



SPEAKER MUTTI LEADS A DELEGATION TO THE 57TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Nelly B K Mutti (MP) (Centre) in attendance of the 57th Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF)

By Temwa Nyirenda

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Rt. Hon. Nelly B K Mutti, SC, MP, FAP-RA, led a delegation of parliamentarians to the 57th SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly Session held from 31st May to 7th June, 2025 in Victoria Falls City, Zimbabwe. The Plenary Assembly Session attracted about 200 delegates from the SADC Member States and was held under the theme: *“Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Effective and Efficient Parliamentary Processes in the SADC Region: Experiences, Challenges and Opportunities”*.

The SADC Chairperson and President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr Emmerson D Mnangagwa officially opened

the Plenary Assembly Session on Monday, 2nd June, 2025. In his address to the delegates, President Mnangagwa stated that, for SADC Parliaments, the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence and innovative technologies were multi-pronged, offering solutions for resource optimization, which in turn enable Parliaments to achieve greater results. He added that technology can enhance connections between parliamentarians and citizens in their geographically dispersed constituencies.

President Mnangagwa called for cross-border technology sharing and investment towards the strengthening of inter-connectivity and the lowering of tariffs for the benefit of the people across the SADC Region.

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In the Plenary Assembly, Rt. Hon. Nelly B. K. Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, delivered a statement on Zambia's Constitutional Reforms in support of the SADC 50% women representation target. She stated that Zambia was taking decisive steps to achieve the SADC threshold through the Constitutional Reforms aimed at, among other things, increasing the number of women, youths and persons with disabilities in Parliament using the Mixed-Member Proportional Representation electoral system.

She added that in order to meet the practical challenges that impede women's full participation in politics, and considering that the number of youthful Members of Parliament will increase after Constitutional Reforms, she had spearheaded the construction of a Crèche within the precincts of the National Assembly, which will offer several benefits such as providing day-care services for young children of Members of Parliament and staff.

The Plenary Assembly Session also considered the statement on the 150th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and other Related Meetings held from 5th to 9th April 2025 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, which was presented by Rt. Hon. Nelly B. K. Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, in her capacity as SADC Group Representative to the IPU Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, the Zambian delegation reported to the Plenary Assembly that the National Assembly of Zambia had taken significant steps to integrate Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies into its operations, in order to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Delivering the statement to the Symposium, on behalf of the delegation, Mr Kalalwe Mukosa, MP, stated that one of the technological tools being used by the National Assembly of Zambia is *My e-Parliament* mobile application. He stated that this tool had promoted real-time interaction between citizens

and Members of Parliament. He added that the application allowed public participation in parliamentary proceedings, including making submissions to committees.

Mr Mukosa indicated that the National Assembly of Zambia was working on automating the *Legislative Information Management Systems* using AI in order to avoid the repetition of questions in the House, and enhancement of the preparation of the Order Paper using AI-powered sentiment analysis. He explained that the National Assembly of Zambia intended to use AI tools like Natural Language Processing to support real-time search for parliamentary rules and automatically detect unparliamentary language during debates.

And Mr Victor Lumayi, MP, who presented Zambia's Country Report on the progress on the implementation of the resolutions of the 56th Plenary Assembly Session held in Zambia in December, 2024, reported that significant strides had been made towards advancing the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a Regional Parliament. He highlighted that Zambia became the eleventh SADC Member State to sign the Agreement amending the SADC Treaty to Establish the SADC Parliament on 2nd July, 2024.

Mr Lumayi stated that during the Official Opening of 56th SADC PF Plenary Assembly Session in Zambia, Her Honour the Vice President, Mrs W K Mutale Nalumango, MP, reaffirmed Zambia's commitment to the establishment of the SADC Parliament and pledged support for all processes leading to its successful completion. He added that Zambia had also submitted her comments on the draft protocol to the SADC Secretariat, pursuant to the decision of the 44th SADC Summit.

During the Plenary Assembly, Ms Chushi Kasanda, MP took oath as a new Member of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. Ms Kasanda takes over from Hon Princess Kasune, MP who was a Member prior to being appointed Minister of Justice.

The Plenary Assembly Session also considered Standing Committees' reports and the Executive Committee Report on the General SADC PF Policy and Administrative Matters.



CHINA HOSTS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE TRAINING



Mr. Thokozani Kamanga (right) of the National Assembly of Zambia presents a gift to Mr. Wu Biao (left) of the Hainan Province Department of Commerce after the official Lunch of the Training.

By Namasiku Mubiana

Zambia and China must continue on the path of extensive and in-depth cooperation in many fields such as politics, economy and culture, Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Centre of the Department of Commerce of Hainan Province in the Republic of China, Mr. Wu Biao has said.

Speaking during the official opening of a training for the National Assembly of Zambia staff on Public Policy and Local Governance on Tuesday, 10th June, 2025, in Haikou, China, Mr. Biao hailed the mutually beneficial deep cooperation between Zambia and China which has existed since Zambia's independence .

Mr Biao said the ongoing training seminar is a clear demonstration of how this longstanding cooperation is being translated into practical benefits through knowledge exchange. He said programs such as this not only enhance professional capacity but also reflect the depth of collaboration between the two countries in promoting good governance and sustainable development.

He said the training is an important platform for equipping the National Assembly staff with the knowledge and skills needed to craft effective public policies that contribute to National development. Mr. Wu noted that the seminar also serves to strengthen cooperation and promote the sharing of

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Representatives from the International Cooperation and Exchange Centre of Hainan Province and the Zambian delegation pose for a group photo.

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best practices between Hainan and Zambia.

He added that the program, which covers key areas such as policy analysis and local governance, will help the Zambia delegation understand China's policy-making processes and adapt relevant approaches to the Zambian context.

"By acquiring these skills, the staff from the National Assembly of Zambia will be better equipped to support the government in developing and implementing effective policies that benefit the people," he said.

Meanwhile, National Assembly of Zambia Coordinator for Strategy, Resource Mobilisation and Project Management, Mr. Thokozani Kamanga, expressed gratitude to the Hainan Provincial Department of Commerce for organizing the seminar.

Mr. Kamanga said the training aligns well with the National Assembly's strategic objective to build internal capacity in policy analysis and development. He noted that the seminar offers a valuable opportunity for delegates to gain insights into China's successes in policy formulation and local governance, particularly innovations seen in the Hainan Free Trade Port.

"We are pleased to learn how China drives economic growth through scientific policy design, achieves social harmony through efficient local governance and how it applies innovative practices such as smart cities and coordinated ecological and economic development," he said.

Mr Kamanga further stated that the skills acquired during the seminar would enable participants to better support the Zambian government's agenda. He added that the Seminar also serves as a platform for promoting Zambia-China friendship, culture exchange and broader economic cooperation.



FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER HON MALUNGO A CHISANGANO VISITS CONSTITUENCY OFFICES IN CENTRAL PROVINCE



First Deputy Speaker Honourable Malungo Chisangano, MP, (fifth from right) poses for a picture with National Assembly and Constituency Office Staff during her tour of Central Province.

By Estelle Lisulo

The First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon Malungo A Chisangano, MP, undertook a tour of selected Constituency Offices in Central Province from 2nd to 8th June, 2025.

Hon Chisangano commenced her tour by paying a courtesy call on the Provincial Minister and Katuba Member of Parliament, Hon Mwabashike Nkulukusa on 2nd June, 2025, at the Provincial office in Kabwe, Central Province.

She informed Hon Nkulukusa that the purpose of her tour was two-fold, firstly to gain an in-depth understanding about the operations of Constituency Offices, as well as to appreciate the challenges. Secondly, to plant trees

at each constituency office visited, and to raise awareness among the people on the importance of the exercise. She highlighted that the National Assembly envisaged to plant trees in all the 156 constituencies of the country, to contribute towards the fight against climate change. The First Deputy Speaker stated that the tree planting exercise was being promoted under the 'Promoting Greener Parliaments campaign of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), which was launched by the Speaker of the National Assembly in 2022.

During her visit to the constituency offices, the First Deputy Speaker noted that most Constituency Offices shared similar challenges, which included, but not limited to, inadequate funding to undertake outreach pro-



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grammes, lack of furniture, transport and backup power facilities. Another notable challenge, concerned Constituency Offices that were renting office space, especially those in rural areas. Furthermore, Hon Chisangano learnt that there was lack of understanding by the people on the role of the Member of Parliament and that of the Constituency Office. She called for the need to intensify outreach programmes to raise awareness among the people.

The First Deputy Speaker was pleased by the number of projects that had been completed and those yet to be commissioned through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), in some constituencies. She urged the Members of Parliament to continue collaborating with the Local Authorities to ensure that more developmental projects were implemented in respective constituencies.

The First Deputy Speaker visited Kabwe Central, Lufubu, Kapiri Mposhi, Mkushi North, Muchinga, Serenje and Chitambo constituencies. She was accompanied by Mr Stephen Kawimbe, Deputy Clerk (Procedure) and selected staff from the National Assembly.



Hon. Chisangano (third left) posing for a picture with Muchinga Constituency members of staff



Hon. Chisangano (second right) with Constituency Office staff



Hon. Chisangano watering a tree plant participating in the plant a tree initiative



“Parliament Critical in Constitutional Development,” - Speaker Mutti



Speaker Hon. Mutti (centre) addressing the audience, alongside Minister of Justice Princess Kasune (left) and Deputy Clerk of Corporate Affairs Mrs Cecila Sikatele-Mambwe (right)

By Sipiwe K. Banda

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Rt. Hon. Nelly B.K. Mutti, SC, FAPRA, MP, has reaffirmed the central role of Parliament in shaping Zambia’s constitutional future, stating that successful constitutional reforms hinge on informed and engaged lawmakers.

Speaking during the official opening of an awareness-raising and capacity-building workshop for Members of Parliament on the 2025 Constitutional Reform Process on Monday 16th June, 2025 at Parliament Buildings, Speaker Mutti described Parliament as the architect of the nation’s laws and a guardian of constitutional order. “For decades since our independence, this institution has been the architect of our country’s laws,” she said. She further urged Members of Parliament to align their oversight and legislative functions with the values outlined in Article 8 of the Constitution, which include democracy, good governance, and sustainable development.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Justice, Honourable Princess Kasune, MP echoed Speaker Mutti's sentiments, stating that the Constitution Amendment Bill No. 7 of 2025 was the result of broad national consultations and now required informed, constructive parliamentary debate. “This gathering is designed to equip you, my fellow Members, with the knowledge on the contents of the Bill,” she said..

And First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon Malungo A Chisangano, MP, urged all Members of Parliament to reflect not only the knowledge gained, but also the community trust built as well as the collective determination to apply these learnings in the service of our constituencies.

Mrs. Cecilia Sikatele-Mambwe, Deputy Clerk – Corporate Affairs of the National Assembly, also highlighted the importance of Parliament’s institutional readiness. “Parliament is at the heart of any constitutional amendment process,” she stated, adding that the credibility and legitimacy of reforms begin with robust engagement within the House.



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“Parliament critical in Constitutional Development,” - Continued



Minister of Justice Princess Kasune sharing a light moment with the audience.



Members of the audience listening to presentations.



CONSTITUENCY CORNER

LUFWANYAMA CONSTITUENCY CELEBRATES MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE WITH FEEDER ROAD LAUNCH



Lufwanyama Member of Parliament, Honourable Kenny Siachisumo (centre) celebrating the launch of the feeder road.

By Jessy Mtonga

Thursday, May 22, 2025, marked a significant milestone in Lufwanyama Constituency as the launch of the grading of feeder roads commenced under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). The event was held in Fungulwe, which was graced by Lufwanyama Member of Parliament Honourable Kenny Siachisumo.

During the launch, Hon. Siachisumo said the feeder road will unlock incredible opportunities for businesses will find it easier to transport goods, attracting new investments and creating much needed jobs in Lufwanyama Constituency. He said it was the government's desire and vision to uplift rural communities through improved infrastructure.

“The feeder road is a project that has been the subject of much anticipation and hard work and for too long the journeys were plagued by pot-holes, dust, making access to essential services difficult and local businesses struggled with transportation but those days are behind us. This new road is more than just a convenient bypass but it is a vital artery that will contribute to development,” he said.

And the District Commissioner Justin Mwalikwa during the launching celebration, expressed gratitude towards the central government for the allocation of funds under the CDF, which has enabled the commencement of this vital project in Lufwanyama Constituency. He said, “this road is a



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symbol of what we can achieve when we work together and it is a statement of the power of collaboration. Let us continue to build on this momentum and strive for even greater things.”

Speaking earlier Lufwanyama Town Council Annie Kapandula expressed her appreciation for the government’s focus on rural development. “Infrastructure development plays a crucial role in fostering economic growth and improving the livelihoods of our rural communities,” she said.

The grading of feeder roads in Lufwanyama is expected to significantly improve transportation networks, thereby enhancing economic activities and access to essential services for the local population.



Honourable Kenny Siachisumo MP for Lufwanyama addressing the crowd during the feeder road launch



HANDOVER OF MATERNITY ANNEX AT CHISAMBA RURAL HEALTH CLINIC



Honourable Chushi Kasanda, addressing Chisamba residents during the handover of the Chisamba Rural Health Clinic.

By Gwennie Shamizhinga

Chisamba Town Council was proud to announce the successful handover of the newly constructed maternity annex at Chisamba Rural Health Clinic on 25th June, 2025 in Chisamba. A facility that will significantly improve maternal health care services in the community.

Speaking at the event, Chisamba area Member of Parliament Hon. Chushi Kasanda, MP who was the guest of Honor said, "This occasion marked an important milestone in our Collective effort to improve maternal health care in the communities. The facility would enable the dedicated health staff to provide improved, accessible, and dignified maternal health care services which would go a long way in enhancing community health,

reducing maternal deaths, and addressing various maternal child health challenges " remarked the MP.

This project was made possible through the partnership between Built it International, the Chisamba District Health Office, the Local Authority with tremendous support from the community who contributed labour and resources.

The new maternity annex would address various challenges such as, lack of privacy, over crowding and insufficient post natal space, ensuring mothers and newborn receive the care they deserve in a dignified environment.

Furthermore Hon. Chushi Kasanda said 12 young men and women received valuable construction skills train-



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12 graduating men and women who participated in the construction of the Chisamba Rural Health Clinic.

ing during the project, empowering youths and supporting sustainable development in Chisamba.

Speaking at the same event, a representative from Built it International Ms. Lucie Kasanga said Built it International has been in operation for 18 years and the Organization delivers work through three core programs namely, training programs, community projects, and advocacy.

She further said Built It International came to partnership with Chisamba District Health office and community health committee, to build the maternity annex they were handing over. The parents through the community health committee and with support from the Council mobilised about 120 tones of gravel, and also contributed labour by clearing the site as well as digging the foundation. She thanked the efforts in supporting the work to ensure the health service delivered is improved.



On the left—Newly constructed maternity ward.



Tourism Minister Commissions Four CDF Projects in Livingstone Worth Over K3.2 Million



Livingstone Constituency Member of Parliament, Rodney Sikumba (far left) alongside Livingstone Mayor, Her Worship Constance Muleabai (far right) unveiling a newly constructed ablution block at Malota Community School

By Chileshe Chirwa

Honourable Rodney Sikumba, Minister of Tourism and Member of Parliament for Livingstone, officially commissioned four development projects under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), with a combined value of K3,218,011. The initiatives are part of ongoing efforts to enhance public infrastructure and services in the city.

On Saturday 3rd May, 2025, the projects were commissioned which include: A newly constructed Taxi Rank in Akapelwa Ward (K599,511.50), Installation of Solar-Powered Streetlights in Kariba Ward (K896,500), An Ablution Block at Malota Community School in Mulungushi Ward (K472,000) and Phase II of the Botswana Drainage Project (K1,250,000)

Speaking at the launch, Honourable Sikumba emphasized

the government's commitment to decentralizing development efforts, ensuring that all provinces benefit equally from national resources. He also appealed to the local Taxi Association to take ownership of the facility by safeguarding it for future generations.

Speaking at the same event Livingstone Mayor, Her Worship Constance Muleabai, said the taxi rank would help phase out illegal pickup points, while the streetlights would enhance night time safety in key parts of the city.

Mr. Christopher Banda, chairperson of the Taxi and Bus Association, expressed gratitude for the new rank, noting its significance in providing shelter for operators during harsh weather conditions. He also assured



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the government of the association's continued compliance with tax obligations.

Akapelwa Ward Councillor, John Banda, extended thanks to the taxi drivers for their patience and cooperation during the course of the project. He noted that their support was a testament to the spirit of unity and shared development goals within the community.



Newly installed street lights



Newly built drainage channels



Newly constructed taxi rank shelter



Hon. Rodney Sikumba speaking during the handover event



Her worship, Constance Muleabai speaking during the event



MOTHER'S SHELTER SET TO RESPOND TO REAL NEEDS OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN KANCHIBIYA



Area Member of Parliament Sunday Chanda (3rd left), alongside Council Chairperson Kanungwe Kanyayamina and CDF Committee Chairperson Father Sylvester Chileshe.

By Dora H. Kampata

The newly constructed Mother's Shelter at Chalabesa Mini Hospital, in Kanchibiya Constituency is set to respond to the real needs of expectant mothers in the rural Chalabesa Ward and its surrounding communities. The shelter which has officially been completed will bring hope and dignity to expectant mothers in the area. Funded under the 2024 Constituency Development Fund (CDF), the shelter was built at a total cost of K857,244.60.

Kanchibiya Town Council Secretary, Mr Joseph Zulu described the shelter as more than just a building. "This is a huge step forward for maternal health in Chalabesa, the shelter is about ensuring that every woman has a safe place to stay as she prepares to give life, he said". Mr Zulu said that the newly built

shelter is meant to make healthcare truly accessible to everyone regardless of where they live and that CDF is meant to respond to real needs on the ground.

With the shelter soon to be operational, Chalabesa Mini Hospital is better equipped to support safe deliveries and reduce maternal and infant mortality in Kanchibiya district. The facility will serve as a lifeline for rural women, ensuring they no longer have to face the risks of delayed care.

For many women in Chalabesa and surrounding communities, accessing maternal care had always been a challenge, with long distances to the nearest facility and little to no accommodation, some mothers would sleep outdoors or in makeshift shelters while waiting to give birth. The comple-



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tion of the Mother's Shelter now provides a clean, safe and dignified space where expectant mothers can stay close to health professionals in the days leading to delivery.

As for the expectant mothers prepare to use the shelter, there is renewed sense of confidence and gratitude in Chalabesa, a community proving that when development is people centered, it delivers real life changing results.



Residents of Kanchibiya Constituency witnessing the commissioning of the mothers shelter.



The newly commissioned Kanchibiya mothers shelter.



DEVELOPMENT DELIVERED: SIOMA MP COMMISSIONS 7 LIFE-CHANGING PROJECTS WORTH OVER K3.3 MILLION



Sioma Member of Parliament, Kaliye Mandandi commissioning the water project.

By Makani Kabeta

Sioma District has taken a giant developmental leap with the commissioning of seven critical infrastructure projects valued at over K3.3 million, aimed at improving water access, healthcare, education, and rural livelihoods.

On the 7th of June, 2025 the projects, commissioned by Area Member of Parliament Hon. Kaliye Mandandi, are strategically spread across various wards, responding directly to longstanding community needs.

In Mutomena Ward, a solar-powered water scheme worth K991, 858 has been established, featuring two 10,000-litre elevated tanks. This project brings clean and reliable water to thousands for the first time in decades, ending a generational struggle for safe drinking water.

Equally transformative is the first-ever mortuary in Sioma, constructed at Nangweshi clinic in Nangweshi Ward, at a cost of K755, 823.73. This milestone project restores dignity to bereaved families and brings critical health infrastructure closer to rural communities that previously had to travel long distances with deceased loved ones.

Still in Nangweshi, a new modern marketplace has been constructed at K330, 410.85, providing a clean, secure, and structured environment for traders. This initiative promotes economic activity and empowers local vendors, especially women.

In Nalwashi, a solar-powered water scheme valued at K300, 000 is set to supply clean water to the local school and nearly 100 surrounding villages. This community-wide water project addresses not only health and hygiene concerns but also contributes to improved learning outcomes and reduced waterborne diseases.

On the education front, Kabula 2 Primary School in Sioma Ward received a major boost with the construction of a staff house worth K348, 821, helping retain and accommodate teachers in the rural setting.

Similarly, Sikuka Primary Health Care, rehabilitated at K205, 000, is now a fully functional facility serving residents of Sioma Ward, bridging access gaps in primary healthcare.

Finally, in Watembo Ward, a staff house at Liumbo Rural Health Post, built at a cost of K387,400.49, en-



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sures that medical personnel are readily available and better supported, improving service delivery in this remote area.

These seven projects, delivered where people live, learn, trade, and seek care, are a strong testimony to the government's commitment to inclusive development.

By addressing water scarcity, healthcare limitations, market access, and staff accommodation, the projects are not just infrastructure they are investments in human dignity, health, and opportunity.



Commissioned water tank project with solar panels



Newly commissioned mortuary block



Sioma residents testing the water supply from the water tank



Constructed teachers accommodation