



MOTIVATION SPEECH BY HON LEEVI KATOMA, REPORT ON THE BENCHMARKING VISIT TO ITS PORTFOLIO COUNTERPART COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY 6-10 FEBRUARY 2023

**Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly
Distinguished Members of this August House**

It is with humility that I rise to motivate the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on the benchmarking visit to its portfolio counterpart Committee of the Parliament of Zimbabwe.

The Committee undertook the study visit to benchmark with its counterpart Committee(s) of Zimbabwe in order to strengthen its mandate ^{and} to ensure responsiveness to the needs of modern society and to improve on parliamentary norms and procedures. The Main objectives of the benchmark visit were among others to:

- a) Understand the overall mandate of the counterpart portfolio Committees dealing with Defence, Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Security, National Intelligence Services and Veterans Affairs,

- b) Understand the methodology employed to do oversight work and the implementation of Committee recommendations thereof,
- c) Understand the legislative and policy framework under which Committees operate and those they oversee and
- d) Establish communication networks of the two countries' Committees to work together and share best practices on areas of Mutual Concern,

Hon Speaker

Members of Parliament

Let me briefly share with you some of our main findings and lessons that we ourselves might want to look at to improve in particular our own Veterans situation and the overall accountability process:

- 1) Line Ministries submit quarterly reports to the respective Portfolio Committees and the ministers are held accountable should they not deliver as promised/planned as per their budget allocations.
- 2) The Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Act was repealed and enacted in 2020, it saw the addition of two categories of Veterans, i.e. Non-Combatant Cadres and War Collaborators
- 3) The have a Veterans Investment Corporation (VIC) is entrusted to make investments to subsidize and grow the Fund of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle and supplement fiscal resources for the improvement of the welfare of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle and their dependents.
- 4) War Veterans have shares in Mines that fund their programs

- 5) Namibia has been allocated a piece of land on the African Liberation Museum site to construct a monument in Honour of its Liberation Struggle. Thus as the Committee we have made a recommendation in this regard to the relevant Ministry to put aside a budget to take up the offer.

**Hon Speaker,
Fellow Members**

With our findings we have come up with a number of recommendations that are aimed at addressing the plight of our brave men and women who without wavering have fought for the attainment of our independence. Hon Speaker, with these few remarks,

I now have the honor to submit the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on the benchmarking visit to its portfolio counterpart Committee of the Parliament of Zimbabwe to this August House for consideration, discussion and adoption.

I so move Honourable Speaker,