



Speaker Mutti Elected Vice President of IPU Africa Geopolitical Group



Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon. Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA (2nd left), with Zambia Parliamentarians at the 295th Session of the IPU Executive Committee during the 150th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

By Temwa Nyirenda & Nshamba Muzungu

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, The Right Honourable Ms. Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, was unanimously elected Vice President of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) representing the Africa Geopolitical Group.

The election took place during the 295th Session of the IPU Executive Committee at the 150th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings held from 5th to 9th April, 2025 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Speaker Mutti was elected from among three contenders, including representatives from Algeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who also serve as Africa's Representatives on the IPU Executive Committee.

Speaker Mutti said in her opening remarks that she would work to ensure that Africa's interests are well represented within the IPU. She said there is need for greater unity among African countries, particularly during votes on urgent matters, noting that divisions have often weakened the continent's influence on the global Parliamentary stage.

“As Vice President of the IPU representing the Africa geopolitical group, I will strive to foster African unity on several positions brought before the IPU Executive Committee. It is a concern that Africa's issues do not see the light of day because, in most cases, Africa is divided when it comes to voting on emergency matters before the IPU,” Speaker Mutti said.

Continued on the next page



NEWS FLASH

Public & International Relations Department

Issue No. 020

April, 2025

Speaker Mutti Elected Vice President of IPU Africa Geopolitical Group

Continued from front page

The IPU established in 1889, is a global organisation of National Parliaments comprising six geopolitical groups: Africa, the Arab World, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the "Twelve-Plus" group which includes mostly European Nations as well as Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The geopolitical groups are tasked with preparing and coordinating positions on Assembly agendas, reviewing vacancies on IPU committees and groups and nominating candidates. The structures are designed to ensure fair and balanced representation of all regions in the IPU's governance.

Speaker Mutti was first elected to the IPU Executive Committee in October 2023, during the 147th IPU Assembly held in Angola, as a representative

of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Group.



Speaker Mutti (right) along side fellow members of the Executive Committee listening to presentations during the 295th Session of the IPU Executive Committee at the 150th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings.



Speaker Mutti (2nd right) poses for a photo with fellow delegates during the 150th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Speaker Mutti Presents Report on Great Lakes Region to President of Angola



Speaker Mutti shares a handshake with President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco of Angola after presenting a report on the Humanitarian and Political Instability in the Great Lakes Region

By Anthony Mpolokoso

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, The Right Honourable Nelly B. K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA has presented the report on the humanitarian and political instability in the Great Lakes Region to His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the Summit of Heads of State of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in Luanda, Angola.

In her capacity as the current President of the Forum of Parliament of Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), Speaker Mutti also led a delegation to a consultative

meeting with the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in Entebbe.

The visit formed part of the Forum's ongoing parliamentary fact-finding mission on the security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Presenting the report on 23rd April, 2025, Speaker Mutti observed that while the fact-finding missions have yielded positive results in the promotion of peace and stability in the region, the conflict situation in Eastern DRC remains highly dynamic and rapidly evolving adding that certain developments may have occurred subsequent to the Mission, which potentially have impacted the prevailing circumstances.

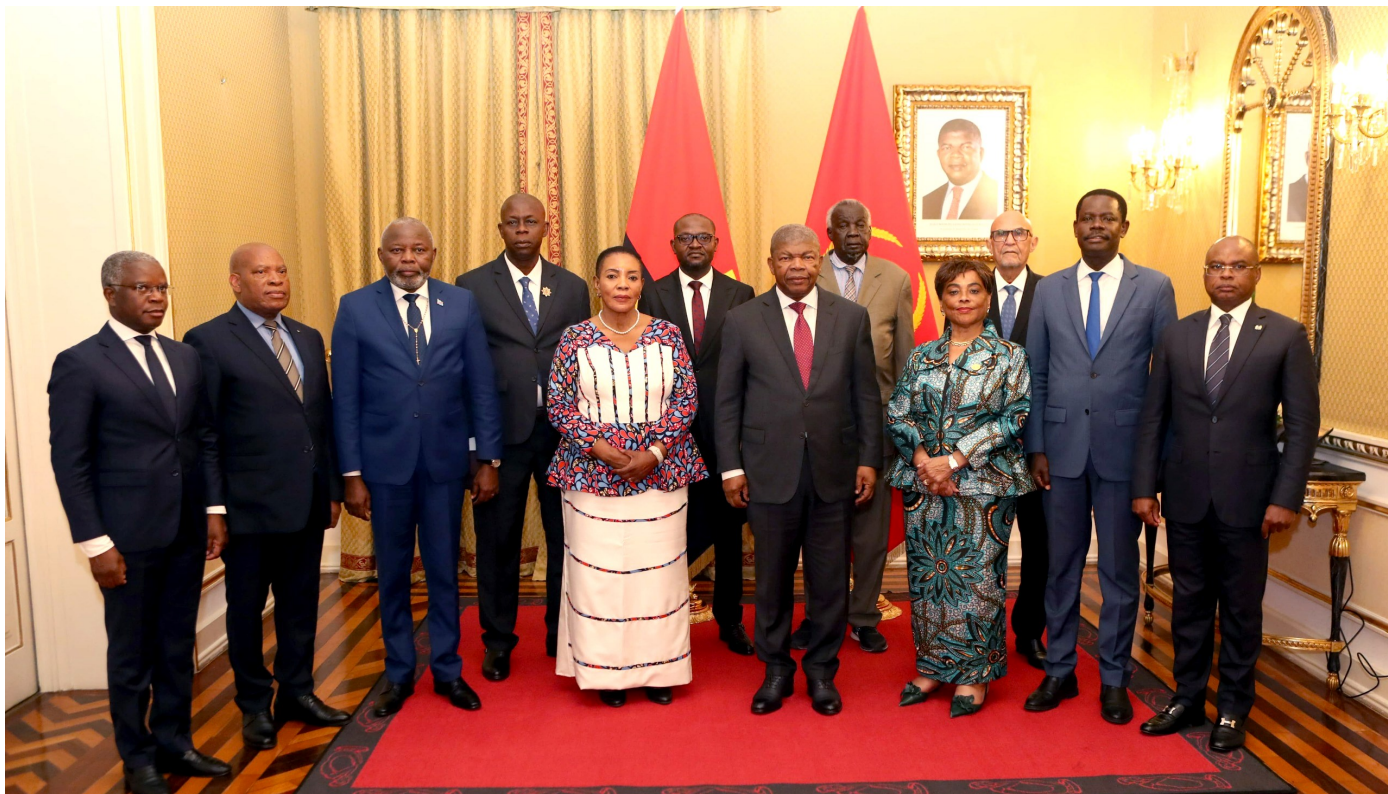
Continued on next page



NEWS FLASH

Public & International Relations Department Issue No. 020

April, 2025



In the front row: Speaker Mutti (left) poses for a photo with His Excellency Joao M.G Lourenco, President of the Republic of Angola (2nd left) with Ms. Carolina Cerqueira, Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola and other officials following the presentation of a report on humanitarian and Political Instability in the Great Lakes Region.

Continued from previous page

Speaker Mutti called for continuous monitoring and regular updates of the situation to ensure timely and accurate responses to the evolving crisis in Eastern DRC.

The meeting held under the theme: “Inclusive Leadership and Decision Making in the Great Lakes Region,” also marked the handover of the FP-ICGLR Presidency from Speaker Mutti to the Right Honorable, Carolina Cerqueira, Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola.

Speaker Mutti reflected on the importance of the transition and remarked that the Forum is already living true to the theme.

“Is it a coincidence that I’ am handing over the Presidency of the Forum, to the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola, who is female, having myself, taken over from a fellow woman.”

Prior to the opening of the 15th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of the Forum of Parliaments

of Member States of ICGLR, delegates observed a moment of silence in honour of the late Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Roy Mukoba Ngulube, who passed away while accompanying Speaker Mutti to the 150th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings and was laid to rest on Monday, 14th April, 2025.

The late Mr. Ngulube was widely commended for his dedication to public service and his invaluable contributions to parliamentary affairs which have left an enduring impact.

The Zambian delegation to the 15th Ordinary Session included; the Second Deputy Speaker, Hon. Moses Moyo (MP), Hon. Brigadier General Morgan Sitwala (MP), Hon. Fred Chaatila (MP), Hon. Antony Kasandwe (MP), Hon. Melesiana Phiri (MP) and National Assembly Deputy Clerk Corporate Affairs, Mrs Cecilia Sikatele-Mambwe and other parliamentary staff.



Speaker Mutti Hands Over FP-ICGLR Presidency to Angola's Carolina Cerqueira



Speaker Nelly Mutti of Zambia (left) and newly elected FP-ICGLR President, Speaker Carolina Cerqueira of Angola, celebrate the symbolic handover of the Forum's leadership.

By Anthony Mpolokoso

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, The Rt. Hon. Nelly B. K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA officially handed over the Presidency of the Forum of Parliaments of the Members States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) to Ms Carolina Cerqueira, Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola at the conclusion of the Forum's 15th Session held on Friday, 25th April, 2025 in Luanda, Angola.

Speaker Mutti assumed the Presidency in April 2024 during the Forum's 14 Session, which was hosted by Zambia in Livingstone. During her tenure of office, Speaker Mutti successfully carried out several initiatives aimed at strengthening the Forum's Institutional framework and promoting regional cooperation.

In January 2025, Speaker Mutti conducted a familiarisation tour of the Forum's Headquarters in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It marked the first

time in the Forum's history that staff at the Headquarters had an opportunity to engage with a Sitting President of the Forum and the President of the Executive Committee of the FP-ICGLR, Hon Moses Moyo, MP, who also serves as Zambia's Second Deputy Speaker. During the visit, staff raised concerns about local conditions of service which they said were not aligned with the DRC's labour laws.

Speaker Mutti also identified a communication gap between the Forum and the Chief Executives of national Parliaments responsible for overseeing administrative matters. To bridge this gap, she proposed the formation of a committee of Clerks from member parliaments to ensure timely payment of annual subscriptions. This proposal resulted in the presence of Clerks at the 15th Session in Angola.

In March, 2025, she led the Fourth Phase of the



NEWS FLASH

Public & International Relations Department

Issue No. 020

April, 2025



Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Hon. Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, delivers her final address as President of the FP-ICGLR during the closing session of the 15th Forum in Luanda, Angola

Continued from previous page

Parliamentary Fact-Finding Mission on the armed conflict in Eastern DRC to Kampala, Uganda. The delegation included the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, Mrs. Anita Among and Members of Parliament from Rwanda, the DRC and Zambia.

The delegation held a constructive meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who shared his views on the root causes of the conflict, stressing that sectarian governance models were a significant contributor to the unrest, therefore urged leaders to avoid it.

Subsequently, in the Fifth Phase of the Mission, held in Nairobi, Kenya, Hon Moses Moyo, MP led a delegation that engaged with President Mr. William Ruto. President Ruto expressed concern over the persistent instability in a resource rich country like the DRC and provided a historical overview of the African Union (AU).

He questioned whether the AU, originally formed as a liberation movement, was adequately equipped in its current form to manage modern day conflicts on the continent. He stressed the need to reform the AU into a more agile and responsive Institution capable of effectively addressing Africa's peace and security

challenges. President Ruto also called for greater support from the United Nations in complimenting the AU's peace efforts, particularly in light of the withdrawal of MONUSCO and the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) from the DRC.

During the 15th Session in Luanda, Speaker Mutti chaired the selection process for a new Secretary General of the Forum. After extensive consultations, the Plenary approved the nomination of Dr Deo Osmund Mwapinga of Tanzania for a three-year term, renewable based on performance. Dr. Mwapinga delivered his acceptance speech following his official confirmation.

In her final proposal as President, Speaker Mutti recommended extending the term of office for future FP-ICGLR Presidents from one year to two years. She explained that a one-year term was insufficient for effectively executing the responsibilities of the Presidency, especially when balanced with duties as presiding officer in a national legislature. The plenary adopted the proposal.

The 15th Session concluded with Speaker Carolina Cerqueira of Angola officially assuming the FP-ICGLR Presidency and delivering the closing remarks on Friday, 25th April, 2025.



National Assembly Women's Team returns to Top Flight



National Assembly Women's Football team players celebrate their hard fought promotion following their decisive Week 29 victory.

By Nshamba Muzungu

The National Assembly of Zambia's football team has secured a return to the Eden University Women's League, following a commanding performance in week 29 of the 2024/25 Zambian Women's League.

Their promotion comes after consistent determination with the team registering 19 wins, five draws and five losses across 29 matches, earning 62 points. Their goal difference of 24, scoring 40 goals and conceding only 16, reflects a team that found a strong balance between attack and defense throughout the season.

The National Assembly also faced off against Chainda Bombers in a must win fixture. With close rivals Chipata Girls and Zedpro Sports trailing with 58 and 57 points respectively, the margin for error was slim.

Under mounting pressure, National Assembly delivered a confident performance. The forwards were relentless in attack, while the defense stood firm to secure a vital victory that guaranteed a top two finish in the South League standings.

For the players, the achievement marked a significant turnaround. After facing relegation, the previous season, a bitter pill to swallow for a team with a proud history, the road back has been one of resilience and renewal guided by a focused technical bench, the squad rebuilt with purpose and emerged stronger.

The promotion is not only a reward for the team's efforts throughout the season but also a testament to their commitment to restoring the club's stature in Zambian Women's Football.



CONSTITUENCY CORNER

Luangeni MP Hands Over New Classroom Block to Mainga Primary School



Hon. Moyo cuts the ribbon to officially handover the newly constructed 1x2 classroom block at Mainga Primary School.

**By Lomtuzi Simpemba &
Namasiku Mubiana**

Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Luangeni Member of Parliament, Hon. Moses F. Moyo, officially handed over a newly constructed 1x2 classroom block to Mainga Primary School on Wednesday, 7th May 2025.

The facility which was built at a total cost of K934,927.17 under the 2024 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is meant to transition Mainga from a community school to a fully recognised primary school within Luangeni Constituency.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Hon. Moyo noted the urgent challenge of overcrowded classrooms in the constituency, where a single teacher is responsible for up to 104 pupils. He said

that the Government, through continued CDF support, is working to address this issue and improve learning conditions.

Hon. Moyo said that the upgrade of Mainga Primary School is part of broader efforts to reduce class sizes and enhance educational outcomes. He also urged parents to take advantage of the improved facilities by enrolling their children in school, especially now that Mainga holds full primary school status.

Speaking on behalf of the Chipata District Education Board Secretary (DEBS), Ms. Martha Kamungu praised the Constituency Development Fund for its significant role in advancing the education sector.

She noted that the improved infrastructure at



NEWS FLASH

Public & International Relations Department

Issue No. 020

April, 2025



New 1x2 classroom block at Mainga Primary School in Luangeni Constituency built with 2024 CDF at a cost of K934, 927.17

Continued from the previous page

Mainga would attract more learners and fulfil a long-standing aspiration of the local community. Ms. Kamungu added that the DEBS office looks forward to further developments as the CDF continues to make a visible impact across the district.

Malaiti village headman, Mr. Edward Banda, described the development as a transformative step for education in the area. He stated that the positive changes brought about by the CDF have shifted public attitudes, with more parents now appreciating the value of education and committing to keeping their children in school.



Second Deputy Speaker Hon. Moyo joins women from his Constituency in dance to celebrate the occasion.



Central Province Minister Hands Over New Footbridge in Chilochabalenje Ward



Central Province Minister and Katuba MP, Hon. Mwabashike Nkulukusa cuts the ribbon to officially handover the new footbridge in Chilochabalenje Ward.

By Gwennie Shamizhinga & Namasiku Mubiana

Central Province Minister and Katuba Member of Parliament Hon. Mwabashike Nkulukusa said the newly constructed Mbosha footbridge will serve as a vital link between the communities of Mbongolo and Mbosha, especially during the rainy season when flooding often cuts them from the rest of the ward.

He made the remarks during the official handover ceremony of the K735,000 project, on Friday, 25th April 2025, which was funded through the 2024 Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Hon. Nkulukusa said that the bridge represents more than just a physical connection. "This bridge is more than just concrete and steel. It is a bridge to opportunity, access to health services, education and markets," he said.

He further called on the residents to safeguard the new facility and stressed the importance of community ownership in maintaining public infrastructure. The MP

also explained that plans are underway to construct a larger bridge capable of accommodating motor vehicles to further improve transportation and economic activities in the area.

Chilochabalenje Ward Councillor, Mr. Luinny Lonza, called for collaboration between local leaders and the community. He also expressed appreciation for their support that made the project possible and reaffirmed his commitment to delivering visible development.

Also speaking at the event, Head Woman Mbosha described the footbridge as a beacon of hope for the community. She explained that pregnant women, schoolchildren and farmers faced a lot of difficulties in crossing the stream and stated that the new structure would greatly improve their daily lives.

She expressed gratitude to the New Dawn administration for ensuring that CDF resources reach the grass-roots level.



Nakonde Acquires K6.493 Million Drilling Rig to Tackle Water Challenges



New drilling rig equipment procured under the 2024-2025 Constituency Development Fund to enhance access to clean water stationed at Nakonde Town Council.

By Dora Haruperi & Namasiku Mubiana

Nakonde Constituency is set to address its long-standing water challenges following the acquisition of a drilling rig valued at K6.493 million. The equipment which was procured under the 2024-2025 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is expected to improve access to clean and safe water in the area.

Nakonde Town Council Chairperson Mr. Siame Musingwa said the drilling rig reflects the Government's commitment to resolving water related issues affecting the constituency. He said the rig will be deployed to priority areas once consultations with local leaders and key stakeholders were completed.

“This initiative is not just about infrastructure, it's also about promoting public health to improve the quality and standard of living for the

residents of Nakonde,” he said.

In a press statement, Town Council Assistant Public Relations Officer, Ms. Florence Sichula said the delivery of the drilling rig will enhance the local authority's capacity to provide reliable water sources, particularly in rural and peri urban communities that have faced limited access to clean and safe water for many years.

She further said access to clean water is a basic human right and the equipment will contribute significantly to the Government's on-going efforts to improve essential services through the CDF.