



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

Parliament Buildings

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**PRESENTATION BY DR C KALILA, MP, CHAIRPERSON FOR THE ZAMBIAN  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES, ON THE UPDATE OF THE COUNTRY'S COMMITMENTS MADE  
AT THE 2019 NETWORK OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF HEALTH  
MEETING HELD IN 2019 AT SPEKE RESORT HOTEL IN MUNYONYO, UGANDA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) meeting was held from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019, at Speke Resort Hotel Munyonyo in Kampala Uganda under the theme: “Building the capacity of African policy makers for enhanced implementation of International Conference on Population Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) and improved reproductive health outcomes; Challenges and Opportunities”.

The meeting was attended by delegates from 22 African Parliaments, representatives of development partners and civil society organisations on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019. The Zambian Parliament was represented by Mr J Kabamba, MP and Mr C M Chalwe, MP accompanied by Mr Darius Kunda from the Committee Department.

The objective of the workshop was to strengthen participants understanding of key continental frameworks on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and how to best utilise frameworks to advance progress at the national level. Focus was on the Maputo Protocol and Programme of Action (PoA), the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD)/ICPD and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **COUNTRY COMMITMENTS**

- 1. The Zambian delegation committed itself that the Committee on Health, Community Development and Social Services would ensure that Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) activities are included in its Programmes of Work. The areas of concentration will not be limited to the following:**

- (i) Teenage pregnancies;**
- (ii) Maternal health and quality of health care services; and**
- (iii) Access to contraceptives**

### **1.1 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA IN THE AREA OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)**

#### **(i) ENACTMENT OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL INTO LAW**

After a lengthy consultative process which began in the year 2012, and after various studies taken, the National Assembly of Zambia approved the

National Health Insurance Bill which was finally assented to and is now law in Zambia. The National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018 and subsequent publication of Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 63 of 2019, the National Health Insurance Management commenced the implementation of The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Membership to the NHIS is mandatory to all citizens and established citizens.

The National Health Insurance Scheme model is based on the following guiding principles of Universality, Social solidarity, Equity, Affordability, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Accountability. The National Assembly of Zambia through its established structures, including the Committee on Health, Community Development and Social Services continues to offer it's over sight role in the implementation of the NHIS.

**(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTION ON THE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF  
SANITARY TOWELS AND SANITATION FACILITIES TO GIRLS IN PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

In 2019, the National Assembly of Zambia unanimously approved a motion to provide adequate sanitary towels and sanitation facilities for girls in public schools. The Motion was brought before the House by Dr Sebastian Kopulande, Member of Parliament for Chembe Constituency.

The motion received overwhelming support from Members both from the Ruling Party and the Opposition. The objective of the motion was to urge the Government to ensure that it made it a priority that policies are formulated around the provision of free sanitary towels to girls in public schools, thus, ensuring that girl child education is supported.

**(iii) PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION TO SUSPEND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY  
EDUCATION (CSE) IN SCHOOLS**

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Schools generated a lot of debate in the Nation with interested groups such as the Church, Non-

Governmental Organisations, Civil Society, Traditional Rulers and many others raising divergent views on the matter. At Parliament, a motion was brought on the floor of the House by Dr Sebastian Kopulande, Member of Parliament for Chembe Constituency.

The motion led to an intensified debate from both the Front and Back benches, with the Executive through the Vice President, Mrs Inonge Wina indicating that, a multi-sectoral technical working group was constituted to review the curriculum and text books to be used in schools in relation to CSE.

#### **(iv) MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

The National Working Group on the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV/AIDS and Governance Project, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Caucus on Children and the Zambia National Women Parliamentarians Caucus, held a meeting in October, 2020, at Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was called against the background that there were several petitions from some sections of the church, calling for the discontinuation of the teaching of CSE in the Zambian school curriculum. The CSE framework was launched and rolled out as part of the Zambian school curriculum, by the Government of the Republic of Zambia in 2014.

The meeting was officially opened by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Rt. Hon Mr Justice Dr Patrick Matibini, SC, BA, FCIArb, MP, who urged Members of Parliament to interrogate the CSE policy from an oversight perspective and appreciate its contents in relation to the process of its development and the culmination into its implementation.

The Meeting was attended by thirty (30) selected Members of Parliament, UNICEF, Ministry of General Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs and other stakeholders.

At the end of the meeting, a Communiqué on Comprehensive Sexuality Education by Members of Parliament from the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) HIV/AIDS and Governance Project National Working Group, Zambia Women Parliamentary Caucus, Parliamentary Caucus on Children, Members from the Portfolio Committees on Youth, Sport and Child Affairs; Local Governance, Housing and Chiefs' Affairs; Education, Science and Technology; and Legal Affairs, Human Rights, National Guidance, Gender Matters and Governance was released and shared with Members of the public and the media.

2. **The commitment to push for total adherence to the Abuja declaration aspirations of ensuring that at least 15% of the National Budget goes to the Health Sector. The Zambian Parliamentarians also made a commitment that the health Committee will push the Executive to ensure that the disbursements to the Health Sector are as budgeted.**

Although the Executive has shown commitment in Enhancing Budget Credibility by bringing to Parliament pieces of legislation that enhanced Budget credibility such as the Planning and Budgeting Bill, The Public Procurement Bill, among others the issue of allocations in the budget and commitment to declarations, like the Abuja Declaration has not been adhered to.

## **2.1 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO HEALTH**

For example in 2018 and 2019 the health allocation as a percentage of total budget was 8.6% and 9.3% respectively. Whilst in 2020 and 2021 it is 8.1% and 8.0% respectively. It is, therefore, very clear that from 2018 to date, the allocations are below the Abuja Declaration of 15 per cent. It is however, true that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are seeing more resources going to the health sector.