected manufacturing status of the Hydrating Plant in Italy and engineering design status of the Vertical Kiln. Hydrating plant was 70% complete whilst engineering design of the kiln was virtually complete. Shipping of the Hydrating Plant was planned for May, 2010. Shipping of steel structures of Vertical Kiln was planned for August 2010.
- 26th February, 2010, the exclusive mandate to arrange funds on behalf of NLC given to iCapital.
- 26th March, 2010, US\$ 6.0 million bridge funds drawn from ZCI through iCapital wired to NLC account.
- 25th and 26th March, 2010, Due Diligence Study of NLC by Development Bank of South Africa commenced as part of main funds acquisition.
- 25th March, 2010, A Minor Services Agreement (contract) was signed with the Engineering Projects Company of South Africa Contractor for Phase 1.

COMMITTEE’S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the current challenges of NLC stem from the prohibition to undertake any substantial capital re-investment from 1997 to 2007, due to the Governments indecision to privatise the company during that period. This information, however, was regrettably, not given to your Committee by the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development during their appearance before the Committee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, your Committee is impressed to note that the Zambian management at NLC has managed to keep the company afloat in view of its many financial challenges. Your Committee observes that NLC enjoys monopoly as the sole producer of limestone products in Zambia, which products are of superior quality due to high calcium content and low impurity levels, backed by vast lime production experience spanning over seventy-eight years.

Your Committee recommends that the Zambian management running NLC should be given full support by the Government so that it can achieve its vision statement, which states “To produce world-class quality limestone products through team work at low cost.”

The Government should double its efforts in assisting NLC to acquire the hydrator and vertical kiln required to enhance production. A progress report is awaited by your Committee.

68/07 – Geological Mapping

On 9th March, 2007, the Minister of Mines and Minerals Development assured the House as follows:

"Sir..... we, also, want to continue with geological mapping, including investigations on minerals resources and hydrocarbons in certain parts of the country. Further, when we

have sufficient personnel, we shall be able to go round the country to look at the aspect of safety for our people. We are doing everything possible as a Government, to address the situation so that we can minimise the number of mine accidents."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that geological mapping had progressed at a slow pace due to shortage of geologists at the Geological Survey Department.

The rate of geological mapping would continue to be slow until there was an increase in the number of geologists at the Department. The best alternative would be to undertake aerial mapping, but this was too costly for the Ministry. However, a study in this regard was underway.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the Ministry can not adequately address the assurance due to a critical shortage of geologists at the Geological Survey Department. Your Committee urges the Government to consider budgeting for the employment of more geologists and to urgently complete the study on aerial mapping so that the actual cost can be ascertained.

In view of the above, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

NEW ASSURANCE

30/09 – Resumption of Operations at Nkana Smelter

On 29th September, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Mines and Minerals Development made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker..... I would like to inform the House that as Government, we are engaging Konkola Copper Mines to resume operations at the Nkana Copper Smelter so that they can take up excess concentrates."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that to ensure that all concentrates produced in the country were smelted and refined within the country; there was great urgency to bring back to operation the shut down Nkana Smelter. The Government has, therefore, engaged Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) Management to reopen the smelter.

KCM was also looking at the option of partnering with other investors to recapitalise the smelter. The Government would ensure that the negotiation with KCM Management resulted into reopening of the smelter before 2011. Modernisation of the smelter was the preferred route by KCM because it would reduce environment pollution.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the reopening of Nkana Smelter is entirely dependant upon the cost effectiveness of the project on Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) and not on the Government. KCM is not obliged to reopen the smelter, if doing so proves too costly. Your Committee also observes that on the other hand, opening of the smelter in its current state would be an environmental hazard.

Your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter, but recommends that KCM should hand over the smelter to the Government who in turn will hand over the running of the smelter to Zambia Consolidate Copper Mines Investment Holdings (ZCCM-IH).

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OUTSTANDING ASSURANCE

37/05 – Replacing the Forest Department with the Forestry Commission

On 16th March, 2005, the Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, I wish to inform this House that to a large extent, the Forestry Department will be replaced by the Forestry Commission, especially at the field level. Although the Forestry Act No. 7 of 1999 provides for the transfer of employees from the Forestry department to the Forestry Commission, Government plans to bring an amendment to the House. This will enable employees of the Forestry Department to be retired with full benefits before they join the Commission, which will be an autonomous body."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary submitted to your Committee that Cabinet Office through the Public Service Management Division, advised the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources to review both the Forestry Policy of 1998 and the *Forests Act No. 7 of 1999*.

The Ministry has since reviewed the Forestry Policy of 1998 and a draft policy had since been submitted to Cabinet Office for approval.

Further, the Ministry engaged Legal experts to review the *Forest Act No. 7 of 1999*. The Ministry was waiting for the approval of the revised Forest Policy from Cabinet and the recommendations from the Legal experts, before issuing a statutory instrument to operationalise the *Forests Act No. 7 of 1999*.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes with great disappointment the inordinate delay in operationalising the *Forest Act No. 7 of 1999*, so as to bring to life the Forestry Commission. The Committee notes

that ten years have passed since the passing of the Law, but to-date, that piece of Legislation is still waiting for a statutory instrument to bring it into operation. Your Committee notes with great disappointment that the same response has been given over the past four years without much progress.

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the process of bringing the Act into operation so that the Forestry Commission could begin to function.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to request for a progress report on the matter.

NEW ASSURANCES

49/07 – Construction of Road around Luiwa National Park

On 27th November, 2007, the deputy Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources assured the House in the following words:

"Mr Speaker, as a Ministry, we still definitely give priority to this Road which is already on our work plan."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the current position was that a draft work plan for 2010 containing a schedule of roads was done and submitted to the Road Development Agency (RDA) in August, 2009. The road in question was submitted as one of the roads to be constructed in the RDA Annual Work Plan for 2010. Once the 2010 financial year commenced, it was hoped that the road would be included in the 2010 procurement plan.

The Ministry would, however, follow-up the RDA to ensure that the assurance was implemented.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee notes that the road has been included in the RDA Annual Work Plan for 2010, for possible construction.

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

29/08 – Re-introduction of Forest Guards

On 25th November, 2008, the Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Madam Speaker..... you will recall that in the olden days, we used to have forestry guards. It is the intention of the Government to re-introduce this position so that we can have them patrol the reserves."

In her update, the Permanent Secretary reported that her Ministry had reviewed the Forestry Policy of 1998 and was reviewing the *Forests Act No. 7 of 1999*, with the view of restructuring the Department to include forest guards which were not included in the *Forest Act No. 7 of 1999*.

So far, the Ministry had set aside K172 million in the 2010 budget, to commence the administrative process of restructuring the Forestry Department after the revised Forest Policy has been approved by Cabinet.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee observes that the re-introduction of forest guards like the Forest Commission, depends upon the operationalisation of the *Forest Act No. 7 of 1999*.

Your Committee urges the Government to speed up the process and resolve to await a progress report on the matter.

MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

NEW ASSURANCE

20/09 – Creation of Disease Free Zone for Export of Beef

On 4th August, 2009, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives made the following assurance on the floor of the House:

"Mr Speaker, the Government is in the process of creating a disease free zone which should ensure quality systems such as fences, laboratories, surveillance check-points and quarantine facilities and diseases control to allow the country to export beef."

In his update, the Permanent Secretary reported that the Government was in the process of creating a disease free zone covering Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt Provinces, which would ensure quality systems for livestock were put in place.

To this effect, K23 billion was released to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in September, 2009. Using these resources, the newly created Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries development undertook the following activities: fencing, laboratories, check points, disease control and quarantine.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee notes that efforts towards addressing the assurance has commenced and are progressing well. Your Committee recommends, however, that the disease free zone should also cover the Southern Province owing to the high number of cattle in the province.

In view of the foregoing, your Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

CONCLUSION

5. In conclusion, the Members of the Committee wish to extend their gratitude to you, Mr Speaker, for appointing them to serve on the Committee on Government Assurances and the support rendered to the Committee by your Office throughout the year.

Your Committee wishes to thank the Permanent Secretaries and Chief Executives who appeared before it for their cooperation and willingness in providing the necessary memoranda and briefs. Some assurances contained herein were being referred to the relevant ministries and the Judiciary for the first time and, therefore, needed thorough research. It is in this perspective that your Committee wishes to commend the Permanent Secretaries and the Chief Administrator of the Judiciary for their most valued input.

Your Committee is hopeful that the observations and recommendations contained in this Report will be taken on board by the Government. The implementation of the identified developmental projects and policies, as contained in the assurances, are vital to the country's well being and good governance.

Finally, Sir, your Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the services rendered throughout the Committee's deliberations in the year.

C Kambwili, MP
CHAIRPERSON

July, 2010
LUSAKA