



Speaker Mutti praises outgoing IPU SG for outstanding contribution to strengthening parliamentary democracy



Speaker Mutti and IPU Secretary General, Mr Martin Chungong, pose for a photo after Speaker Mutti presented him with a Zambian map crafted on a copper plate.

By Anthony Mpolokoso

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Rt Hon. Dr Nelly B K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA has praised outgoing Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mr Martin Chungong, for his outstanding leadership and contribution to strengthening parliamentary democracy during his 12-year tenure.

She made the remarks during a farewell reception held on 30th June, 2026, on the International Day of Parliamentarianism, at the conclusion of the 300th Session of the IPU Executive Committee at the IPU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr Mutti said Mr Chungong's leadership transformed the IPU into a stronger institution that continues to promote democracy, protect the rights of parliamentarians and advance the participation of women in parliamentary affairs.

“His commitment and professionalism have earned him the respect of Parliaments across the world,” she said.

Speaker Mutti recalled that Mr Chungong played a pivotal role in supporting Zambia to successfully host the 148th IPU Assembly held from



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Speaker Mutti shares a light moment with IPU Secretary General, Mr Martin Chungong.

23rd to 27th March, 2024, at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka.

She noted that the Assembly left a lasting impression on delegates and showcased Zambia's capacity to host major international parliamentary events.

Dr Mutti further described Mr Chungong as an approachable and dedicated leader who worked tirelessly to strengthen the IPU Secretariat and promote professionalism within the organisation.

She said his unwavering commitment to advancing inclusive parliamentary democracy and protecting the rights of parliamentarians will remain part of his enduring legacy.

Mr Chungong, a Cameroonian national, officially concluded his 12-year tenure as IPU Secretary General on June 30, 2026. He handed over office to Ambassador Anda Filip, who assumed office on 1st

July, 2026, becoming the 10th Secretary General of the IPU.

Ambassador Filip becomes the first woman and the first Eastern European to serve as Secretary General of the IPU. She served at the IPU Secretariat for more than 20 years before being elected during the 152nd IPU Assembly held in Istanbul, Türkiye, after securing 72 percent of the vote in a single round.

Meanwhile, the 300th Session of the IPU Executive Committee, held on 29th and 30th June, 2026, at the House of Parliaments in Geneva, also considered preparations for the election of a new IPU President.

The election will take place during the 153rd IPU Assembly scheduled for October 2026 in Arusha, Tanzania, when the current IPU President, Dr Tulia Ackson of Tanzania, concludes her three-year term of office. Dr Ackson is the 31st President of the IPU and the first African woman to hold the position.



Benchmarking, opportunities for continuous learning and parliamentary reforms



Deputy Clerk for Administration of the National Assembly of Zambia, Mr. Sage C. Samuwika, explains the gifts presented to the Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of Kenya, Madam Serah Kioko.

By Kashimbi Limata

Deputy Clerk for Administration of the National Assembly of Zambia, Mr Sage Samuwika has noted that benchmarking visits provide valuable opportunities for continuous learning among parliamentary staff and contribute to parliamentary institutional reforms.

Mr Samuwika stated that as parliaments continue to evolve, it is important for parliamentary staff to engage in professional exchanges aimed at sharing innovations,

experiences and best practices within the parliamentary service.

Speaking when he led a delegation of members of staff from the National Assembly of Zambia, on a five-day benchmarking visit to the Parliament of Kenya on Monday, 8th June, 2026, Mr Samuwika said the visit would enable the delegation to gain practical insights into the Parliament of Kenya's operations, systems and institutional practices that could be adapted to enhance the work of

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the National Assembly of Zambia.

He informed the hosts that some of the notable reforms undertaken by the National Assembly of Zambia as a result of previous benchmarking visits include, the establishment of the Institute of Parliamentary Studies and Training, the establishment of the Parliamentary Budget Office, which has enhanced the consideration of the National Budget through the Budget Sector Analysis approach and the introduction of the National Prayer Breakfast, among other initiatives.

And welcoming the Zambian delegation, the Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of Kenya, Madam Serah Kioko, described Kenya and Zambia as sister parliaments with shared values and experiences. She briefed the delegation on the composition of the Kenyan Parliament and the administrative systems used in supporting parliamentary operations.

Madam Kioko urged members of staff from both Parliaments to continue strengthening knowledge-sharing initiatives beyond the benchmarking visit to promote continuous improvement in parliamentary administration.



Deputy Clerk (Administration), Mr. Sage Samuwika (in pink jacket) poses for a photo with staff from the National Assembly of Zambia and the Parliament of Kenya.



National Assembly delegation benchmarks Parliament of Rwanda



Director of Legal Services Mrs Doreen Mukwanka (in brown) poses for a group photo with Senate Clerk of the Parliament of Rwanda, Dr Yvonne Umulisa (fourth from right) and members of staff from the National Assembly of Zambia.

By Rabson Maamba & Namasiku Mubiana

Director of Legal Services at the National Assembly of Zambia, Mrs Doreen Mukwanka, says the knowledge acquired during a benchmarking visit to the Parliament of Rwanda will contribute significantly to the ongoing modernisation of parliamentary operations and the successful implementation of Zambia's constitutional and governance reforms.

Mrs Mukwanka said this at the conclusion of a seven-day benchmarking study visit

undertaken by a delegation from the National Assembly of Zambia to the Parliament of Rwanda from 7th to 13th June, 2026.

She stated that the visit provided an important platform for knowledge exchange and institutional learning as Zambia continues to strengthen its parliamentary systems and governance structures.

"The knowledge and experience we have gained during this visit will contribute



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significantly to our efforts to modernise parliamentary operations and support the successful implementation of Zambia's constitutional and governance reforms," Mrs Mukwanka said.

She noted that the benchmarking exercise was particularly significant following the enactment of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 13 of 2025, which introduced the Mixed Member Proportional Electoral System.

Mrs Mukwanka explained that Rwanda's long-standing experience in implementing a proportional representation system had provided valuable lessons and best practices that would support Zambia's ongoing governance reforms.

She stated that the delegation had learnt the importance of embracing digital transformation in parliamentary operations, strengthening research and information services to support evidence-based law-making and promoting governance systems that enhance inclusivity, accountability and citizen participation.

Mrs Mukwanka noted that the delegation was also impressed by Rwanda's parliamentary model, under which Members of Parliament serve the nation through a proportional representation system rather than representing specific constituencies.

She further described Rwanda's commitment to gender inclusion as exemplary, noting that women constitute 63 per cent of the Chamber of Deputies and 43 per cent of the Senate, with their participation reflected in leadership positions and decision-making processes.

"We are grateful to the Parliament of Rwanda for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation and for the openness with which they shared their experiences and best practices", she said.

"The lessons learnt will greatly assist us in strengthening parliamentary democracy and institutional effectiveness in Zambia."

Speaking earlier, Senate Clerk of the Parliament of Rwanda, Dr Yvonne Umulisa, welcomed the Zambian delegation and expressed admiration for Zambia's parliamentary system after learning that Cabinet Ministers also serve as Members of Parliament.

Dr Umulisa said the exchange reflected the unique governance systems of Zambia and Rwanda and would further strengthen cooperation between the two parliamentary institutions.

"Benchmarking visits such as this provide an important opportunity for our institutions to exchange experiences and learn from one another as we continue strengthening parliamentary democracy," Dr Umulisa said.

She added that the Parliament of Rwanda remained committed to promoting cooperation with other parliaments through the sharing of knowledge and best practices.

During the visit, the delegation participated in presentations and exchange sessions on the structure and operations of the Parliament of Rwanda, the role of standing committees, library and research services, legal and legislative processes, parliamentary automation and digitisation, financial management systems, as well as the use of technology in the recording, transcription and dissemination of Hansard reports.

The delegation also observed a plenary sitting during which Rwanda's Minister of Finance presented the National Budget before visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial and the Campaign Against Genocide Museum, where members gained deeper insights into Rwanda's history, resilience and remarkable journey towards national unity and transformation.



CONSTITUENCY CORNER

Chibombo benefits from CDF-funded maternity wing and water reticulation system

Pictures courtesy of Chibombo Town Council



The newly constructed Mwanjuni Maternity Wing in Katuba Ward.



The Chunga Water Reticulation System in Chunga Ward.

By Gwennie Shamizhinga

Central Province Permanent Secretary Dr Milner Mwanakampwe has said the completion of the newly constructed Mwanjuni Maternity Wing and Chunga Water Reticulation System in Chibombo District demonstrates Government's commitment to delivering development closer to communities.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony held on Friday, 19th June, 2026, Dr Mwanakampwe said the projects, which were funded under the 2024 and 2025 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocations respectively, reflect Government's continued efforts to improve the well-being of citizens regardless of the electoral cycle.

Dr Mwanakampwe officially handed over the Mwanjuni Maternity Wing in Katuba Ward, which was constructed at a cost of K262,000 and the Chunga Water Reticulation System in Chunga Ward, valued at K216,000.

He stated that the maternity wing would enhance

access to quality maternal and child healthcare services by bringing health facilities closer to the people.

"The Mwanjuni Maternity Wing will strengthen maternal and child health services by bringing care closer to the people, as the President believes no woman should die while giving birth," he said.

Dr Mwanakampwe further stated that access to clean and safe water remains essential in improving the health and livelihoods of communities.

"Access to clean water is not only a basic necessity but also a critical component of sustainable development. This system will reduce water-borne diseases and improve community well-being," he noted.

He commended the Chibombo Town Council, the CDF Committee, Ward Development Committees and contractors for successfully implementing the projects.

Dr Mwanakampwe urged the beneficiary communities to take ownership of the facilities and ensure that they are well maintained for the benefit of current and future generations.



Linda Mini Hospital nears completion in Nansanzu Ward

Picture courtesy of Livingstone Town Council



Linda Mini Hospital in Nansanzu Ward nears completion under the 2025 CDF.

By Chileshe Chirwa

Construction of the Linda Mini Hospital in Nansanzu Ward is nearing completion under the 2025 Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The facility is expected to improve access to quality healthcare services for residents of Linda Township and surrounding communities in Livingstone.

The project, which is being undertaken by Mutobati Engineering Limited at a cost of approximately K3.3 million, has reached the final stage, with workers carrying out painting, plumbing installation and other finishing works.

The project cost also includes the procurement of hospital furniture and medical equipment required to operationalise the health facility once construction is completed.

Once commissioned, the Linda Mini Hospital will bring healthcare services closer to the people, thereby reducing the distance residents travel to access medical care and improving service delivery in the area.



Final finishing works underway at Linda Mini Hospital



Kalumbila District receives six tractors to boost agricultural productivity



One of the six tractors commissioned in Kalumbila District under the Constituency Development Fund.

By Thiloleko Lungu

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Permanent Secretary for Administration, Dr Gabriel Pollen says Government remains committed to modernising agriculture and empowering communities through decentralised development.

Speaking when he handed over six tractors to six wards in Kalumbila District on Thursday, 12th June, 2026, Dr Pollen said the initiative will enhance agricultural mechanisation, increase food production and improve rural livelihoods.

Dr Pollen said that the six tractors procured at a cost of more than K6.3 million, using locally generated revenue from property rates by the Kalumbila Town Council, are expected to improve farming and enable the farmers to cultivate larger areas.

"The tractors will improve farming efficiency, increase agricultural productivity and contribute to the country's food security agenda," he said.

Dr Pollen applauded the Kalumbila Town Council for financing the project using locally generated revenue, stating that the investment demonstrates prudent utilisation of resources in support of community development.

He urged the beneficiary wards to properly maintain the equipment and ensure that it is used responsibly for the benefit of farming communities.

Speaking on behalf of the traditional leadership, Chief Mumena of the Kaonde people of North Western Province, commended Government and the Kalumbila Town Council for investing in agricultural mechanisation.

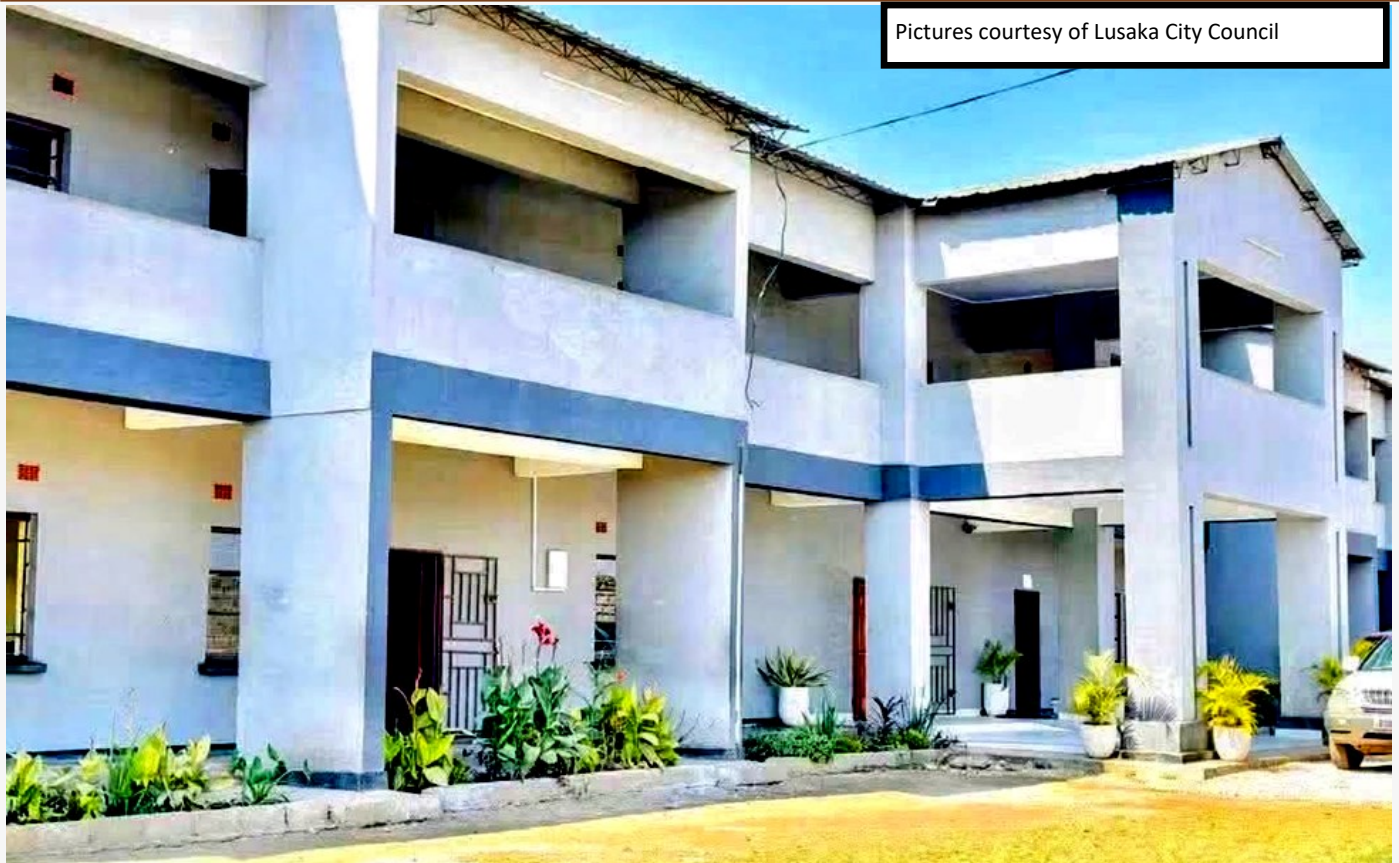
The traditional leader said the tractors will help ease the burden on farmers, enhance agricultural production and contribute to sustainable rural development in the district.

Chief Mumena further urged the beneficiary communities to safeguard the equipment and ensure that it is utilised responsibly so that more farmers continue to benefit from the investment for years to come.



LCC hands over CDF classroom blocks in Kanyama, Chawama and Bauleni

Pictures courtesy of Lusaka City Council



One of the newly constructed double-storey 1x6 classroom block in Chawama, Kanyama and Bauleni constituencies in Lusaka.

By Mukoba Ngulube & Namasiku Mubiana

Lusaka City Council (LCC) has handed over three newly constructed double-storey 1x6 classroom blocks in Chawama, Kanyama and Bauleni constituencies in Lusaka.

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba, said the projects, funded through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), have been completed at Twashuka Secondary School in Kanyama Constituency at a cost of over K2 million, Chawama Secondary School in Chawama Constituency at a cost of over K4 million and Bauleni Secondary School in Lusaka Central Constituency at a cost of K4.16 million.

Ms Mwamba stated that the construction of the

classroom blocks is part of efforts to address the growing demand for learning spaces arising from Lusaka's increasing population and support Government's Free Education Policy.

"These projects will help reduce classroom congestion, accommodate more learners and provide additional learning spaces while making efficient use of limited land in high-density areas," she stated.

Ms Mwamba explained that the classroom blocks have been constructed using a vertical model, allowing more classrooms to be built without taking up additional ground space.

"This helps to preserve land for playgrounds, sports fields and other essential public services," she stated.



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She further stated that the classroom blocks were constructed in accordance with modern engineering and safety standards, incorporating fire safety and prevention systems, natural lighting and proper ventilation.

Ms Mwamba added that the facilities also include universal access ramps and standardised staircases to ensure that learners with disabilities can access both

floors of the buildings.

She further disclosed that construction of two additional double-storey 1x6 classroom blocks is currently underway in Munali and Chawama constituencies.

Ms Mwamba said once completed, the additional infrastructure would further increase learning space and help ease pressure on neighbouring schools.



The newly constructed double-storey 1x6 classroom blocks in Chawama, Kanyama and Bauleni constituencies in Lusaka.



CDF loan transforms Mpika entrepreneur's organic fertiliser business

Picture courtesy of Mpika Town Council



By Dora Haruperi

Mr. Chileya Chiwenda (right), Chief Executive Officer of Zochichi Trading Limited, display some of the products during the Mpika District Agricultural and Commercial Show.

Mpika entrepreneur Mr Chileya Chiwenda says an K80,000 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) loan accessed in 2024 has transformed his organic fertiliser business, enabling him to acquire equipment, increase production and create employment in TAZARA Township.

Mr Chiwenda, who had envisioned producing organic fertiliser for farmers 12 years ago, said his dream remained unrealised for several years due to a lack of capital until he accessed the CDF loan.

“We had the idea and the skills, but no funds to grow,” he said.

He explained that the loan enabled him to invest in critical production equipment, including seven fermentation vessels valued at K43,000, which have improved the efficiency and capacity of his business, Zochichi Trading.

“The vessels have transformed how we work. Production is faster and we can meet demand,” Mr Chiwenda said.

Mr Chiwenda stated that the support enabled his once struggling business to achieve sustainable growth while contributing to the promotion of environmentally friendly agriculture in the community.

He applauded the CDF for bringing opportunities closer to

communities, particularly in Mpika.

“CDF is not a hoax. It has brought opportunities closer to the people, especially here in Mpika,” he said.

Mr Chiwenda further expressed gratitude to President Hakainde Hichilema for decentralising the fund, saying the expansion of Mpika into two constituencies, Mpika North and Mpika South, will allow more residents to benefit from the initiative.

“This split allows more funding to reach our communities. More people can benefit, just like I did,” he noted.

He, however, urged CDF beneficiaries to use the funds responsibly and ensure that they repay their loans to allow others to benefit.

“CDF is an opportunity, but you must plan, invest wisely and repay so others can also benefit,” he said.

Today, Zochichi Trading supplies organic fertiliser to local farmers, supports sustainable agricultural practices and creates employment opportunities in TAZARA Township.



Kantolomba Ward receives K1.2 million police post



The newly constructed Kantolomba Police Post financed by the Constituency Development Fund (CDF)

By Jessie Mtonga

Ndola District Commissioner, Ms Precious Njekwa says the newly constructed K1.2 million police post in Kantolomba Ward will enhance access to police services and improve security for residents of the area.

Speaking during the handover ceremony held on Friday, 5th June, 2026, in Kantolomba Ward, Ms Njekwa said in a speech read on her behalf by Ndola Town Clerk, Mr George Mulenga, that the project, constructed under the 2023 Constituency Development Fund (CDF), demonstrates Government's commitment to improving public service delivery and the welfare of communities.

She urged residents to safeguard the facility and work closely with law enforcement officers to help reduce crime and maintain peace in the area.

"This police post is a community facility and its sustainability requires the cooperation and support of the people it is intended to serve," she said.

Ms Njekwa also applauded the local contractor for successfully completing the project within the stipulated timeframe.

Meanwhile, District Police Commanding Officer Ms Dorothy Nyambe expressed gratitude to the residents of Kantolomba for their cooperation and continued support towards policing efforts.

Ms Nyambe stated that residents previously faced difficulties accessing police services due to the absence of a nearby police facility.

"The new police post will play a crucial role in maintaining law and order while strengthening collaboration between the police and the community," she said.

She urged residents to report criminal activities without fear and encouraged officers deployed to the facility to work closely with the community in promoting peace, security and unity.



Chipili District receives CDF projects valued at over K8.8 million

Picture courtesy of Chipili Town Council



sioned included a classroom block at Kapemba Primary School, maternity annexes at Mutipula and Mwenda Rural Health Centres, Mulunda Health Post, a theatre and the first-ever morgue at Chipili Health Centre, as well as rehabilitation works at Chipili and Chisheta Primary Schools.

She explained that the newly completed health facilities would improve access to quality healthcare services, reduce referrals to Mansa, enhance maternal and neonatal healthcare and bring essential medical services closer to the people.

Ms Kangwa further disclosed that Government had awarded 291 secondary school boarding bursaries valued at K962,650 and 110 skills development bursaries worth K2.7 million.

She added that 87 empowerment grants amounting to K2.7 million had also been disbursed to support entrepreneurship, create employment opportunities and strengthen livelihoods in the district.

"These interventions are aimed at creating opportunities for our people, supporting livelihoods and ensuring that communities benefit directly from Government programmes," she said.

Meanwhile, Chipili District Commissioner, Ms Wendy Chapewa described the commissioning of the projects as a significant milestone in the district's development agenda.

Ms Chapewa commended all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the projects, stating that the investments will have a lasting positive impact on the people of Chipili.

Luapula Province Permanent Secretary, Ms Prudence Kangwa commissions CDF-funded projects in Chipili District.

By Malanda Chomba

Luapula Province Permanent Secretary, Ms Prudence Kangwa says the commissioning of nine Constituency Development Fund (CDF) projects valued at more than K8.8 million and the awarding of 87 empowerment grants in Chipili District will improve public service delivery and promote socio-economic development in the district.

Speaking during the handover ceremony held on Thursday, 18th June, 2026, in Chipili District, Ms Kangwa attributed the successful implementation of the projects to President Hakainde Hichilema's decision to increase the CDF allocation from K1.6 million to more than K40 million per constituency.

"The increased CDF allocation has significantly improved access to quality education, healthcare, skills development and economic empowerment opportunities," she said.

Ms Kangwa stated that the increased funding had also enabled the implementation of development projects through a transparent and inclusive process.

She disclosed that commissioned projects commis-