

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH, 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

GIVEN BY THE

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MR LUBINDA

ON THE

STATUS OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

Mr Speaker, I thank you most sincerely for allowing me to make a second statement. Like I said earlier, this is a statement to update the House on Zambia's performance in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Sir, in honouring its commitment to good governance on the continent, the Government of the Republic of Zambia acceded to the APRM in January, 2006. The APRM is Africa's paramount framework of self monitoring in governance and is voluntarily acceded to by member states of the African Union (AU).

Mr Speaker, the origins of the APRM can be traced to the year 2001. In July of that year, at the 37th Summit of the Organisation of African Unity, now the African Union (AU), held here in Lusaka, the Heads of State and Government of the member states of the AU set out a new vision for the development of Africa, the so called New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD's main objectives were:

- (a) eradication of poverty;
- (b) promotion of sustainable economic growth;
- (c) integration of Africa into the global economy; and
- (d) promotion of gender equity and women's empowerment

Sir, good governance was identified as a fundamental prerequisite in order to reach these objectives. On 8th July, 2002, at the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the AU,

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH, 2017

African leaders adopted the NEPAD declaration on democracy, political, economic and corporate governance.

Mr Speaker, the NEPAD declaration on democracy, political, economic and corporate governance places emphasis on democracy, human rights, free, fair and regular elections, transparency and accountability in both public and private sector organisations, among others.

Sir, Zambia hosted the country review mission in February, 2011, which prepared the country review report from which a national plan of action was drawn. In January 2013, Zambia was peer reviewed during the 18th summit that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Zambia's peer review was followed by the launch of the country review report by the 5th Republican President, the late Michael Chilufya Sata, in March, 2014.

Mr Speaker, on 17th October, 2016, Zambia's country review report was tabled and discussed by the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) during its ordinary session that was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Tabling and discussion of the country review report is one of the requirements of the APRM process before the country can be peer reviewed yet again.

Sir, Zambia is expected to undergo a second round of peer review in 2018-2019 to assess the progress made in addressing governance challenges that were identified during the first peer review. Prior to the second peer review, Zambia is expected to prepare at least two progress reports to be presented by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia at the APRM Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Mr Speaker, the National Governing Council, through the Ministry of Justice, facilitated the preparation of the first progress report in 2016. The report was presented at the 26th Summit of the Heads of States and Government that was held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia on 28th January, 2017, by the President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu.

Sir, the highlights of Zambia's report as presented by His Excellency the President, which emanated from the peer review report that was carried out in Zambia, include the following:

Standards and Codes

Mr Speaker, on this matter, the President reported that the process of establishing a central depository registry of regional and international agreements was initiated through the enactment of a law that would guide the functions of the central depository registry.

Democracy and Political Governance

Sir, the President reported that Zambia concluded the consultative process and had amended the Constitution in January, 2016.

Over Centralised State System

Mr Speaker, Zambia reported that it had approved the National Decentralisation Policy which would empower provinces and districts to manage their own affairs for effective social economic development.

Gender Parity to Uphold Principles of the Convention and Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Sir, Zambia created the Ministry of Gender to spearhead the attainment of gender parity. With regard to female representation at Cabinet level, the Government has made tremendous progress by increasing gender participation in Cabinet from 14 per cent in 2011, to 28 per cent in 2016. That is doubling women participation at cabinet level. President Edgar Lungu deserves to be applauded.

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH, 2017

Guaranteeing Separation of Powers

Sir, the President of the Republic of Zambia reported to his peers that the Zambian Constitution enshrined separation of powers among the three organs of the state and safeguards the independence of these organs.

Economic Governance and Management Issues

Mr Speaker, the President stated that Zambia's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate recorded a steady decline from 5.1 per cent in 2013 to 3.2 per cent in 2015. The economic growth averaged 5.3 per cent per annum and that this growth was reduced by poor performance particularly, in the agricultural sector in 2013 and 2015. The growth rate under mining in 2014, 2015 and further, was affected by devastating combination of external shocks in response to which Zambia had put stringent measures to arrest the negative growth of the GDP. On this note, I would like to inform the House and the nation at large that as opposed to what we heard earlier about crop failure, as for the 2016/2017 Farming Season, with the early delivery of inputs, private sector agriculture and the sufficient rain that our Good Lord has blessed us with this year, we anticipate a larger harvest than we have recorded before.

Diversification of the Zambian Economy

Sir, the President reported that Zambia had established private sector development, industrialisation and job creation in January, 2015 to coordinate the implementation of the industrialisation and job creation strategy and to provide a coherent guidance on salient strategies that promote the diversification of the nation's economy.

Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (ICR)

Mr Speaker, the President reported that Zambia had experienced a drastic reduction in the level of involvement by private firms in developmental programmes until 2014. The Government of