



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ARTS

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
PREPARATIONS
FOR THE CO-HOSTING OF THE
20TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN 2013
PRESENTED ON WEDNESDAY
19th JUNE 2013**

Mr. Speaker,

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to give a second statement on the preparations for the co-hosting of the 20th Session of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) General Assembly in August 2013.

As the House may be already aware, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be co-hosting the 20th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly from 24th to 30th August 2013 in the towns of Livingstone, on the Zambian side and Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side respectively. As the Honourable Members of this August House may recall on 9th November, 2012; I delivered the first ministerial statement to the House on the road map towards the co-hosting of the UNWTO General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker,

May I reiterate what I had reported in my first statement; that the co-hosting of the 20th Session UNWTO General Assembly is an important national event which will not only provide the country an opportunity to showcase our major tourist attraction - the Victoria falls to the world but will position the country not only as a major tourist destination, but as well create a platform for sustained growth and development through increased Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions, tourism development and access to the global markets and over the long-term increase the number of tourists visiting our country.

Mr. Speaker,

In my first statement, I had well-articulated on the UNWTO as an organisation, what it is? How it is organised and what it does. The present statement Sir; will outline how the meetings have been structured for this conference and then I will move on to give update to the Honourable Members on how far we have gone with preparations and where we are now.

Mr. Speaker,

Attendance to the meeting: May I also take this opportunity to inform the Honourable members of the house that attendance to this meeting is only open to UNWTO member states, affiliate members and invited guests. Everyone must register using the only registration facility on the UNWTO website.

Mr. Speaker,

Meetings Structure: The General Assembly meetings will commence on the 24 – 30 August, 2013. Both Zambia and Zimbabwe have shared equal number of meetings with Zambia as per the UNWTO structure of the meetings for the 20th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly. In this respect Zambia will host the following meetings:

Saturday; 24th August, Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) 10:00hrs to 12:12hrs, Regional Commission for Africa 14:30 to 16:00hrs and Regional Commission of Americans from 16:00hrs to 18:00hrs respectively

Sunday; 25th August; Regional Commission for Europe 09:30hrs to 11:30hrs Regional Commission for Middle East 10:00hrs to 11:30hrs

Wednesday 28th August, 3rd Plenary Session 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs, Media Briefing 12:00hrs to 12:30hrs, 4th Plenary Session 14:00hrs to 17:00hrs, Closing Dinner 19:00hrs to 22:00hrs

Thursday, 29th August, 5th Plenary Session 9:00hrs to 12:30hrs, 6th Plenary Session, 14:00hrs to 16:00hrs, 96th Executive Council Meeting 16:30hrs to 17:30hrs

Whereas Zimbabwe will host the following meetings:

Sunday 25th August; Regional Commission for the Pacific's 09:00hrs to 10:30hrs, Regional Commission for South Asia 11:00hrs to 12:30hrs; Technical Committee meetings 12:30 to 13:00hrs and 13:00hrs to 13:30; 96th Executive Council Meeting 14:30hrs to 17:30hrs, Opening Ceremony and welcome dinner 19:00hrs to 22:00hrs

Monday; 26th August; Ministerial Round Table 09:30hrs to 12:00hrs; Media Briefing 12:00hrs to 12:30hrs; 1st Plenary Session 15:30hrs to 18:30hrs; Credential Committee 17:00hrs to 18:30hrs.

Tuesday, 27th August; 2th Plenary Session 09:00hr to 12:00hrs, Associate Members Meeting 11:00hrs to 12:00hrs, General Meeting of the affiliate Members and Board 15:00hrs to 18:00hrs, ST-EP Board Meeting 17:00hrs to 18:30hrs.

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the House would notice that I have included the opening and closing ceremonies on the above actual meeting structure, although the two are not really meetings. These are very important activities of the General Assembly that will be hosted by the two heads of state respectively. The two events form part of the core business of this meeting

Mr. Speaker,

Special Events: In addition to the above actual meetings the structure also provides for special events and technical tours for the delegates. Included on special events to take place on the Zambian side are; Sunset Cruise to be hosted by His Honour the Vice President, the Zim/Zam First Ladies Gala Night to be hosted by our First Lady, Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation KAZA project working lunch. For technical tours on the Zambian side these will include; tours of the Mighty Victoria Falls World Heritage site and planting of trees in the rain forestry of the Victoria Falls and tour to some selected KAZA projects on the Zambian side. Further; **Mr. Speaker** some special

lunches and breakfast events for the various meetings have been lined up and waiting for conclusion on sponsorship.

Mr. Speaker,

In addition to the above; two countries have so far expressed intent to bid for the hosting of the 21st Session of the UNWTO General Assembly in 2015 and these are Colombia and Cambodia. I am happy to report to the house that Zambia will host a special Colombian night which will be held on 27th August, in the evening and Zimbabwe will host a Cambodian night that will be held on 26th August, in the evening.

Further to the above **Mr. Speaker** structure of meetings, special events and technical tours; a comprehensive program has been developed for the accompanying persons and many pre and post conference tours and activities have been arranged for the delegates to choose from. I have no doubt **Mr. Speaker**; that our visitors will have a memorable experience in our country.

Mr. Speaker,

As I had informed the Honourable members in my first statement. A trilateral hosting agreement which sets out the responsibilities of the host countries and those of the UNWTO in respect of the conference was signed among the three parties on 29th May, 2012 by the two Heads of States, His Excellency Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata, President of the Republic of Zambia and His counterpart from Zimbabwe His Excellency Comrade Robert Gabriel Mugabe and the UNWTO

Secretary General Mr. Taleb Rifai, on the Victoria Falls Bridge on "no man's land". The historic signing of the trilateral agreement was given further prominence, by the two Excellences' signing an agreement to promote sustainable development of tourism in their respective countries.

Mr. Speaker,

Preparations for this event have reached an advanced stage and i wish to take this opportunity to update Honourable members of this August House on our state of preparedness to co-host the event. As some Honourable members may know preparations for the event in August have been happening at two levels, bilaterally with Zimbabwe, and at a national level, through the ministry responsible for tourism and Arts.

On a bilateral level, we have three committees, the Joint Ministerial Committee (JSC) headed by the two ministers and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) headed by the Permanent Secretaries and the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) consisting of technical officers.

Mr. Speaker

On national level; a national steering committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary to cabinet provides oversight on the preparations for the co-hosting. The National Steering Committee is comprised of ten (10) sub-committees, chaired by Permanent Secretaries from line

ministries for the following tasks: Tourism and Hospitality; Conference, Events & Protocol; Transport, Logistics and Infrastructure; Information, Communication & Publicity; Security and Immigration; Health and Green issues; Investment Opportunities; Exhibitions and Entertainment; Finance, Budgets and Procurement; and Local Organizing Committee. All the sub-committees are working under specific terms of reference, which were derived from the trilateral agreement, joint work plan and preliminary visit checklists by the UNWTO technical officials.

Mr. Speaker,

The House may wish to know that joint implementation framework agreed upon by both countries provided for the establishment of a high level policy organ chaired by the two respective ministers of tourism called the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC). So far the JMC has held three important meetings the last one was held in Serbia during the 94th Executive Council Meeting from 27th – 29th May, 2013. A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) chaired by the Permanent Secretaries of the two respective countries was constituted to provide implementation oversight in the respective countries. so far fourteen (14) JSC meetings have been held to report progress made in the implementation of the common issues between the two countries relating to: marketing and promotion; media and publicity; transport and logistics; entertainment and events; protocol; safety and security; and information, communication and technology.

Mr. Speaker,

A dedicated National Secretariat coordinating the work of the hosting committees and comprising members from the ministry of tourism and arts, and other institutions and ministries instrumental to the work of the committees was finally constituted as of March 2013. The national secretariat is split between Lusaka and Livingstone, and is housed at Petroda House on great east road in North-mead and the local secretariat is housed at the one-stop-shop building along Musi-aotunya road in Livingstone.

Mr. Speaker,

Allow me to now present the substantive progress made with respect to the preparatory activities concerning the actual event as well as the related activities; concerning the preparation of the co-hosting the event in the city of Livingstone. The latter includes the improvement of the tourism attractions and border posts as well as construction of social infrastructure around the city, in line with the Presidential Declaration of Livingstone as a tourism capital of Zambia.

Mr. Speaker,

The House may wish to know that in line with the Trilateral Agreement the UNWTO Secretariat based in Madrid, Spain, has been sending their technical team to "Destination Victoria Falls" to check on the state of preparedness. So far three Technical visits have been concluded and feedback from all the visits was that both countries were on course

with the preparations. May I take this opportunity to inform the house that the Final Technical visit by the UNWTO Technical team to the destination will be conducted next week from **25 – 29th June, 2013**.

Mr. Speaker,

The following is a detailed brief on the preparations:

The Venue: The venue on the Zambian side for this important event is Sun International Resort and Conventional centre in Livingstone and the Convention Centre has been secured for the duration of the conference. However, our conventional centre has a challenge in terms of the capacity to host the plenary sessions, which for the General Assembly will require accommodating up to 1,080 delegates. In this regard the government has made arrangements to construct an up market temporary structure with full meeting facilities on the premises that would take up and facilitate the 1,080 delegates expected in the plenary sessions, of which Zambia will host four sessions.

Mr. Speaker,

Temporary Structure: The temporary structure I have referred to is being sourced from South Africa, from a well-known company in events management called Gear House Limited. The structure will be erected on the lawns of the Royal Livingstone Hotel. The technical team from Gear House have already visited the proposed premises and are

happy to provide the service. Gear House will move on site in July and once completed the structure will be handed over to the Zambian Government by 19th August 2013. In addition, air-conditioned marquees will be erected at the car park of the Royal Livingstone to cater for the registration and accreditation of delegates, as well as the documentation centre, in line with the provisions of the trilateral host agreement.

Several meetings have been held with the Sun International Resort Hotel management, to ensure that adequate provisions are made for the event. It was resolved that the equipment for the temporary structure, such as audio-video and interpretation booths, will be procured by the Zambian Government and to that effect, a task force has been established to handle the procurement process.

Mr. Speaker,

Professional Conference Organiser (PCO): In line with the requirements of the trilateral agreement for both host countries to engage a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO). I am happy to inform this August House that the government has of May 2013 signed a contract with the Conference Company a Professional Conference Organiser from South Africa. The PCO is to help us with details on how to professionally organise this event and is already working with the Secretariat at Petroda House along Great East Road.

Mr. Speaker,

Accommodation for delegates: In terms of accommodation for the delegates we have selected and secured seven (7) hotels ranging from five (5) stars to three stars (3) which will be the official accommodation hotels for the delegates. In addition to the seven official hotels the ministry has also selected 20 more provisional accommodation facilities (hotels, guest houses and lodges) that have been inspected and deemed suitable to accommodate delegates who will be looking for even cheaper rates and limited services.

Mr. Speaker

To ensure standards and quality of services in these accommodation providers my Ministry through the Inspectorate Section of the Department of Tourism has conducted several inspections of these accommodation establishments focusing on their standards and capacity to host the delegates during the General Assembly. The inspection is what culminated in the selection of seven (7) hotels and the 20 back up accommodation facilities.

The hotels agreed to provide reduced rates and 490 rooms have been blocked and guaranteed at the seven (7) selected official hotels as follows:

1.	The Royal Livingstone –	115
2.	Zambezi Sun -	150
3.	David Livingstone Safari Lodge –	50

4.	Protea Hotel –	60
5.	Chrismar Hotel –	52
6.	Fallsway Lodge –	11
7.	Courtyard Hotel –	52
	Total	490

Mr. Speaker,

Entry and Visa Facilitation: In terms of entry and visa facilitation. Both countries resolved to waive visas for all the UNWTO delegates and their accompanying persons, which entails that fees and visa application formalities have been waived. To ensure that our security is not compromised a procedure has been adopted to implement this resolution as follows:

1. All delegates and their accompanying persons need register for the General Assembly with the UNWTO through the online registration at www.unwto.org
2. After registration they will need to send details that include full names, nationality, passport number, type of member and port of entry.
3. UNWTO will then forward these details to the immigration contact person in Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Immigration contact persons will then issue facilitation letters only to those delegates who ordinarily apply for visas prior to travelling to the two countries. The list of these countries has been provided to UNWTO Secretariat in Madrid and made available on the joint website.

4. Upon arrival at port of entry a Visa Stamp will be issued and it will be valid for 30 days from the date of entry, those delegates coming from countries that require prior application of visa will need to produce the facilitation letter before the visa stamp is issued to them.
5. After that the delegates will be then proceed to the accreditation centre to register and be issued with an Accreditation Card that will allow them passage between the two border posts without further border formalities.

Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs in both countries have already issued an official letter to the UNTWO Secretary General confirming that the two countries resolved to issue the visa waiver.

Mr. Speaker,

To speed up the clearance of the delegates at our two international airports; separate and dedicated booths for UNWTO delegates will be provided at Kenneth Kaunda International and Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International during this period. It is estimated that delegates will start arriving on 21st August 2013. The land border posts of Victoria Falls, Kazungula and Katima Mulilo are in the process of being computerized, the computers were procured and are now being deployed.

Mr. Speaker,

Security: In terms of security. The security wings are working in collaboration with the resident United Nations Department of Security and Safety (UNDSS) Security Advisors who produce periodical security

risk assessment reports for the United Nations and the reports submitted to the UNWTO have been positive to date.

A comprehensive vetting of service providers and tour operators is ongoing up to the beginning of the General Assembly in August 2013.

A list of illicit Drugs and Substances Categories for both Zambia and Zimbabwe was submitted to the UNWTO Headquarters. A request was made that all medical drugs to be brought by delegates should be accompanied by Medical Practitioners' prescriptions or letters.

Security officers to be deployed in Livingstone during the General Assembly will be trained between June and July 2013.

Detection equipment for Radio-active Materials, from the International Atomic Agency (IAEA) has been secured. The procurement of additional equipment and conducting of training programmes for frontline officers will be done by end of June 2013.

Mr. Speaker,

Travel Facilitation: In terms of travel many international, regional and local airlines have come on board to support us. Ethiopian Airways, KLM; South African Airways, Air France and Proflight have agreed to offer discounted rates to delegates coming to the General Assembly. As of 7th June 2013 Kenya Airways extended its services between Nairobi and Harare to Livingstone. Locally I am happy to report that Proflight has taken advantage of the upcoming event and they have since leased a bigger aircraft, a 105-seater Boeing 737-200, which will service the Livingstone route during the event. This will be useful with those delegates that will be transiting through Lusaka.

Mr. Speaker,

Transport and Logistics: In terms of transportation of delegates upon arrival, during and after the conference. A Joint shuttle Plan outlining the pick-up of delegates from both the Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula and Victoria Falls Airports to the various hotels, and the picking up of delegates to and from the hotels to the venues and for technical tours to various selected places has been developed. It will be finalised when the final structure of the General Assembly with timings is provided. A simulation of the plan will be conducted before the final UNWTO Preliminary Technical Visit in 26th June, 2013. The routes have been allocated and awaiting addition of colour codes on the buses and to identify the parking lot as the venue hotel has indicated that there will be no space for a parking lot.

Mr. Speaker,

In terms of types of vehicles to be used during the General Assembly we have identified them according to the category of use as follows:

1. Higer: 4 x 30 seater Luxury Buses to ferry the Ministers and Heads of Delegation
2. Higer: 5 x 44 seater buses to ferry the delegates
4. Toyota Prado- 5 to pick up and drop off the Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the airports
5. Hyundai Santa Fe-10 to pick up and drop off the Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the airports

6. Mitsubishi Pajero-5 to pick up and drop off the Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the airports

7. Mercedes Benz Salon-5 to pick up and drop off the Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the airports

Mr. Speaker,

Infrastructure Development: In terms of infrastructure development,

1. Works Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport where we are working on a new international terminal is on schedule and construction of a new wing is at 85% complete. I am hopeful that this will be ready by end of July 2013.
2. Rehabilitation of township roads in Livingstone has continued and I am happy to report to the House that contractor has started working on the Musi-ao-Tunya Road which is the main road leading to the venue of the conference venue and is scheduled to complete on time.
3. Works on construction of the three ablutions at Mukuni Park, Civic centre and Town centre bus stop are on schedule. The buildings have been completed, plastered, roofed and ceiling in place. The contractor is now working on the fixtures and fittings, and 90% of the plumbing has been completed, 80% of the painting has been completed and 60% of the building has been tiled.

4. Works of construction of an Ultra-Modern Market at the former Zimbabwe Market are on schedule. The foundation bases for the two storied building have been completed. The contractor has put up 75% of the concrete columns. The contractor has also delivered 80 steel columns and beams for the superstructure. The Construction team has only three months in which to complete the project.
5. Works are on schedule on the construction of an intercity bus terminus. The contractor has completed casting concrete on the bases and he is working on the concrete columns which are 15% complete. The construction is set to be completed in five months
6. Constructions of Infrastructure at Victoria Falls Border Post have continued. The facelift at the Victoria Falls boarder post includes construction of the loading bay/shelter construction of a bus stop/taxi rank, shelter and paving and a new ablution block.

Mr. Speaker,

Improvement of tourist attractions and facilities in the tourist capital are on-going and works are continuing specifically on the following:

Victoria Falls Heritage Site

Mosi-oo-Tunya National Park

Livingstone Museum

Maramba Cultural Village

Livingstone Art Gallery

Mr. Speaker,

Promotion: In terms of promotion of the activity our marketing agent the Zambia Tourism Board has promoted the event at all major tourism events around the world such as the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, Fitur Travel Market in Spain, the ITB in Berlin Germany and the Indaba in South Africa and at all meeting of the UNWTO the last promotion been in Serbia at the 95th Session of the Executive Council Meeting.

Locally; artwork for billboards is ready and mounting of billboards has commenced starting with city of Livingstone promoting the message of Zambia being the proud co- host of the UNWTO – GA. Further my Ministry intends to conduct road shows in Livingstone as recommended by the Local Organising Committee. The shows will be in high density areas such as Maramba, Dambwa, Linda etc; using local language and local drama groups to communicate messages on the UNWTO – GA to the general public and residents of Livingstone.

Additionally; a Joint UNWTO website has been developed www.unwtoga2013.org , and is operational. The website is periodically updated by the two webmasters from both countries. Content is submitted by the Tourism Boards and the Professional Conference Organisers of both countries. The joint website provides

more useful information about the country and the destination Victoria Falls.

Further; a permanent information booth has been installed at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, while the one at the Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport will be installed once the soft works are completed. The tender for the mobile information booths has been completed and the actual procurement has been initiated with a view to placing the booths in strategic locations such as the key border entry points, venue hotels and shopping malls.

Mr. Speaker,

I must say I am so grateful for the financial support that my government has given to the ministry and especially to all activities related to this event. In the 2013 Yellow Book, KR15mn was allocated under the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, and the whole amount has since been released to the Ministry. In addition to the KR15mn, the Ministry of Finance has also provided a capital budget of KR 155.1mn and operational budgets for the sub-committees KR68.9mn. Some amounts have already been released and I am hopeful that the remaining amounts will be released as soon as possible as we are only remaining with less than two months before the event.

Mr. Speaker,

In terms of challenges; we have had coordination challenges within the country and between Zambia and Zimbabwe because the main players are based in Lusaka while the event is being hosted in Livingstone. Secondly co-hosting and managing a joint event from Harare and Lusaka comes with challenges of distance. However I am happy to report that we have managed and overcome all challenges

and both countries are ready to ensure a successful hosting of this Global Event

Mr. Speaker,

As I come to the end of my statement I would like to inform the members of House that we are ready and the UNWTO has already opened registration and will close on 24th July, 2013. **Mr. Speaker Sir;** may take this opportunity to challenge members of this August House in their personal capacities to take interest and visit Livingstone.

Mr. Speaker,

I wish to end by stating that our legacy to the people of Livingstone, and indeed the national as a whole, will be to transform the city into an internationally renowned tourism flagship destination with all the complementary services that will attract other sectors such as sports, to host their events in Livingstone.

I THANK YOU MR. SPEAKER AND I BEG TO MOVE.