



Burundi President, Ndayishimiye, Calls for Intensified Trade and Investment



Burundian President Ndayishimiye with Speaker Mutti during his visit to her office.

By Namasiku Mubiana

Burundian President, Evariste Ndayishimiye called on Zambia to intensify trade and investment relations between the two nations. He made this appeal while addressing the National Assembly of Zambia on Friday, 2nd August, 2024, at Parliament Buildings.

President Ndayishimiye stated that Zambia and Burundi are endowed with abundant human and natural resources, which could significantly contribute to the developmental goals of both nations.

He said there was need for economic operators to engage in promotional commercial activities and participate in national and international exhibitions organized by both nations.

This, he noted, would enhance trade and investment, improve existing infrastructure and create new infrastructure to facilitate trade. He also called for the elimination of non-tariff barriers in line with the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

“To achieve this, we must engage more effectively and continue to embark on cooperation projects in agriculture, mining services, defense and security, economy and finance, trade, transport and investment, as well as social and humanitarian affairs,” President Ndayishimiye stated.

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His Excellency, Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye delivering a Special Address to the National Assembly of Zambia.

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The President also took the opportunity to invite Zambian businessmen to invest in various sectors in Burundi, emphasizing that the country offered vast, untapped business opportunities. He stated that the Government of Burundi is strengthening the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system to align economic operators and investors on the same fronts.

President Ndayishimiye also commended Zambia for its role in restoring peace and security in the Democratic Republic of Congo through SADC efforts. He affirmed Burundi's commitment to contributing to peace, security and stability in the Eastern DRC and the region.

He called for an immediate end to political and

diplomatic interference in the internal affairs of African states and urged the management of the African Union to address issues caused by artificial borders.

“We need to leave our doors wide open to talk about business, investments, and technology exchanges through mutually beneficial and strategic partnerships,” The President stated.

In a gesture of solidarity, President Ndayishimiye donated 5,000 tonnes of maize, rice and beans to Zambia. He said the aid comes in response to the recent drought in Zambia, which had significantly reduced agricultural production in some areas, demonstrating the spirit of Ubuntu values shared by the people of Burundi.



Members of Parliament Urged to Combat Human-Wildlife Conflict



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Nelly B K Mutti, MP (middle), Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Evans Muhanga, (right), Wildlife Crime Prevention Chief Compliance Officer, Josias Mungabwa (2nd Right) and Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on Environment and Climate Change Chairperson, Mr George Kandafula, MP, (left) with newly inducted Members of Parliament gazetted as Honorary Wildlife Police Officers.

By Namasiku Mubiana

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Rt Hon Nelly B K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA has called on Members of Parliament (MPs) to take an active role in combating the escalating human-wildlife conflicts in Zambia.

Speaker Mutti said MPs must be instrumental in raising public awareness, mobilizing community action and influence policy reforms to address the issue effectively.

She said this during the induction seminar of Members of Parliament, who were gazetted as Honorary Wildlife Police Officers (HWPOs) on Saturday, 3rd August, 2024 at Lusaka National Park.

Speaker Mutti said the National Assembly is committed to finding practical solutions to mitigate the increasing human-wildlife conflicts, which threaten human lives and damage crops and property.

She noted that the establishment of the Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on Environment and Climate Change (ZPCECC) aimed to advocate for necessary policy and legislative reforms in conservation issues.

" You will agree with me that this seminar could not have been organized at a better time than now when our country is continuously recording serious and widespread cases of human-wildlife conflicts, which have been frequently raised by Honourable Members in Parliament, leading the Minister of Tourism to issue Ministerial Statements on the Government's efforts to address the issue," Speaker Mutti said.

Speaker Mutti urged the Parliamentarians to diligently fulfill their roles as HWPOs and work towards ensuring harmony between communities and wildlife.

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Members of Parliament Urged to Combat Human-Wildlife Conflict

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"Let us work together to ensure that our communities and wildlife coexist in harmony and that our children can inherit a Zambia where people and wildlife thrive together," she added.

Speaking earlier, Minister of Tourism, Hon Rodney Sikumba praised the Parliamentarians for their commitment to collaborating with the ministry to further wildlife conservation efforts.

He noted that with the country's 20 National Parks and 36 Game Management Areas, there is still need for more wildlife officers. He added that with MPs stepping in as Honorary Wildlife Police Officers, there will be a more coordinated effort to address human-wildlife conflicts and enhance conservation efforts.

Meanwhile, Wildlife Crime Prevention Chief Compliance Officer, Josias Mungabwa said Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) is pleased to learn that government through the Ministry of Tourism is reviewing the Wildlife Act. He hoped that the Parliamentarians would give the Act the necessary support.

Mr Mungabwa further called on the Parliamentarians, through Speaker Mutti, to advocate for stronger wildlife protection laws and ensure adequate resources are allocated for wildlife protection agencies and conservation programs. He said these resources would support awareness campaigns, detection, investigation and prosecution efforts.

And Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on Environment and Climate Change Chairperson George Kandafula reaffirmed his commitment to resolving human-wildlife conflicts.

Game Rangers International Chief Executive Officer, Sport Beatie also underscored the importance of Parliamentary influence in driving legal reforms to effectively tackle the challenge of human-wildlife conflicts.



Speaker Mutti being welcomed at Lusaka National Park by the Chairperson of the Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on Environment and Climate Change, Mr. George Kandafula, as the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Evans Muhanga (2nd left), looks on.



Speaker Mutti Mourns Former First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa



Speaker Mutti, signs the book of condolences in honour of Former First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa, wife of the Late 3rd Republican President, Dr Levy Patrick Mwanawasa.

By Namasiku Mubiana

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Rt Hon. Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA on 14th August, 2024, visited the funeral house of Former First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa, who passed away on 13th August 2024, at Mina Soko Military Hospital. Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa was the wife of the Late 3rd Republican President, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa.

In a heartfelt tribute penned in the Book of Condolences, the Speaker wrote, "To a dear friend and sister gone too soon, heaven has gained an

angel. Till we meet again in the heavenly glory. Pass my regards to Bo Levy and Aretha."

Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa will be remembered for her contributions to the nation and her enduring legacy alongside her late husband. The funeral was held at her residence in Roma Park, Lusaka. Various dignitaries, family and friends paid their last respects.



Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus (ZYPC) Launches Strategic Plan for 2023-2027



Vice Chairperson of the ZYPC, Mr. Twaambo Mutinta (2nd right) and Deputy Clerk of Procedures (left), along with facilitators and Members of the Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus, following the launch of the Strategic Plan.

By Maambo Chilobya

The Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus (ZYPC) launched its Strategic Plan for 2023-2027 on 3rd August, 2024 at Grand Palace Hotel in Lusaka. The Plan aims to empower young people's participation in democracy, address youth specific issues and inform policy decisions, ultimately amplifying their voices and shaping a brighter future for Zambia.

Itezhi-tezhi Member of Parliament and Vice Chairperson of the ZYPC, Mr. Twaambo Mutinta in a speech delivered on behalf of the Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Honourable Moses F

Moyo, MP, said that the strategies outlined in the Plan reflect and represent the aspirations of young people, particularly, regarding their participation in governance.

Mr. Mutinta accordingly stated that the Strategic Plan developed, was through a consultative process involving Members of Parliament, youth-focused civil society organizations, and individual youths. He noted that this inclusive approach by the Caucus was aimed at encouraging ownership, building consensus among stakeholders, and ensuring the effective implementation of the strategies outlined in the Plan.



Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus (ZYPC) Launches Strategic Plan for 2023-2027



Vice Chairperson of the ZYPC, Mr. Twaambo Mutinta, MP (right), Mambilima Member of Parliament, Ms. Jean Chisenga (2nd right), Inter-Parliamentary Union Gender and Youth Specialist, Ms. Graca Sanches (left) and Deputy Clerk Procedures (2nd left), showing the Strategic Plan to members of the Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus during its launch.

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Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mr Martin Chungong, commended the ZYPC for developing the Strategic Plan. He stated that the Plan, guided by a clear vision, mission and key strategies, would help the ZYPC focus on activities that deliver results within the allocated timeframe.

Mr. Chungong also acknowledged that Zambia is making great strides in creating platforms for enhancing and advocating for greater youth participation in Parliament and other decision-making positions. He said the establishment of the ZYPC in 2021, following the Right Honourable Madam Speaker's signing to the, 'I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament,' campaign, was one such great score.

"I urge the Honourable Members to recognise that developing and launching the Strategic Plan is not an end in itself, but rather a call for further efforts to ensure its successful implementation," he said.

The ZYPC is a voluntary organisation within the National Assembly of Zambia for youth parliamentarians committed to amplifying the voice of youths in Parliament. It also advocates for increased youth participation in Parliament and other decision-making positions. The Caucus was established in December, 2021 and officially launched in September, 2022.



National Assembly Staff Trained on Sector Budget Analysis, Borrowing and Gender Responsiveness



Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Roy Ngulube (3rd left), poses for a group photo with participants shortly after the official launch of the Sector Budget Analysis.

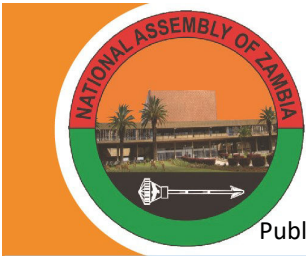
By Namasiku Mubiana

The National Assembly of Zambia has taken a significant step towards enhancing its budget oversight role by training selected staff from various departments on sector budget analysis, annual borrowing plans and gender-responsive budgeting. The workshop held from 19th to 23rd August 2024 at Golden Sonnets Hotel in Kabwe, was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR).

This undertaking forms part of the National Assembly's ongoing efforts to enhance the skills of its staff,

to ensure that they are well-prepared to support Members of Parliament in scrutinizing the national budget and heads of expenditure (sector budgets).

Speaking at the official opening of the workshop, Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Roy Ngulube said that the initiative follows the recent updated National Assembly Standing Orders of 2024, which mandates the active involvement of all relevant committees in the scrutiny and approval process for the national budget.



National Assembly Staff Trained on Sector Budget Analysis, Borrowing and Gender Responsiveness

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"As we prepare for the 2025 budget estimates, it is important for us to have a common understanding of the new procedures as laid out in the National Assembly Standing Orders, 2024," the Clerk stated.

Mr. Ngulube further stressed that referring budget estimates to oversight Committees would provide a platform for deep engagement between the ministries, provinces and other spending agencies with Parliamentary oversight committees.

"This was not the case under the old system, where such institutions can now directly inform committees of their ideal resource requirements for adequate and effective service delivery," He said.

Mr. Ngulube also noted that sector budget analysis was crucial in ensuring that resources appropriated to various heads of expenditure were aligned with the national development plans, particularly the Eighth National Development Plan. He expressed his satisfaction that important aspects of gender-responsive budgeting were included in the training, which was a significant step towards promoting inclusivity and social equity in national resource allocation.

"It is very important that our budgeting processes consider the diverse needs of all segments of society, men, women, children and youth to promote inclusivity," he added.

UNICEF Zambia Social Policy Specialist for Public Finance, Miselo Bwalya speaking on behalf of UNICEF Representative recognized the National Assembly's efforts to analyze the budget with a specific focus on individual sectors rather than as whole. He said that this approach is essential for ensuring that every aspect of the budget is thoroughly examined for its potential impact on children and vulnerable groups.

Meanwhile, Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research Interim Executive Director, Mr. Zali Chikuba, said the workshop was important for equipping National Assembly staff with the critical tools needed for effective budget analysis and public debt management. He emphasized that the training would not only enhance the capacity of National Assembly staff to analyze social sector budgets and implement gender-responsive budgeting but also support Parliament's crucial role in national economic management by ensuring a balanced approach to revenue and expenditure.

And National Assembly of Zambia, Principle Clerk, Institute of Parliamentary Studies and Training, Mr. Tenneson Nyangu acknowledged the efforts of the National Assembly's leadership and staff in advancing the budgeting process. He said that while the initial implementation of the new system might face challenges, there was a commitment to refining the process over time. Mr Nyangu said the ideal goal was for parliamentary committees to be involved at every stage of the budgeting process, from formulation to execution and audit.



National Assembly Undergoes Training on the Impact of Climate Change on Children



Director Research, Ms. Elsie Simpamba (center), Population Council Manager for Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation Research, Ms. Nachela Kawimbe (3rd left) and Generation Alive Executive Director, Ms. Womba Wanki (3rd right), along with staff from the Research Department, pose for a photo shortly after the workshop launch.

By McDonald Mwiinga

The National Assembly of Zambia with support from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), conducted a two-day capacity building and information sharing training workshop from 7th to 9th August, 2024 at Lake Safari Lodge in Siavonga. The aim of the workshop was to equip Parliamentary Researchers with knowledge and skills to better understand the effects of child, early and forced marriages, as well as the impacts of climate change on children's health, nutrition and education in the face of severe droughts in Zambia.

National Assembly of Zambia, Director of Research, Ms Elsie Simpamba expressed her gratitude to the IPU for both the financial and technical support extended not only to the Research Department but to the National Assembly as a whole. She said that evidence-based research was crucial to Parliamentary work and encouraged Parliamentary Researchers to rely on data driven information when advising

Members of Parliament.

Meanwhile, IPU Programme Manager, Aleksandra Blagojevic in her virtual remarks, commended the National Assembly through the Research Department, for prioritising capacity building for its staff on such a critical issue. She reaffirmed the IPU's commitment to supporting future initiatives of the Department aimed at enhancing the capacity of both MPs and staff.

The workshop facilitated by Ms Womba Wanki from Generation Alive and Ms Nachela Kawimbe Population Council, was attended by all Parliamentary Researchers and selected staff from the Parliamentary Reforms and Monitoring and Evaluation Departments.



NAZ Exhibits at the 96th Agriculture and Commercial Show



Research Officer, Dr. Meyarn Mwale, explains the role of the Research Department in parliamentary work to a show attendee.

By Namasiku Mubiana

The National Assembly of Zambia participated in the 96th Agriculture and Commercial Show held from Wednesday, 31st July, to Monday, 5th August, 2024, at the Showgrounds, in Lusaka.

The event was held under the theme, “Creating a Competitive Future,” highlighted the National Assembly’s alignment with the theme, underscoring the importance of collaboration and innovation in driving the nation’s economic growth.

In its exhibition, the National Assembly showcased how it is “Creating a Competitive Future,” through its legislative initiatives and policies aimed at fostering a competitive economic environment.

The National Assembly has been instrumental in passing key legislative laws that promote investment. These include among others, legislation on investment, trade and business development that streamline business registration and reduce regulatory burdens, making it easier for entrepreneurs and investors to start and operate businesses in Zambia. Additionally, the Assembly has passed legislation supporting agricultural innovation, infrastructure development and market access for farmers, aimed at increasing productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector.

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The Assembly also championed policies that encourage economic diversification beyond traditional sectors.

By promoting industries such as manufacturing, technology and tourism, Zambia is better positioned to compete in a global economy.

The National Assembly's commitment to sustainable development is further reflected in its legislative agenda, with environmental conservation laws and policies promoting renewable energy and resource management, crucial for long-term competitiveness.

During the Agricultural and Commercial Show, the National Assembly pavilion provided an interactive platform for the public to learn more about its work. Visitors engaged with staff and gained insights into the legislative process including how laws and policies are made to support national development goals.

The 96th Agricultural and Commercial Show was a testament to the collaborative spirit needed to drive a competitive future for Zambia and the National Assembly's participation underscored its commitment to fostering an environment where innovation, investment and sustainable growth can thrive, ensuring a competitive future for all Zambians.



International Relations Assistant, Ms Komiwe Kaba Nyirenda responding to queries from a Show-goer.