



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 7TH PARLIAMENT

**REPORT ON THE BENCHMARKING VISIT TO ITS PORTFOLIO COUNTERPART
COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT OF ZAMBIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND
SECURITY**

Report No.: 06

ACRONYM

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| EU | European Union |
| CCTV | Closed Circuit Television |
| DRC | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| H.E. | His Excellency |
| HON | Honourable |
| MIRCO | Ministry of International Relation and Cooperation |
| MPs | Members of Parliament |
| L.t. Brg. Gen. | Lieutenant Brigadier General |
| P. S | Permanent Secretary |

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE BENCHMARK VISIT

The Main objectives of the benchmark visit was to:

- a) Understand the overall mandate of the counterpart portfolio Committee dealing with Defence, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security 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 the Committees operate and those they oversee,
- d) Share information, challenges and successes they encounter in executing oversight functions over line Ministries, Offices and Agencies,
- e) Encourage networking of the two countries' Committees and share best practices,
- f) Produce a report with recommendations for adoption by the House.

6. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the National Assembly of the Committee's findings and recommendations.

7. MEETINGS HELD

7.1 Meeting with the First Deputy Speaker, Hon. Malungo Attractor Chisangano

The First Deputy Speaker expressed great pleasure in meeting the delegation and acknowledge the bilateral relation between Zambia and Namibia as well as the significance of such visits noting that they played a crucial role in strengthening the relationship between Zambia and Namibia. The relationship between the two countries date back from the significant suppoZambia to Namibia during the Namibian Liberation Struggle. Over the years, both countries had enjoyed several exchange study visits, allowing for mutual sharing of knowledge and best practices in parliamentary procedures and governance. These exchanges had helped foster a deeper understanding and collaboration on various issues of national and international importance. Zambia National Assembly celebrated 100 years as a legislature with a unicameral system. The current Parliament has three (3) Presiding Officers, 167 Members of Parliament, eight (8) Presidential nominees and thirteen (13) Independents MPs. The Zambian National Assembly have four (4) House Keeping Committees.

resources have become strained. A one-time allowance was preferred as a solution to address funding limitations.

The Chairperson recommended that veterans who had previously gained employment opportunities in government, and had subsequently retired with benefits, should make way for those veterans who had not been employed in the public sector. This recommendation sought to reduce instances of double-benefiting and ensure fair distribution of resources. Additionally, the Chairperson emphasized the need to clearly define "veterans" to avoid confusion with "senior citizens" and to ensure support specifically for war veterans.

Alongside veteran issues, migration challenges have impacted Zambia. It was indicated that some refugees have refused to return to their home countries after conflicts have ended, choosing to settle permanently within Zambia. This has led to increased cross-border visits by relatives, further complicating the movement of people across national borders. Moreover, the issue of animal smuggling has also intensified, with livestock and fish trafficking reported, particularly in the Zambezi region.

Zambia has become a passageway for individuals traveling to Namibia and, frequently, to South Africa, in search of economic opportunities. Unfortunately, this movement has also facilitated smuggling activities, including human trafficking, illegal drug trade, and fuel smuggling, impacting security and regulatory efforts in the region.

7.3 Meeting with the Permanent Secretary: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr. Lubasi Mungandi informed the delegation that, the Ministry is mandated to implement Zambia's interactions with other countries through its two pillars: Peace and Security, and Economic Development. As a landlocked nation, Zambia championed coexistence with neighbouring states, especially within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It's commitment to peace, facilitated economic trade across the region, enhancing Zambia's access to regional markets and improving trade relations.

According to the Acting Permanent Secretary, efforts to foster collaboration with parliamentarians also formed part of Zambia's strategic approach. Although parliamentary interactions with regional bodies were limited. Over the years, the Ministry sought to promote better understanding among parliamentarians of how these engagements could benefit Zambia. The Ministry encouraged parliamentary involvement in harmonizing trade laws across the region, which would support larger investment ventures and benefit Zambia's economy.

If a project couldn't be completed within one fiscal year, it was carried over, depending on the availability of funds.

Immigration authorities increased the number of officers stationed along the border, with policies in place to govern movement. However, the border between Namibia and Zambia remained challenging, as some families were split between both countries. Zambia trained police officers to patrol the area, although these movements remained difficult to control, especially regarding cross-border fishing activities. Zambia worked to resolve migration issues amicably without the use of force. In the long term, Zambia aimed to implement the practices of Namibia and Botswana, where citizens could travel with national IDs rather than passports. Community awareness programs were considered crucial to educate locals about border laws and the importance of compliance, helping maintain peace and security in the region.

Furthermore, it was confirmed that the government of Zambia was not aware of any Zambian refugee in Namibia. If any, perhaps they were running away from prosecution or their criminals. Hence, the government of Namibia was urged to intensify the screening system to determine criminals from serious asylum seekers.

Moreover, illegal immigrants regard Zambia as a transit country. Mostly come from upper northern African countries transiting to South Africa. In some countries they use illegal entrance into other countries or be smuggled in. Previously only men were illegal migrants however, nowadays more women and child are culprits. SADC countries need to come together and address these issues especially the countries they transit through, like Tanzania and where the immigrants are fleeing to (mostly South Africa), need to look deep into what exactly does these illegal migrants end up doing in their country. Lately, Zambia has put up a department in the ministry to address the illegal migration. Regionally, Zambia and Namibia has already signed the agreement for SADC member states to form one Parliament to address issues in a common voice and to address SADC issues in a uniformity.

Zambia has a Parole Board and the release of inmates that have meet the criteria is done on an interval basis. And it is only centralised in Lusaka. Women, Women with circumstantial children, Elderly inmates are also considered for parole by the President. The program has actually helped to reduce the number of inmates in cells. The criteria of good behaviours have yield to some inmates to change to good behaviour and become good citizens. However, no Parole to repeat offenders.

Zambia reported the issue of overcrowdings of Police cells however, the country has the law of keeping a suspect in the police cells for 48hrs only, within which the suspect must be taken to courts. Although it was not always the case, the Police Officers were encouraged to only arrest a suspect once they have enough evidence. The practice of Local courts that focused more on

9. FINDINGS

The following were the findings:

1. **Budget Oversight Pilot Program:** The Standing Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs in Zambia is piloting a new initiative where it reviews departmental budgets before they are tabled by the Minister of Finance. This allows for more effective budget oversight and ensures that Members of Parliament (MPs) are involved from the planning stage.
2. **Namibian Refugees in Zambia:** There are no registered Namibian refugees in Zambia. Any Namibians in Zambia are likely there for other reasons, such as fleeing prosecution or criminal activities.
3. **Namibian Embassy Challenges:** The Namibian Embassy in Zambia faces several challenges, including prolonged vacant positions, insufficient transport, and dilapidated staff accommodations. Additionally, the Namibian government owns a registered plot in Lusaka since 2014, but no development has taken place, and the government continues to pay rates and taxes on it.
4. **Border Challenges:** The border between Namibia and Zambia remains difficult to control, particularly because some families are split between the two countries. This complicates border management and migration issues.
5. **Passport-Free Movement:** Zambia is planning to implement passport-free movement between Zambia and Namibia, similar to the agreement between Namibia and Botswana.
6. **Customary Courts:** Zambia uses customary courts to handle petty offenses, which has helped reduce the overcrowding of prison cells.
7. **Migration and Security Issues:** Zambia faces challenges with illegal migration, human trafficking, and smuggling, particularly from northern African countries transiting to South Africa. Zambia has established a department within the Ministry of Home Affairs to address these issues.
8. **Veteran Welfare:** Zambia has established a program to support retired veterans who have not secured government employment. However, the growing population of recognized veterans has strained government resources.
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10. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Enhance Budget Oversight:** Namibia should consider adopting a similar budget oversight model to Zambia's pilot program, where parliamentary committees review departmental budgets before they are tabled by the Minister of Finance. This would improve transparency and ensure that MPs are more involved in the budgeting process.
2. **Address Embassy Challenges:** The Namibian government should prioritize addressing the challenges faced by its embassy in Zambia,

Hon. Mathias Mbundu

Hon. Elma Jane Dienda

Hon. Kletus Karondo

Hon. Dudu Murorua

Hon Nghidipohamba Hamata

Hon. Theofelus Kamati

Hon. Philipus Katamelo

Hon. Vincent Joseph Mareka

Hon. Maximalliant Katjimune

Hon. Agnes Mpingana Kafula

Hon Hamunyera Hambyuka

Hon. Paula Kooper


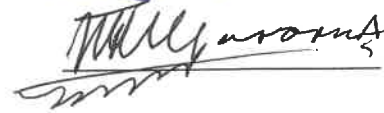
Hon. Dr. Daniel Kashikola

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Hon. Patience Masua

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