



Speaker Mutti Calls for Enhanced Investment in Science and Technology to Counter Climate Change



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Nelly B K Mutti SC., MP, FAPRA delivering her speech during the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly, held in Geneva, Switzerland.

By Pauline Moonga

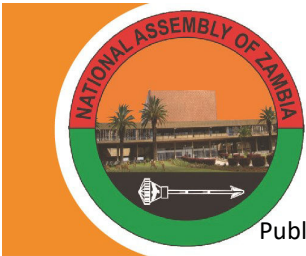
Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt Hon Ms. Nelly B. K. Mutti, SC., MP, FAPRA, has called for increased usage of Science, Technology and Innovation in combating the devastating impact of climate change.

Speaking during the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and Related Meetings, held in Geneva, Switzerland, the Rt Hon Mutti, bemoaned the devastating effects of the drought being experienced in Zambia due to the El Niño weather conditions. She informed the Assembly that the drought

has had devastating consequences on many critical sectors such as agriculture, water, and energy, risking 84 out of 116 districts accounting for over 6 million of the people.

Speaker Mutti, however, acknowledged the progressive efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Zambia in mitigating the effects of the drought. She informed the Assembly that the Government has harnessed Science, Technology, and Innovation through various initiatives which included the use of early maturing, disease and pest tolerant, high yielding and climate smart seed varieties, water harvesting technologies and high-tech irrigation models. She further, high-

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lighted the introduction by the Government of Net Metering System, which will allow customers to feed excess electricity generated into the national grid.

The Rt Hon Speaker also took the opportunity to inform the IPU Assembly of the many initiatives being undertaken by the National Assembly of Zambia in harnessing STI. She highlighted the various legislation that governs the STI Sector meant to build a more peaceful and sustainable Zambia.

She demonstrated that the Parliament of Zambia was among the few Legislatures in the region who continued to conduct its Parliamentary Business amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic through the use of the e-Chamber system that managed the plenary as well as the Committee Sittings. She also brought to the attention of the Assembly that the Parliament of Zambia in collaboration with Smart Zambia Institute had

installed Starlink internet devices to all the 156 Constituencies that has since facilitated smooth communication between MPs and their Constituents on important matters such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The Rt Hon Speaker was accompanied to the 149th IPU Assembly by Mr Harry Kamboni, MP, Vice President I, Mr Oliver Amutike, MP, Vice President II, Mr Nicholas Mukumbi, MP, Executive Committee Member I, Mr Imanga Wamunyima, MP, Executive Committee II, Ms Jacqueline Sabao, MP, Executive Committee IV, Ms Melesiana Phiri, MP; and Rev Given Katuta, MP.

The 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and Related Meetings was held from 13th to 17th October, 2024, under the theme “harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future.”





CDF Can be Used to Mitigate Load-Shedding, Says Hamaundu



Local Government Permanent Secretary, Mr Maambo Hamaundu (middle) with Energy Expert Eng. Boniface Zulu (right) and Energy Regulation Board Director, Corporate and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Mwiika Malindima (left) during a Policy and Legislative engagement discussion on How CDF can be used to resolve energy Crisis in Zambia, held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

By Namasiku Mubiana & Lomtuzi Simpemba

Constituency Development Fund (CDF), can be used to cushion the energy crisis the country is currently facing, by allocating funds to the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), Local Government Permanent Secretary, Mr Maambo Hamaundu has said.

During a policy and legislative engagement discussion titled “How Constituency Development Fund (CDF) can be used to resolve the energy crisis in Zambia,” on Monday, 14th October, 2024, at the

Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Mr. Hamaundu said constituents could engage REA through their Member of Parliament (MP) and CDF Committee to propose and implement projects focused on solar energy solutions, which could provide long-term relief from the ongoing power shortages.

Speaking at the same event, Energy Expert Eng. Boniface Zulu said there is need for the government to implement measures that would reduce the prices of solar power equipment.

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He explained that making solar energy more affordable would encourage constituents to move away from relying on hydroelectricity and charcoal to clean solar energy.

Eng. Zulu also urged Members of Parliament to consider utilizing part of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to support solar energy projects in critical areas such as schools, hospitals and police posts. He noted that such initiatives would promote sustainable energy solutions in their communities and reduce dependence on the national grid.

Meanwhile, Energy Regulation Board Director, Corporate and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Mwiika Malindima, echoed Eng. Zulu's Sentiments, stressing the importance of exploring alternative energy sources like solar power. He said that energy diversification is vital for Zambia's future energy security.

Member of Parliament for Kafue Constituency and a Member of the Committee on Energy, Water Development, and Tourism Ms. Miriam Chonya, hailed the impact of the CDF in her constituency, noting that solar panels had been installed in schools and health posts as part of ongoing CDF projects.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for Luapula Constituency, Mr. Chanda Katotobwe, encouraged citizens, particularly small-scale businesses, to apply for grants and loans through the CDF to invest in alternative energy sources, such as solar power, which would help them sustain operations during power outages. However, Hon. Katotobwe also expressed concerns about the lengthy processes involved in accessing these funds, which can delay project implementation.

And University of Zambia Student Union President, Mr. Vincent Musilikani, urged the government and various stakeholders to partner with students pursuing energy programs, as they may have innovative solutions to the country's load-shedding problem.

The policy and legislative engagement discussion, was organised by the National Assembly of Zambia in collaboration with BBC Media Action and Civil Society for Poverty reduction (CSPR), on a European Union supported project called Citizens' Voice, aimed at fostering meaningful dialogue between citizens and lawmakers, as well as enhancing citizen's participation and engagement in Zambia's Legislative process.

Prior to the discussion, a five-day training workshop on media, policy and legislative engagement was held from 10th to 13th October, 2024, at Genesis Boutique Hotel in Chilanga.

The workshop brought together selected staff from the National Assembly's Parliamentary Broadcasting Department, Public and International Relations Department, Strategy and Journals Department, as well as Professional Assistants from various constituency offices.

Participants were trained in modern journalism and content creation, covering topics such as Social Media Editorial Guidelines, Content Creation for Radio Programs, Mobile Journalism, and Types of Shots. The workshop focused on equipping participants with essential skills in media and legislative communication, ensuring effective dissemination of parliamentary activities to the public through both traditional and digital media platforms.



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PHOTO FOCUS





Speaker Mutti Bemoans Low Representation of Women in Parliament 60 Years After Independence



60 Years of Independence

By Nshamba Muzungu

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Right Honourable Ms. Nelly B. K. Mutti, SC., MP, FAPRA has bemoaned the low number of women representation in the Zambian Parliament sixty years after independence.

In her message on the eve of Zambia's sixty years Independence anniversary, Speaker Mutti observed that while Parliaments across the globe have slowly seen increasing numbers of women elected to serve as Parliamentarians, the numbers in the Zambian Parliament still remained low.

"In some countries, the increase in female representation is due to the implementation of gender quotas, while in other countries it is due to other factors which include, among others, change of perceptions about the role of women in society. This is important because the increase in female elected representatives provides opportunities for women's voices and perspectives in legislative matters," the Speaker said.

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Speaker Mutti highlighted the transformation of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus into a fully-fledged Committee as one of the notable key milestones which has been achieved at

Parliament in her continued efforts to address the gender parity.

And Speaker Mutti has observed that a capable and vibrant Parliament is essential to our country's development agenda.

"As Speaker of the Legislative wing of the Government, I take immense pride in witnessing the growth and progress which we have achieved as a country over the years, particularly in the field of enacting laws, thereby having a profound impact on the socio-economic growth of this country," the Speaker said.

She said that the National Assembly of Zambia has continued to reform as it positions itself to be a legislature that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people by ensuring that the Government development priorities are more equitable and effective.

She cited the reform of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) which she said demonstrates how the National Assembly has positively impacted the development process in the country.

"The enhanced CDF has continued to transform communities and the lives of the people. The CDF Act has through Parliament been repealed to provide for broader representation in the CDF committee thereby encouraging a people-centric approach to development," the Speaker said.

The Speaker called on citizens to celebrate this remarkable journey of national freedom by reflecting on the sacrifices of our

leaders and forefathers who were involved in the struggle to attain independence.

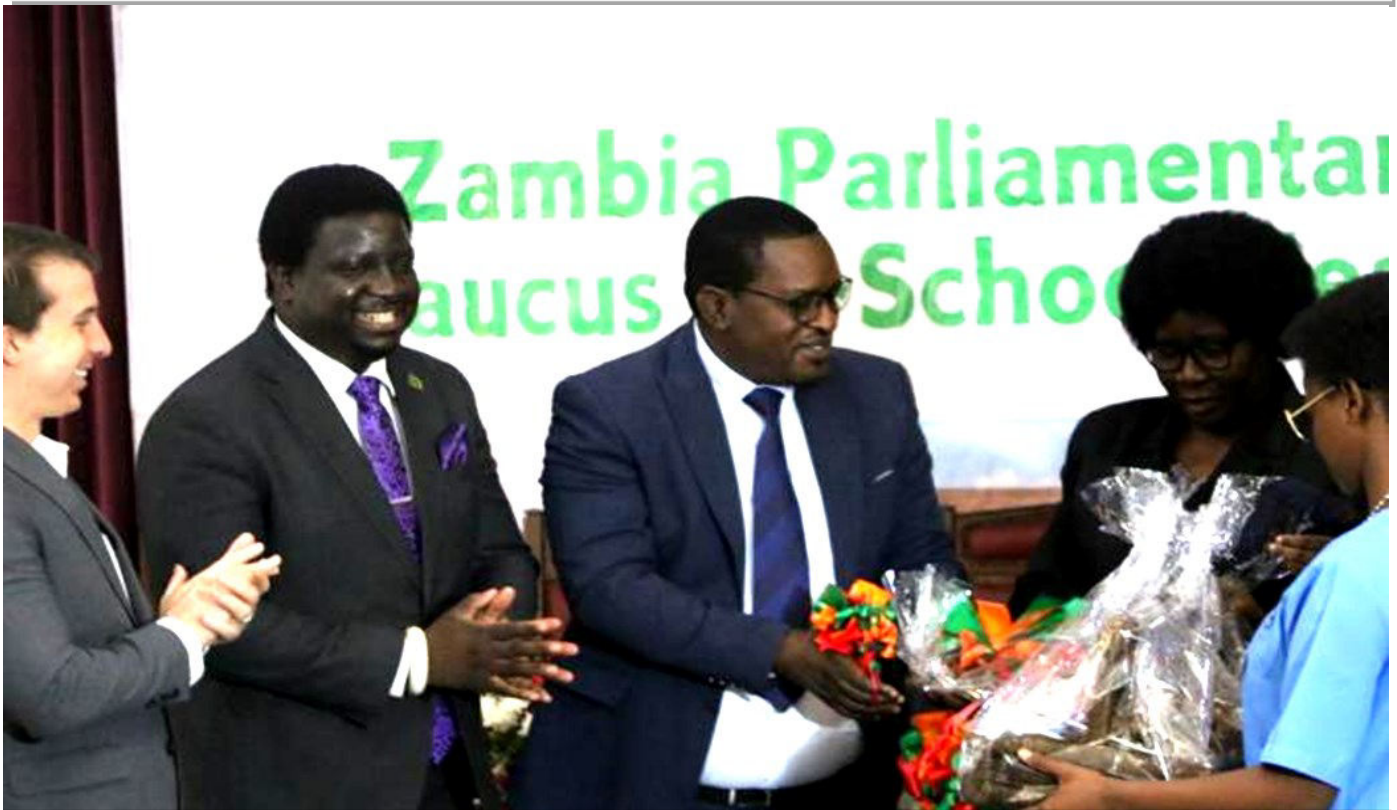
She said that the Zambian Parliament shall continue to actively engage in the development and implementation of policies and laws that are socially inclusive and gender-responsive as result of its lawmaking, oversight, representative, and budgetary functions.

"As we commemorate 60 years of Zambia's Independence, we also at the same time reflect on 100 years of the National Assembly as a Legislature. It is crucial to acknowledge that the journey toward building a more prosperous, equitable, and inclusive society is not an event but rather a collective endeavor of continuous improvement. Therefore, the active participation and cooperation of all Zambians, irrespective of their creed, ethnicity, or political affiliation, remains key to the sustenance of the development gains that Zambia has made over the last 60 years. By working together, we can ensure that the Legislature not only reflects the diverse voices of the nation but also drives forward policies and initiatives that foster social and economic development for all," The Speaker said.

The Speaker reaffirmed the National Assembly of Zambia's commitment towards its mandate and complementing the Executive in fostering innovation and inclusivity in the development process of the country adding that the Legislature shall continue to ensure that social inclusion and gender considerations are incorporated so that we do not leave anyone behind.



Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on School Health Launches 2024-2026 Strategic Plan



Pupils from Handmaid Sisters School present the Strategic Plan to the Second Deputy Speaker, Honourable Moses F. Moyo

By Lombe Musonda & Makani Kabeta

Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Moses Moyo, MP, officially launched the Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on School Health (ZPCSH) Strategic Plan for 2024-2026 on Monday, 21st October, 2024 at Parliament Buildings.

Honourable Moyo said the strategy provides a framework within which the Caucus will operate over the next three years in line with its mandate and vision to promote policies and initiatives that ensure a healthy conducive learning environment for learners in Zambia.

“You will agree with me that poor health and malnutrition have been significant contributors to poor school performance, early dropout rates, low enrolment and absenteeism. These factors have hindered progress toward achieving universal primary education and promoting gender equality in access to education,” he said.

Honourable Moyo said to ensure improved school health outcomes, there is a need for concerted efforts to integrate health and nutrition programs into the education system.



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Pupils from Handmaid Sisters School deliver a poem during the launch of the Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on School Health Strategic Plan.

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He also said that there is need to increase investments in school health initiatives, fostering partnerships among key stakeholders and strengthening the implementation of policies that address the holistic well-being of learners. Additionally, he called for enhanced monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress and ensure the sustainability of these interventions.

Speaking at the same event, Chairperson of the ZPCSH, Mr. Imanga Wamunyima, MP, encouraged Caucus members to leverage their partnership with Healthy Learners to tackle the prevailing health challenges in schools. He further urged other stakeholders to actively support the implementation of the strategic plan's initiatives to ensure its success and sustainability.

And Chief Executive Officer of Healthy Learners, Mr. Lonnie Hackett, reaffirmed the

organisation's commitment to supporting the Government's efforts to safeguard the rights to education and health for school-aged children across the country. He expressed gratitude to the National Assembly and the Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on School Health for their unwavering dedication to promoting the health and education of Zambian children.

The Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on School Health, established in 2023, aims to address key challenges faced by school-going children, including poor health, malnutrition, and absenteeism, which have been linked to low enrolment, early drop-out rates and poor academic performance. Research shows that healthier children tend to stay in school longer, learn more and become more productive members of society.



National Council of Student Unions Commends National Assembly's Public Participation Initiative



First Deputy Speaker Honourable Malungo Chisangano confer with Chairperson of the National Council of Student Unions (NACOSU), Mr. Michelo Chizombe.

By Namasiku Mubiana & Mukoba Ngulube

The First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Malungo Chisangano (MP), said the National Assembly has come up with various reforms and initiatives to enhance participation of the public and youths. She said the efforts aim to empower youths to become more engaged with the institution's activities and decision-making process.

Speaking during a courtesy call on her by the National Council of Student Unions (NACOSU) on Tuesday, 29th of October 2024, in commemoration of Zambia's

60th Independence anniversary, Hon. Chisangano said the Assembly has created platforms like the Youth Parliament, which allow young people to voice issues affecting both them and the nation as a whole.

"The National Assembly broadcasts its sessions and activities on radio and television and in this regard, invites public attendance to sittings of the House and its committees," Hon. Chisangano noted.

"To strengthen public sector involvement, we also invite stakeholders to



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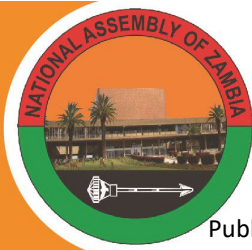
contribute to committee discussions, ensuring that valuable input from various perspectives are considered in our decision making."

And Speaking Earlier, Chairperson of the National Council of Student Unions (NACOSU), Mr. Michelo Chizombe, commended the Assembly's vision of bringing Parliament closer to the people. He acknowledged that broadcasting parliamentary activities on platforms like television, radio and social media, including Facebook and YouTube, has sparked keen interest among the youth to participate in governance matters through the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Michelo further commended the Assembly for hosting two Youth Parliament Sittings this year. He said this resulted in

more active interest from students and youth across the country in matters relating to Parliament, its functions and the broader scope of governance as they were being availed a voice to express themselves.

Meanwhile, National Council of Student Unions (NACOSU) Women's League Representative, Ms. Christine Choongo, lauded the representation of the two female presiding officers of the National Assembly, Speaker Mutti and Hon Chisangano. She remarked that having women in positions of high authority, like them, provides inspiration for young women across Zambia, encouraging them to work hard, pursue their aspirations and take on leadership roles.



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Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia Elected to SoCATT Africa Steering Committee



Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia, Mr. Roy Ngulube delivers a keynote address after his election to serve on the Steering Committee of the Society of Clerks at the Table (SoCATT) Africa Region, as the Central Sub-region Representative from 2024 to 2027.

By Julius Kampamba

The Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia, Mr. Roy Ngulube has been elected to serve on the Steering Committee of the Society of Clerks -At-The-Table (SoCATT) Africa Region as the Central Sub-Region Representative from 2024 to 2027.

Mr. Ngulube was elected at the 2024 SoCATT Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was conducted alongside the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference and AGM held from 29th September to 7th October, 2024 in Arusha,

Tanzania.

SoCATT Africa was established in 1984 as an organ of CPA Africa Region. This was aimed at creating a platform for exchange of experiences and good practices in parliamentary practices and procedures of legislatures of the Commonwealth in Africa among Clerks-at-the-Table and parliamentary staff as a means of enhancing professional capacity.

As such, the Society undertakes professional development seminars; sub-region workshops; publication of the



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SoCATT Africa Journal of research

papers on parliamentary practices and procedures; and networking and collaboration with regional and international like-minded organisation. The affairs of the Society are managed by a Steering Committee, which accounts to the AGM of SoCATT Africa Region.

As Central Sub-Region Representative, Mr Ngulube is expected to coordinate the implementation of the activities of the Society in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, and report on the progress to the

Steering Committee.

Furthermore, he will coordinate and provide leadership in the implementation of the Strategic Plan at sub-region level.

Other members of the Steering Committee include Clerk of the Parliament of Sierra Leone (Chairperson); Clerk of National Assembly of Malawi (Vice Chairperson); Clerk of Parliament of Lesotho (South Sub-Region Representative); Clerk of Parliament of Uganda (East Sub-Region Representative); and Clerk of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (West Sub-Region Representative).



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Speaker Celebrates 60 Years of Zambia-China Diplomatic Ties, Calls for Sustainable and Mutually Beneficial Partnerships



Speaker Mutti and Vice Chairman Cai Dafeng cut a cake to celebrate 60 years of Zambia-China relations and Zambia's Independence Day on October 25, 2024.

By Temwa Nyirenda

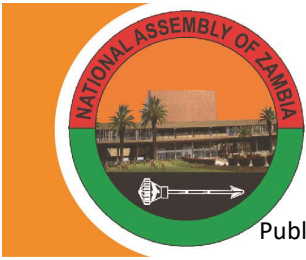
Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Right Honourable, Ms Nelly B K Mutti, SC., MP, FAPRA says that it is critical for the Government of the Republic of China and Zambia to ensure the development agreements and partnerships forged between the two Governments are sustainable, transparent, and beneficial to both Countries.

Speaker Nelly Mutti, who was in China on a state visit said this during the 60th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Zambia and the 60th Independence Day of the Republic of Zambia

in Beijing, on Friday, 25th October, 2024.

Speaker Mutti who expressed gratitude to the Peoples Republic of China for being among the first countries to recognise Zambia's independence in 1964 also commended the Chinese Government for the cordial relations built on mutual respect, solidarity and cooperation that the two countries have enjoyed for 60 years now.

Speaker Mutti commended the two countries for strengthening the friendship resulting in Zambia benefiting from China's support in infrastructure development, trade, health, education, and technology transfer.



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She added that, the strong ties facilitated, among others, the construction of the Tanzania – Zambia Railway (TAZARA) which played a pivotal role in the nationalist struggle and also provided an important trade route for Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Speaker Mutti also expressed gratitude for the two countries' parliamentary relations that have improved in the recent past resulting in the construction of the Media Centre at the National Assembly of Zambia and the establishment of the Zambia-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, which provides a forum for law makers to engage and exchange best practices.

Speaker Mutti congratulated China on her 75th anniversary. "May I, on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, the Parliament of Zambia, the people of Zambia, and indeed on my own behalf, extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of China on this great occasion, marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of your great nation," Speaker Mutti said.

She commended the people of China for their remarkable socio-economic transformation facilitated by resilience, unity, and the unwavering determination to uplift the living standards of the citizens and contribute to the global economic development. She further said that the country's advancements in infrastructure,

technology, education, and poverty alleviation exemplify China's remarkable progress and influence on the global stage.

And Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Mr. Cai Dafeng, said that China has demonstrated through its practical actions that it always treats African friends with sincerity. He added that China always has efficient and practical cooperation with Africa, and attaches importance to enhancing friendship with Africa.

Mr Dafeng said China and Zambia have maintained close interaction in various spheres, injecting new impetus into friendly exchanges and increasingly mutually beneficial cooperation. He encouraged the peoples of both countries to take the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of the China-Zambia diplomatic ties to work together in promoting friendly exchanges and cooperation in all fields.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, the Right Honourable Ms. Nelly B K Mutti was in China with some Members of Parliament following an invitation by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, His Excellency Zhao Leji.