



PRESIDENT HAKAINDE HICHILEMA SAYS GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ARE YIELDING DIVIDENDS



President Hakainde Hichilema addressing the National Assembly of Zambia on the progress made in the application of national values and principles.

By Nshamba Muzungu

President Hakainde Hichilema said that government efforts to promote morality and human dignity, while upholding good governance and fostering sustainable social economic development anchored on hard work are yielding dividends.

Speaking when he addressed the National Assembly on the progress made in the Application of National Values and Principles on Friday, 15th March, 2024 at Parliament Buildings, President Hichilema said

his government is dedicated to maintain law and order in the country as this is important for social order and economic development.

“Madam Speaker, the national values and principles are important in molding the character of our nation. They influence our conduct as individuals and society. They also guide the development and implementation of state policy. Our constitution, under article 8, prescribes the national values and principles as morality and ethics; patriotism and national

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unity; democracy and constitutionalism; Human dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non-discrimination; good governance and integrity; and sustainable development,” President Hichilema said.

The President said that citizens have an urgent and compelling duty to fulfil national values and principles which should never be sacrificed for anyone or any reason.

“Every stand we take for morality and ethics, every act of patriotism, and every step towards unity, strengthens the fabric of our nation in line with our motto of one Zambia one nation,” he said.

President Hichilema bemoaned the incidences of social vices such as early child marriage, teenage pregnancies, alcohol and substance abuse and gender-based violence in the country. He also expressed concern with the high number of divorce cases especially among young couples, with 31,000 divorce cases recorded in 2022 and 36,000 in 2023 through local courts.

The Head of State called for the need to build strong marriages were couples are able to resolve problems amicably.

The President urged the Church and traditional leaders to enhance marriage counselling and teaching emphasizing the need

for strong families capable of raising children into responsible citizens.

President Hichilema also said that the government is committed to deepening democracy and constitutionalism. He expressed delight that Zambia has been named among the top three most democratizing countries in the World, by V-Dem.

He said the recognition underscore the United Party for National Development (UPND) government’s continuous efforts to promote the virtues of democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

Further, the President hailed the impact of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in accelerating community driven local development in rural districts.

The President also said that the country was making progress in the fight against corruption which has seen the establishment of the asset recovery inter-agency co-ordination framework in 2023 that has resulted in the recovery of millions of Kwachas in movable and non-movable assets.

He further said that the government, in 2023 enacted the Access to Information Act in order to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs.

On the issue of sustainable development, the President called on citizens to utilize resources and manage the environment in a sustainable manner adding that all citizens have an obligation to work towards addressing challenges of pollution, climate change and over exploitation of natural resources.



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PHOTO FOCUS

By Andrew Mukupa



President Hakainde Hichilema greets Members of Parliament from the ruling party after the State of the Nation Address, on Friday, 15th March, 2024.



President Hichilema having a light moment with Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Robert Chabinga.



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President Hakainde Hichilema handing over the speech on National Values and Principles to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA.



President Hichilema exchanges notes with Mambilima Member of Parliament, Ms Jean Chisenga.



PRESIDENT HICHILEMA CONFERS SPEAKER MUTTI WITH THE STATUS OF STATE COUNSEL



By Nshamba Muzungu

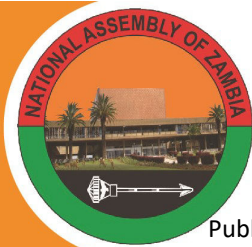
Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti has been conferred with the status of State Counsel by the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema.

She was conferred with the status of State Counsel with four others, namely; Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Jack Mwiimbu (MP), Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) Chairperson, Ms.

Mwangala Zalomous, prominent Lusaka lawyer Abdullah Dudhia and Ms. Emily Mwanza Chibiya, respectively.

This was at a swearing in ceremony at State House held today, Wednesday, 13th March, 2024.

Speaker Mutti has dedicated this noble achievement to all the women and the girl child in Zambia.



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"This stands as an encouragement to the girl child that with focus, hard work and determination, our dreams and aspirations can be achieved," Speaker Mutti said.

The significance of the aforesaid achievement underscores the President's unwavering commitment in ensuring that women are given the much-needed platform in the governance of our great nation.

The title of State Counsel signifies a substantial level of expertise, responsibility, and authority in the legal field,

often involving complex legal issues and important public interest matters. It further demands one to distinguish themselves thereby setting as an example and a role model in the legal field.

Speaker Mutti has thanked the President and Zambian citizens for the support in her quest to serve the country.



FINNISH MPs ON FINANCE COMMITTEE ENGAGE WITH ZAMBIAN COUNTERPART ON FISCAL OVERSIGHT



Speaker Mutti (centre) with the Finnish Members of Parliament delegation accompanied by the Finnish Ambassador to Zambia, Ms. Saana Halinen (centre).

By Namasiku Mubiana

A delegation comprising nine Finnish Members of Parliament from the Finance Committee, led by Ms. Krista Mikkonen and accompanied by Finnish Ambassador to Zambia, Her Excellency Ms. Saana Halinen, undertook a diplomatic exchange visit to the National Assembly of Zambia on Monday, 11th March, 2023 at Parliament Buildings.

The purpose of the visit was to share best practices and experiences in accountability and oversight with their Zambian counterpart, specifically the Planning and Budgeting Committee.

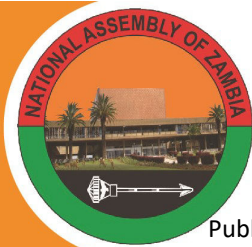
The delegation met with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Rt Hon. Ms. Nelly B.K Mutti, MP, FAPRA, prior to their engagement with the com-

mittee to discuss issues of common interest, including strengthening of bilateral relations through increased cooperation across various initiatives.

Other topics included Zambia's legislative efforts towards gender parity in Parliament and support for the differently abled. Additionally, trade discussions focused on sustainable and environmentally friendly sectors such as mining, agriculture and forestry, as well as considerations in meteorology, the circular economy and education.

Speaking during the meeting, Speaker Mutti placed emphasis on the pivotal

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The Planning and Budgeting Committee chaired by Mr. Fred Chaatila, MP, pose for a photo with their counterparts from the Finance Committee led by Ms. Krista Mikkonen from the Parliament of Finland.

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role of parliamentary oversight in ensuring transparent and accountable governance. She expressed optimism regarding the outcomes of the scheduled interactions between the Finnish delegation and the Planning and Budgeting Committee.

Meanwhile, Ms. Mikkonen conveyed gratitude to Speaker Mutti for the warm reception and reaffirmed Finland's commitment to fostering cooperation in governance and economic development. She highlighted the mutual benefits of knowledge-sharing, emphasizing its potential to bolster transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public resource management.

And later in the day, the delegation met with their counterparts from the Planning and Budgeting Committee, chaired by

Hon. Fred Chaatila who provided a detailed briefing to the high-level delegation regarding the establishment and responsibilities of the Planning and Budgeting Committee.

Hon Chaatila further highlighted the challenges encountered in scrutinising the national budget to ensure that the budget priorities are consistent with the national development plans, procedures and processes.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for delegates to inquire about Zambia's management of public debt, the impact of climate change on the country's economy, and initiatives put in place to preserve the country's wealth for future generations.



HONOURABLE MUTTI INITIATES THE 'SPEAKER'S PLANT A TREE CHALLENGE'



Speaker Nelly Mutti planting a tree at her residence as her grandson looks on.

By Batuke Imenda

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Right Hon. Nelly Bute-te Kashumba Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, has initiated the “Speaker’s Plant a Tree Challenge” and has encouraged the Members of Parliament, staff of the National Assembly and the country at large to actively engage in tree planting activities in a bid to fight the negative effects of climate change.

Speaker Mutti said the initiative not only aims to green the landscape but also to instill a sense of environmental con-

sciousness among the citizens, encouraging them to act within their capacities to combat climate change. She said this during the launch of the “Speaker’s Plant a Tree Challenge,” at the Speaker’s residence in Makeni on Monday, 4th March, 2024.

The Hon. Speaker highlighted the recent loss of one million hectares of maize arising from the drought, a testament to the fact that the country is experiencing a serious challenge and in need of everyone's concerted effort to fight climate



HONOURABLE MUTTI INITIATES THE 'SPEAKER'S PLANT A TREE CHALLENGE'



Hon. Nelly B.K Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA (right) with Mr. Christopher Chibuye, MP (2nd from right) and other Member's of Parliament during the 'Speaker's Plant a Tree Challenge' at her residence.

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change.

"It was very promising, we thought we are going to have a good crop but because of this drought we are not, that is why my household and I, have decided to start this initiative called the 'Speaker's plant a tree challenge' which I am extending to every Zambian citizen to join in this vital endeavor," she said.

Speaker Mutti said the campaign will serve as a beacon of hope and a model of proactive engagement in addressing climate change. She stressed that every individual and institution have a role to play in ensuring a sustainable future for the generations to come.

The hon, Speaker urged the public to refrain from tree cutting for charcoal production and encouraged the exploration of alternative income generating activities that do not involve deforestation. Furthermore, she emphasized the need to educate people, including children, about tree planting and underscored the significance of everyone's contribution, regardless of age or background, in preserving the environment.

Speaking at the occasion, Mkushi North Member of Parliament, Hon Christopher Chibuye said that the tree planting exercise must be embraced by all if the environment was to be preserved.



HONOURABLE MUTTI INITIATES THE 'SPEAKER'S PLANT A TREE CHALLENGE'



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He noted that without trees, climate change would continue to impact the country negatively through adverse drought.

Meanwhile, Serenje Central Member of Parliament Hon George Kandafula emphasized the significance of tree-planting initiatives in densely populated areas, highlighting their potential for significant environmental impact.

Additionally, Hon Kandafula stressed the economic benefits of planting diverse fruit trees and the importance of educating all community members to garner widespread support.

And Pemba law maker Hon Lameck Hamwaata called for collaboration across different groups, emphasizing inclusivity and encouraged collective action in environmental initiatives.

The "Speaker's Plant a Tree Challenge" spearheaded by Honourable Mutti signifies a significant step towards environmental conservation and climate resilience in Zambia.