



## Mobilise Political Will to Reinvigorate SDGS- Speaker Mutti Urges Parliamentarians



Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Rt. Hon. Nelly Mutti, speaks as a panelist at the opening session of the 2025 Inter-Parliamentary Union Hearing held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**By Sharon Nyirongo**

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Hon. Nelly Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, has urged fellow Parliamentarians to take the lead in ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved before the 2030 deadline.

She stated that progress towards realizing the SDGs remains uneven, with many goals still off track globally. She attributed this to challenges at the national level and called on countries to commit to implementing the SDGs.

Speaker Mutti said that, there was need for Parliaments to be better equipped politically to move the agenda and ensure that the SDGs are truly owned by the people.

She was speaking as a panelist at the opening session of the 2025 Inter-Parliamentary Union Hearing at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, which was held under the theme “Scaling up action for the SDGs: finance institutions and politics.”

Speaker Mutti further informed the gathering that Zambia remains on track to achieve SDG 12 on “Responsible Consumption and Production” and SDG 13 on “Climate Action” while also making notable progress on several other SDGs. She stated that the Zambian Parliament has demonstrated in implementing some SDGs, citing

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the establishment of Constituency Offices and the introduction of the Sector Budget as examples.

Meanwhile, in her continued efforts to promote Parliamentary democracy, Hon. Mutti held bilateral meetings with other Parliamentary Delegations on the sidelines of the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.

During a bilateral meeting with the Delegation of Qatar, Speaker Mutti called for strengthened Parliamentary relations between the Parliaments of Qatar and Zambia. She noted that interactions between the two Parliaments had been minimal in the past and expressed hope that they could explore areas of mutual cooperation. She also supported the formation of a friendship group to enhance relations between the two legislatures.

Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, Her

Excellency Dr. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti, stated that friendship groups have the potential to bring Parliaments together, regardless of their regions.

Speaker Mutti also held bilateral talks with the Vice Chairman of the Education, Science, Culture, and Public Health Committee of the National People's Congress of China. She praised China for the long-standing friendship between the two countries, which has now been elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership. She also noted that the recent visit to China by Republican President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema reaffirmed these strong ties.

Mr. Xuenjun stated that China values its relationship with Zambia and remains committed to working together in various areas related to the SDGs.

Speaker Mutti attended the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in New York in her capacity as an Executive Committee Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). She was accompanied by Mr. Oliver Amutike, Vice President of the IPU Zambia National Group, Mrs. Loveness Mayaka, Deputy Clerk (Administration) and other officials from the Office of the Clerk.



Speaker Nelly Mutti poses with Deputy Speaker Dr. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti of Qatar's Shura Council (m) Hon. Oliver Amutike, Vice President of the IPU Zambia National Group (l) and a Qatari delegate (r) during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.



## Newly Elected MPs Sworn in After By-Elections



First Deputy Speaker Hon. Malungo Chisangano, announces the newly elected MPs for Kawambwa, Petauke Central and Pambashe constituencies and orders their entry into the House to deliver their maiden speeches.

**By Batuke Imenda Jnr,**

Following the by-elections in Kawambwa, Pambashe and Petauke constituencies, First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Malungo A. Chisangano, MP, welcomed three newly elected Members of Parliament to the House.

This took place on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025, during the resumption of the Fourth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly at Parliament Buildings.

The newly elected Members of Parliament welcomed to the House include Hon. Simon Banda of the New Congress Party (NCP), who won the Petauke Central Constituency seat with 13,180 votes,

surpassing his closest competitor, Mr. Severian Lungu of the United Party for National Development (UPND), who secured 11,093 votes. Hon. Justin Kapema of the UPND was elected as the Member of Parliament for Pambashe Constituency with 5,067 votes, defeating Mr. Mwenya Williams of the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD), who garnered 2,614 votes. Similarly, Hon. Nason Musonda of the UPND won the Kawambwa Constituency seat with 5,519 votes, surpassing his closest rival, Mr. Mwansa Danston of the Tonse Alliance, who received 3,896 votes.

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Hon. Simon Banda, MP, for Petauke Central Constituency, being congratulated by First Deputy Speaker Hon. Malungo Chisangano, MP, after delivering his maiden speech.



Hon. Justin Kapema, MP, being sworn in the House as the newly elected Member of Parliament for Pambashe Constituency.



Newly appointed Luapula Province Minister and Kawambwa MP, Hon. Nason C Musonda (c) is ushered into the Chamber in Parliamentary Style by Kabwe Central MP, Hon. Halwiindi (r) and Chipangali MP, Hon. Andrew Lubusha.



## Speaker Mutti Commends the Progress Made to Transform SADC PF into A Parliament



Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia Hon. Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA and Vice President of the SADC PF, Hon. Sylvia Elizabeth Lucas (m) pose for a photo with staff from the SADC PF and the National Assembly of Zambia after the courtesy call.

**By Namasiku Mubiana**

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Right Honourable Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, has commended the progress made in advancing the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) into a Regional Parliament.

Speaking when the Vice President of the SADC PF, Hon Sylvia Elizabeth Lucas paid a courtesy call on her on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at Parliament Buildings, Speaker Mutti said that transforming the Forum into a Regional Parliament will not only influence and enhance its mandate but also give more credence and relevance towards regional integration and cooperation.

She observed that the Forum is already achieving much particularly, when it comes to developing Model Laws, which provide a reference point for member countries in legislating certain matters.

“When transformed into a Parliament, I am certain that some binding pieces of legislation will be enacted, thereby creating a robust and coherent legislative framework within the region and contributing significantly to regional integration,” Speaker Mutti said.

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## Speaker Mutti Commends the Progress Made to Transform SADC PF into A Parliament

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Speaker Mutti further observed that the August 2024 ratification of the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty to establish the SADC Parliament only had necessary backing from 12 out of 15 Member States.

“As a member of the Strategic Lobbying Team for the Transformation of the Forum into a fully-fledged regional Parliament, I pledge Zambia’s support not only in convincing the remaining Member States to sign the Agreement, but also in securing unanimous adoption of the Protocol to establish the Regional Parliament.”

And Hon Lucas expressed confidence that this transformation would soon be fully realised, with ongoing support from Parliaments like the National Assembly of Zambia.

“We know that we have a dependable ally in Zambia. Your unwavering support for the Forum’s programmes at both regional and domestic levels is deeply appreciated,” she said.

Hon. Lucas also expressed her gratitude to the Zambian Government and the Parliament of Zambia for their warm hospitality during the successful hosting of the 56th Plenary Assembly held in December 2024, at Radisson Blu Mosi-Oa-Tunya, in Livingstone.

The Vice President of SADC PF was in the country to participate in the National Security Strategy Implementation and Rule of Law Roundtable, hosted by the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies. The deliberations focused on Zambia, Botswana and Malawi and the need for stronger civilian oversight in defence and security policymaking. The roundtable held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, brought together key stakeholders including Parliamentarians, military officials and representatives from international organisations.



Speaker Mutti welcomes the Vice President of the SADC PF, Hon. Sylvia Elizabeth Lucas when the latter paid her a courtesy call.



## FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER CHALLENGES CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES TO ENHANCE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS



First Deputy Speaker Hon. Malungo Chisangano, MP, officiates at the workshop on Capacity and Knowledge Enhancement for Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and Selected female Members of Parliament held at Savee Beach Resort in Siavonga.

**By Anthony Mpolokoso**

The First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Hon Malungo Chisangano, MP, has reminded Chairpersons of Committees and selected female members of Parliament of their responsibility to manage Committee meetings, analyze information and ultimately guiding Committees in making quality decisions and recommendations.

First Deputy Speaker Chisangano stated that the success of the work of a Committee depends much on the effectiveness of its members. She said this when she officiated at the workshop on Capacity and Knowledge Enhancement for Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and selected female Members of Parliament,

organised by the Institute for Parliamentary Studies and Training in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under the theme “Enhancement of Democratic Principles during Committee Meetings,” held from 28th February to 3rd March, 2025, at Savee Beach Resort in Siavonga.

Hon Chisangano said that the capacity-building workshop had been organized to address pertinent issues related to the work of

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Committee Chairpersons, such as guidance, agenda setting, moderating discussions, liaison roles, and managing witnesses and evidence.

*Hon Chisangano also urged the female Parliamentarians to take up more roles of Chairpersons of Committees stating that currently, there are only two female Members of Parliament who serve as Chairpersons of Committees. She noted that these were Ms. Sibeso Sefulo, MP, Chairperson of the Committee on National Economy, Trade, and Labour Matters, and Ms. Chushi Kasanda, MP, Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances.*

Speaking earlier on behalf of the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Tennieson Nyangu, Director of the Institute for Parliamentary Studies and Training (iPST), said that the gathering marked a significant step in strengthening Parliamentary leadership, governance and gender inclusivity in Zambia's legislative process.

He said that the workshop aligned with Pillar One of the National Assembly of Zambia's Strategic Plan 2022-2026, which focused on strengthening the capacity of Members of Parliament and staff to meet the institution's

constitutional mandate.

“Over the course of the workshop, Members will engage in discussions and training sessions designed to enhance their leadership, negotiation and legislative skills. The knowledge and skills they will gain will not only benefit them individually but will also contribute to a stronger, more responsive and more inclusive Parliament,” He said.

The resource persons for the workshop included Hon Vincent Mwale, former Cabinet Minister and former Member of Parliament; Mr. Lifuka, Governance Expert; Mrs. Chipili Nkonga, Diplomacy Consultant and Former Diplomat at the Zambian Embassy in Brussels; Mr. Siasinyanga, Council Secretary - Chikankata Town Council; Mr. Fitzgerald Kateshi, Director of the Parliamentary Budget Office; Mr. Stephen Chiwota, Director of Economic Affairs Committees; and Mr. Mubanga Kabwibwi, Deputy Director of Research, who discussed support services available to Chairpersons during Committee meetings.

The workshop concluded with the identification of areas requiring reform and the development of an action plan to improve the management of Committees.



## Speaker Mutti Dates Provincial Ministers



Speaker Mutti (4th from the right) and Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Roy Ngulube (far left), pose for a photo with the Provincial Ministers.

**By Namasiku Mubiana**

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Rt Honourable Nelly B.K. Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, met with Provincial Ministers at Parliament Buildings to discuss ways to enhance their engagement in legislative debates.

Speaker Mutti said the meeting was an important opportunity to exchange views on how Provincial Ministers could contribute more effectively to Parliamentary proceedings. She noted that although they play a crucial role in provincial governance, their participation in debates during Parliamentary proceedings has been relatively limited.

The Speaker highlighted that Article 117(3) of the Constitution of Zambia designates Provincial Ministers as heads of government in their respective provinces, responsible for implementing national policies and overseeing the performance of provincial and local authorities. However, she pointed out that the Constitution and the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024, do not explicitly define their

roles within the National Assembly.

She said that under the current Parliamentary framework, Provincial Ministers do not respond to questions raised on the Floor of the House, as this responsibility is designated to Cabinet Ministers. As a result, only Cabinet Ministers are mandated to issue ministerial statements and respond to policy-related queries.

“There is a need for continued dialogue on this matter to provide more specific functions for Provincial Ministers in the House, which would facilitate their greater participation in Parliamentary debates,” Speaker Mutti said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Copperbelt Province, Hon. Elisha Matambo, expressed gratitude to Speaker Mutti for the engagement. He said that Provincial Ministers are eager to contribute more effectively to Parliamentary discourse and that any measures to enhance their participation would be welcome, as this would allow them to better represent the interests of their respective provinces.



## CPA Chairperson Dr Kalila Calls for Action to Build Inclusive Parliaments



Seated in the front row: Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Dr. Christopher Kalila (3rd from left) and Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Roy Ngulube (3rd from right) pose for a photo with Honourable Members of the CPwD.

**By Namasiku Mubiana**

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Executive Committee Chairperson Dr. Christopher Kalila has called for action to break down barriers hindering the participation of persons with disabilities in Parliamentary processes.

He made the appeal during the official opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Africa Region Conference held on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, at Ciela Resort in Chongwe District.

Dr. Kalila said there is a need to create inclusive Parliamentary environments to ensure equal representation and meaningful participa-

tion of persons with disabilities in legislative processes. He reflected on Zambia's progress in disability inclusivity by noting that the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012 has been a transformative step towards inclusivity.

Dr Kalila said that initiatives such as conducting infrastructure audits of Parliamentary Buildings to assess accessibility and introducing sign language interpretation on

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Parliament Television have been implemented to enhance participation for all.

The Chairperson however, noted that despite facing significant challenges, individuals with disabilities continue to inspire through their resilience and achievements. He cited the late Maria Rantho, South Africa's first disabled Parliamentarian, as a notable example.

*He urged participants to engage fully in discussions aimed at identifying and dismantling obstacles to full participation for Parliamentarian with disabilities.*

*He further urged other branches to use the conference as an opportunity to evaluate their progress and learn from others to improve inclusivity efforts.*

And Speaking earlier, the Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia, Mr. Roy Ngulube said that the theme for the event, "Breaking Barriers: Building Inclusive Parliaments for Persons with Disabilities," was not just a phrase but a call to action, reminding legislators of their responsibility to create spaces where diversity is embraced and inclusivity becomes a fundamental pillar of legislative bodies.

Mr Ngulube said that Parliaments that are inclusive are better equipped to represent and address the needs of all citizens, ensuring no one is left behind.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary General, Mr. Stephen Twigg, said in a video message to the CPwD Regional Conference that disability inclusion is a key priority for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He commended the work that the CPwD does in championing the rights of persons with disabilities.

The 3rd Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Africa Region Conference held from 24th to 28th February, 2025 addressed critical topics, including designing physical spaces for inclusive Parliaments, policies for implementing disability inclusion and changing attitudes towards disability in political institutions.



## Speaker Mutti Launches Young Learners' Special Pages and Unveils Constituency News Corner on Parliament Website



Speaker Mutti (m) accompanied by First Deputy Speaker Chisangano (l), Deputy Clerk Corporate Affairs, Mrs. C. Sikatele Mambwe (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and UNDP Representative Mr. James Wakiaga (r) poses with Members of Parliament, teachers and school pupils during the launch of the Young Learner's Special Pages on the National Assembly of Zambia website.

**By Namasiku Mubiana**

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Right Honourable Ms. Nelly B K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, has launched the Young Learners' Special Pages and unveiled the Constituency News Corner on Parliament Website on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, in the Amphitheatre, at Parliament Buildings.

Speaking during the launch, Speaker Mutti said that these online platforms are designed to educate young learners about Parliament and showcasing the developmental projects within Constituencies, particularly those linked to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

She said that while Parliament has made progress in increasing public engagement through platforms such as Parliament TV, radio and social media, most of the content has been primarily targeted at adults. She added that providing simplified, interactive and age-

appropriate content will bridge the knowledge gap among school learners and develop an early understanding of governance and the legislative process.

*"By launching the Special Pages, we aim to raise awareness among young learners about Parliament's roles and functions, preparing them to engage fully in Zambia's democratic processes," she said.*

Speaker Mutti encouraged parents to support their children in accessing the *Special Pages* and learning more about governance. She also called on the Office of the Clerk to promote awareness of these new features through Parliament TV and radio to ensure nationwide reach.

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## Speaker Mutti Launches Young Learners' Special Pages and Unveils Constituency News Corner on Parliament Website

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"No young learner should be left behind, whether in Lambwe Chomba, Chiengi, or Nswanakuda in Mwinilunga. With Starlink internet connectivity being installed in all 156 Constituency Offices, access to this important information is now within reach for every young *Zambian*," Speaker Mutti said.

Madam Speaker said in addition to engaging young audiences, the Constituency News Corner will serve as a platform to share updates on developmental projects across the country's 156 constituencies. She said this feature aligns with the Government's decentralization agenda by providing real-time information on how public resources, especially CDF allocations, are being utilized to improve communities.

She urged Members of Parliament to actively contribute

by ensuring that relevant constituency development information is submitted for publication on the website.

*"The Constituency News Corner will not only enhance transparency but also serve as an important tool for keeping citizens informed about progress in their respective constituencies," she said.*

Speaker Mutti also expressed her gratitude to the cooperating partners, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Austrian Parliament and the North-South Dialogue of Parliaments, for their financial and technical support in developing the Special Pages.

And UNDP Representative Mr. James Wakiaga commended the National Assembly for its continued efforts to engage with *Zambians*, particularly young learners. He said that the *Special Pages* would not only equip the younger generation with the tools needed to understand parliamentary functions but enable them actively participate in democratic processes.



Excited learners dance along to a lively performance by the National Assembly of Zambia Choir.