

TUESDAY, 27 MARCH, 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

PROGRESS ON THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Hon. Minister of Justice (Mr Lubinda)

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to update the House, and through it, the nation at large, on the final stages in the process of refining the Republican Constitution.

Madam Speaker, during my last update to the House on this matter, I did state that the Ministry of Justice, in line with the ministry's work programme, retreated to Siavonga from 25th February to 2nd March, 2018 and considered the comments and submissions from various stakeholders.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Justice is currently preparing the Draft Constitution Amendment Bill 2018, taking into account the stakeholders' comments and submissions. The ministry is expected to finalise the drafting of the Bill by 13th April, 2018.

Madam Speaker, the draft copy of the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2018, will, thereafter, be subjected to a team of independent drafts persons and eminent scholars for scrutiny between 16th and 20th April, 2018. On 23rd April, 2018, the ministry will proceed with the process of obtaining the Cabinet approval, in principal, to introduce in Parliament, a Bill to amend the Constitution of Zambia. The Bill, will, then be published for thirty days as is required by law, between 10th May and 10th June, 2018.

Madam Speaker, in order to continue on the basis of broad consultation, the Ministry of Justice will conduct a consultative caucus for hon. Members of Parliament on 12th June, 2018. This will be followed by a consultative meeting of Secretary-Generals of political parties to be convened on 13th June, 2018. The outcomes of the caucus of Parliamentarians and the consultative meeting of secretary generals shall then be presented to a summit of political party presidents to be held on 15th and 16th June, 2018.

Madam Speaker, whereas, the caucus of Parliamentarians will be facilitated by the Ministry of Justice, the meeting of Secretary-Generals and the summit of Presidents will be facilitated by the Zambia Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue (ZCID).