

**TUESDAY, 27 MARCH, 2018**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**PROGRESS ON THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**The Hon. Minister of Justice (Mr Lubinda)**

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to update the House, and through it, the nation at large, on the final stages in the process of refining the Republican Constitution.

Madam Speaker, during my last update to the House on this matter, I did state that the Ministry of Justice, in line with the ministry's work programme, retreated to Siavonga from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 and considered the comments and submissions from various stakeholders.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Justice is currently preparing the Draft Constitution Amendment Bill 2018, taking into account the stakeholders' comments and submissions. The ministry is expected to finalise the drafting of the Bill by 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

Madam Speaker, the draft copy of the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2018, will, thereafter, be subjected to a team of independent drafts persons and eminent scholars for scrutiny between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018, the ministry will proceed with the process of obtaining the Cabinet approval, in principal, to introduce in Parliament, a Bill to amend the Constitution of Zambia. The Bill, will, then be published for thirty days as is required by law, between 10<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Madam Speaker, in order to continue on the basis of broad consultation, the Ministry of Justice will conduct a consultative caucus for hon. Members of Parliament on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. This will be followed by a consultative meeting of Secretary-Generals of political parties to be convened on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The outcomes of the caucus of Parliamentarians and the consultative meeting of secretary generals shall then be presented to a summit of political party presidents to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Madam Speaker, whereas, the caucus of Parliamentarians will be facilitated by the Ministry of Justice, the meeting of Secretary-Generals and the summit of Presidents will be facilitated by the Zambia Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue (ZCID).

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Madam Speaker, the ministry anticipates that the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Bill, 2018, will be presented to Parliament for first reading on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. It is the Government's belief that through this process, all the divergent views on the Constitution from all stakeholders will have been brought to the discussion table in keeping with our theme of not leaving anyone behind.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.