

MP Report

Namwala Constituency

2002 - 2006



HON. OMPIE NKUMBULA-LIEBENTHAL MP

FOREWORD

Thank you for voting for me on December 27, 2001. This report is to share with you, what I have been doing in the last five years.

I am a member of the Energy, Environment and Tourism Committee, as well as the Education, Science and Technology Committee. I have also represented the country as one of the five Zambian members of the Pan-African Parliament(PAP) and I am the Rapporteur for the PAP Gender, Family, Youth and People Living with Disabilities Committee.

Since my election, I have held meetings throughout the district covering all 12 wards and every polling station at least once. Attendance to these meetings has been hampered by poor communication and also poor accessibility to some areas, especially during the rainy season.

The lack of access to water has been one of the major concerns raised at many of these meetings. Drought has been a major problem, resulting in food shortages and hunger. Other concerns have been the schools, health facilities, poor roads, livestock disease, cattle and crop marketing.

My vision is for Namwala to be the beef basket of Zambia and beyond, so that its people are able to meet the basic needs of life, such as food, shelter, clothing, health and education.

With decent roads, better communications, a filling station and improved market infrastructure, our farmers can significantly increase their productivity and reduce poverty in the area. With money the government has saved through debt relief to Zambia, our government now has resources to ensure that Namwala's infrastructure and social services can improve. **I intend to continue to campaign for this.**

I have made donations to institutions and projects throughout the constituency. These have totaled more than K65 million. Some of these donations have been towards assistance in raising the 15-25% contribution to donor-funded projects, sports, games and tournaments, church choir uniforms, hymn books, construction/rehabilitation of schools, teachers' houses and boreholes. I have also encouraged women to organise themselves and form clubs for income generating activities.

Ompie Nkumbula-Liebenthal **MP**
Namwala Constituency
18 April, 2006

INTRODUCTION

Namwala is a rural constituency with an estimated population of about 91,000 people. The district has one parliamentary constituency, which currently is divided into 12 wards, but after the last delimitation exercise another 2 wards – Mandondo and Itapa - were added. (See Annex I for list of wards and polling stations). The district has four chiefs namely: Muchila, Mukobela, Mungaila and Nalubamba.

As your representative, one of my roles is to represent you in Parliament. The Zambian parliament, still has some way to go in exercising an effective oversight function of the Executive.

Your concerns are being heard in Parliament. I have submitted questions for oral answer on issues such as water, roads, health, education and agriculture. (See Annex IV).

Under the Parliamentary Reform Programme, it is hoped that all the constituencies in the country will have offices for the Member of Parliament. 31 constituencies have benefited from the programme so far. Work is still being done on setting up an office in Namwala.

Local government

Namwala has had five by-elections, since 2002. Two were due to the deaths of Councillor Phiri and Councillor Shiloka. May their souls rest in peace. One by-election was due to the councillor moving to another district, while another two were councillors who crossed over to the ruling party.

Namwala District Council has some administrative problems, but efforts are being made to resolve this.

Under the Decentralisation Policy, the district level shall be the focal point for the planning and delivery of public services. With the move towards decentralization, capacity building in the local council is important.

To facilitate the movement of local councillors, in April 2004 I made a 50% down payment contribution towards the purchase of nine bicycles.

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is meant to finance micro-community projects for poverty reduction. These funds are dispersed by a CDF committee. Beneficiaries such as clubs, associations and societies must be registered to benefit from the fund.

There was no Constituency Development Fund in 2002. Allocations for 2003, 2004 and 2005 of K30 million, K60 million and K60 million respectively went towards over 30 development projects. Some of the beneficiaries were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| • Namwala Main Market | K 1,740,000 |
| • Namwala Hospital | K 8,000,000 |
| • Mbeza Womens' Club | K 2,218,000 |

- Mangwele Basic School K 1,887,000
- Moomba Rural Health Club K 1,885,000

The CDF Committee has the details.

Water

Following the water shortages that were reported in July 2003, a number of water points were put in place in the district. ZAMSIF approved the construction of eight boreholes in Chief Muchila's area. Some dams have also been repaired.

Roads

On a number of requests for roads, such as the tarring of the Monze-Neiko road and feeder road rehabilitation, the response from government in Parliament is there are no funds.

The government has said it has no plans for a bridge across the river on the Itezhi-tezhi / Namwala road due to lack of funds

Health

Namwala District Hospital needs all facilities, so that there is less referral to other hospitals. With the help of ZAMSIF, a theatre and an additional ward have been constructed.

With the assistance of some colleagues, I donated K 12 million to the Namwala District Hospital.

Clinics are short-staffed. Communities walk long distances to reach them. Donations have also been made to assist some clinics. (Annex III)

Education

Education is a right. Schools need to be rehabilitated and new ones put in places where children are walking 5-7 kilometers to get to school. Community schools need greater support to cater for disadvantaged school-going children. I have made donations to assist with rehabilitation and construction of some schools. A list of some of the beneficiaries can be found in Annex III.

Agriculture

Drought and disease have adversely affected cattle production. The Minister of Agriculture has made an assurance that the Foot and Mouth vaccination programme, which was started, would be completed.

I have appealed to the government to ensure that cattle are vaccinated for the next three years to prevent the reoccurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease. Disease-free zones are needed for the export of livestock and livestock products for the constituency's development.

In 2002, parts of the district were hit by extreme hunger. I facilitated a visit by the World Food Programme director to Baambwe for an on site inspection. The food allocation was increased. In 2005, we faced another hunger situation and I have made efforts to source more food from the Office of the Vice-President.

Amongst the complaints received in agriculture were poor harvest due to late delivery of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer.

Communication

With the poor reception from the national broadcaster, communication is another area that needs to be addressed. I lobbied the Ministry of Information to have Namwala receive ZNBC television. Although Celtel had their own programme, I did lobby them to come to the district and its arrival in the district is a welcome development.

I am pursuing the possibility of having a community radio station, which will help in the dissemination of knowledge and information for social, economic and political development.

Gender

The marginalisation of women, children and the youth is an area for grave concern. During meetings, I have encouraged women to form groups and start income generating activities. Towards the goal of women's empowerment, I have made a number of donations to women's clubs. I have also supported the Women's Arts Craft Fair held in 2003 and 2004. (See Annex III for donations.)

Zambia signed the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1985, but still it has not been domesticated. In 2004, I moved a motion in Parliament urging the government to immediately amend or repeal existing acts of parliament which discriminate against women, which Parliament supported.

There is an urgent need for more women in decision-making positions. Zambia committed itself under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Gender Protocol to ensure that there would be at least 30% women in decision-making positions. This should not be limited to the political sphere, but also include the civil service, business, Non-Governmental Organisations and other institutions.

Governance

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and is the basis for governance. It should guarantee the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms. Decent shelter, food, health care, clean water and education are fundamental basic rights people need to survive.

Zambia is a signatory to a number of international instruments that make a commitment to the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms. Among these are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were signed in 2000 at the United Nations, making a commitment to meet a set of objectives by 2015. The 8 goals are to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and building global partnerships for development needs

To accelerate continental and regional socio-economic development, this year I moved a motion urging the government to ratify and domesticate African Union and SADC protocols. Under African Union/NEPAD commitments, 10% of our budget is supposed to go to agriculture by 2008. For health, the Abuja Declaration states 15 % of the national budget should go towards health.



THE MP VISITS NAMWALA DISTRICT HOSPITAL



THE MP ADMIRING ASSORTED GOODS ON DISPLAY AT THE CRAFT FAIR



TUSOLE TAILORING CLUB DISPLAY THEIR GOODS AT THE CRAFT FAIR



SHIMUNENGA 2004



SHIMUNENGA 2005

**LIST OF POLLING STATIONS AND WARDS IN NAMWALA CONSTITUENCY
2002- 2005**

Namwala Central

1. Namwala Boma
2. Maseele

Ngabo/Kaluweza

3. Ngabo
4. Tuunga
5. Inongwe
6. Kalundu

Baambwe

7. Kawilizhi
8. Baambwe
9. Chibunze

Maala

10. Shimayoba
11. Busangu
12. Maaka

Kantengwa

13. Shamunkuchi
14. Shimukopola
15. Kantengwa

Kabulamwanda

16. Namusonde
17. Kabulamwanda
18. Nchoole
19. Mamvu

Chitongo

20. Mandondo
21. Mangwele
22. Makotolo
23. Mwaangwe

Nakamboma

24. Simanje
25. Makaba
26. Nakamboma
27. Katowa

Mbeza

28. Moomba
29. Nacuumba

Ndema

30. Masompe
31. Kazuni Kalila
32. Umbuzu
33. Ndema
34. Musemu

Namakube

35. Nkomba
36. Shamutiki
37. Itapa
38. Namayovu
39. Tampwe
40. Namakube
41. Matebwele
42. Shamashikwe

Moobola

43. Shababwa
44. Kaabwe
45. Masikili

New Wards

- Mandondo
Itapa

CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS 2002 - 2005

1. April and June 2002

The meetings in Chief Muchila's area from April 26th - 28th covered three wards; namely Ndema, Moobola and Namakube.

From June 9th – 11th meetings in Chief Nalubamaba's area covered Mbeza, Nakamboma and Chitongo wards.

Both areas were seriously affected by drought. One of the problems cited by the residents was the long distances from water for both domestic and agricultural use. In some areas, farmers complained that they take more than four hours driving their animals to places where they can find water.

2. August 2002

Eight meetings were held in the five wards - Namakube, Mbeza, Maala, Nakamboma and Kantengwa - that were visited from 18th-25th August. Requests were made for the World Food Programme to consider increasing the supplies of relief maize.

The people of Chief Muchila's area appealed for more boreholes and dams in the area, as they were facing a serious water shortage for domestic and livestock use.

It was also pointed out that roads and most of the schools in the district required urgent attention.

3. December 2002

On December 7, a meeting was held at Namwala High School where teachers from Namwala High School, Lubanga Shabongwe and civil servants were in attendance. Concerns were raised on transport for the schools and prison, teachers' housing and school rehabilitation

The public meeting held at Ngabo, was attended by headmen, residents and teachers from Kalundu and Kaluweza schools.

There was a complaint that food relief was insufficient. Staff and council workers complained they were not allowed to receive relief food.

There was also an appeal for water problems to be looked into.

4. May 2003

Meetings were held in Namwala Central, Kabulamwanda, Namakube, Mbeza and Baambwe wards.

Among the many issues discussed at the Nachumba meeting was the establishment of a community school due to the long distances of 7-9

kilometres children have to walk to get to the nearest schools. Construction was underway and the community had collected sand and stones. A donation of K300,000 was made to help with transportation.

It was also pointed out that the area was faced with a water problem for domestic and livestock use. A request was made for 2-3 boreholes and the rehabilitation of Hachilungu Dam, which dries up soon after the rainy season. Residents also said that the poor harvest in the area was due to the late delivery of seed maize. They said the selling of the maize period should be limited up to September.

At Namusonde polling station hunger was cited as a major source of concern due to the drought, which burnt their early-planted crops. Even after being replanted, crops did not do well because of too much rain, which led to the submerging of crops.

The area, with a population of more than 1,500 people, had only one working borehole at Namusonde School. It required an additional two boreholes. A donation of K300,000 was made towards the cost of repairing the community borehole pipe.

The Parent Teachers Association disclosed that the community was facing problems in meeting the 15% requirement for the school project to take off. Some material had been collected, but it was insufficient. A donation of K1,000,000 was made towards the transportation of raw materials such as sand and stones.

It was noted the state of the two roads leading to Maala were in a bad state. Residents made an appeal to have the Namusonde/Maala and Kabulamwanda/Maala roads rehabilitated before the onset of the rains.

The May 4 Muchila meeting, had over 260 people in attendance comprising Chief Muchila, two senior headmen, Namakube Club Management Committee Association members and others.

The community said the harvest in the area had been poor. Cattle marketing was identified as a problem. It was reported that in Muchila's area, corridor disease had broken out. Animals were dying and there was no dip tank in the area.

It was reported that the water problem in Namakube ward is very serious. A request was made for more boreholes and the construction of dams. 31 points were identified as the most critical ones in terms of water shortages.

5. October 2003

A series of meetings were held in Baambwe, Chibunze, Nakhundu, Itapa and Ndema.

The meeting in Baambwe was specifically to address the issue of women's clubs. It was explained that there had been no release of money for the Constituency Development Fund, which was to be used to improve the welfare of the people in the community. A donation of K400,000 was made for women's clubs in the ward.

The youth made a request for a set of football jerseys and footballs.

A meeting was held at Chibunze, which is inaccessible during the rainy season. The message of the importance of women organizing themselves and engaging in income generating projects was emphasised. A donation of K150,000 was made towards women's groups. Another donation of K600,000 was made towards materials for Chibunze Community School.

At the October 22 meeting in Nakahundu, the community complained about water problems. The only borehole in the area had a breakdown, which had caused a lot of difficulties because both human beings and livestock were relying on the same source of water. It was also disclosed the community was building a school. They were given an application form from the Japanese Embassy to apply for both a health centre and a school. Since both projects require water, then the borehole issue would be catered for. A donation of K230,000 was made towards women's clubs.

At Itapa, the on-going self-help health centre project which had reached roof level, was visited. A donation of K1,000,000 was made to meet the cost of transporting sand and stones. Concerns were expressed about the Neiko/Itapa road rehabilitation, Ndema Dam construction and the 8 boreholes that were not working in the area.

A donation of K 300,000 was made to women's clubs.

The Ndema meeting was initially targeted at village headmen, but other community members attended as well. The community wanted to take up the construction of a health centre, but upfront material was cited as a problem. A donation of K1,000,000 was made towards transporting sand and stones. The issue of Ndema Dam construction and the 8 boreholes that were not working was raised.

A donation of K300,000 was made towards women's clubs.

6. December 2003

During this period, meetings were held in Chitongo, Makotolo and Kabulamwanda to discuss developmental issues with women concerning activities in clubs. Three clubs attended the meeting in Chitongo. A donation of K 300,000 was made. At Makotolo, two clubs received donations of K200,000 each.

The meeting in Mamvu did not take-off due to a breakdown in communication.

7. September 2004

A series of meetings were held in Mbeza.

At the September 5 meeting at Nacuumba Basic School, the community presented their problems ranging from the availability of water to the need for a trained teacher at the community school.

At the Moomba School meeting concerns were raised over a rat infestation that was causing damage to crops. The school made a request to find out what was happening to ZAMSIF application for school rehabilitation.

A meeting was held at Katowa School where issues raised were poor security in the area, the need for more boreholes in the area and resources to complete the teacher's houses.

At the Simanje School meeting a plea was made for assistance for the on-going construction of a teacher's school. A donation of K 500,000 was made.

During the same period, Nchole Community School was given a donation of books, pencils and chalk supplied by the Community Schools Secretariat. Other community schools that benefited were Nacuumba and Chilala.

The community at the Makaba School meeting, complained of poor harvest in the area due to the lack of loan facilities. A concern was also expressed over cracks in the only dam in the area.

A plea was made for assistance to widows and orphans. Maseele Widow's Club received a K 250,000 donation.

8. May 2005

A meeting was held in Kabulamwanda. The complaints raised were the cattle disease in the area and the price for cattle restocking in the programme. Though three quarters of the animal population in Namwala was vaccinated the community demanded to have the remaining quarter done. More than 260 people attended the meeting.

9. June 2005

The major complaint at the Shimashikwe Basic School meeting was the shortage of water. Only one borehole was serving more than 2,000 people. At the time, the borehole had broken down and spare parts valued at more than K2 million were needed urgently. Through the Constituency Development Fund the spares were bought and the borehole became operational.

10. August 2005

The community at Mamvu School were building a class block and were seeking assistance in terms of material. The MP advised them to forward an application to the CDF committee. Also the area is hit by a water problem.

11. October 2005

A series of meetings were held in October.

A meeting was held at Nkomba School. The community complained of small quantities of relief food given to the needy people and the need to have another satellite depot near to their villages. Also water problems came out prominently and a serious request through the MP to assist the community acquire more boreholes.

At the Kabwe School meeting in Chief Muchila's area, complaints of boreholes and relief food were raised.

At the Chibunze Fishing Camp meeting, people complained of having not received a share from the Constituency Development Fund. A promise was made to follow up and the money was finally received.

12. December 2005

Ichila was visited on December 1.

The MP also visited patients in the 5 wards of Namwala District Hospital. Foodstuffs and detergents were given to all patients admitted in the wards.

ANNEX III

**SOME OF THE DONATIONS MADE BY THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
2002-2005**

Schools		Women's Clubs	
BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT	BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT
Ngabo Primary School	1,000,000	Maala Women's Club	650,000
Maala teachers' houses	1,000,000	Namakube Women's Club	600,000
Namusonde School	1,000,000	Moboola Women's Club	400,000
Namwala High School	1,000,000	Baambwe Women's Club	400,000
Lubanga Shabongwe School, Namwala	1,000,000	Itapa Womens's Club	300,000
Nacuumba Community School	600,000	Ndema Women's Club	300,000
Chibunze Community School	500,000	Kabulamwanda Women's Club	300,000
Simanje School	500,000	Kaundu Women's Club	300,000
Moomba School, Mbeza	500,000	Chibunze Womens' Clubs	250,000
Ichila School	300,000	Maseele Widow's Club	250,000
Kabwe School	300,000	Nkomba Women's Club	250,000
Nkomba School	300,000	Nakahundu Womens' Clubs	230,000
Chibunze School	250,000	Makotolo Women's Club	200,000
Shimukopola Community School	200,000	Mwaangwe Zone 1 Club	200,000
Mandongo School	200,000	Kabwe Women's Club	200,000
Kalundu School	200,000	Namusonde Women's Club	200,000
Mamvu School	200,000	Chibunze Women's Club	200,000
	8,750,000		5,230,000
Health institutions		Sports	
BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT	BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT
Namwala District Hospital	12,000,000	Namwala High School Provincial Annual Tournament (4 years)	12,000,000
Maala Clinic	1,200,000	Namakube Ward Football Club	1,500,000
Ndema Clinic	1,000,000	Moobola Sports Club	1,000,000
Itapa Clinic	1,000,000	Ndema Sports Club	700,000
Kabwe Health Center (iron sheets)	600,000	Old Madaalas Game, Maala	500,000
Makuzu Community Clinic	90,000	Independence Memorial Maala	500,000
	15,890,000	Lozis v. Tongas game	400,000
		Namwala Football Club	350,000
		District Amateur Football Club	340,000
		Baambwe Football Club	200,000
			17,490,000

Other donations

BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT
60 Church choir uniforms (Busangu, Chitumbi, Maala)	6,480,000
CASAT	4,600,000
Donated rice transport	3,600,000
Craft Fair (2 years)	2,100,000
60 hymn books	600,000
Baambwe Ward Councillor - project	500,000
Maala Area Development Committee	500,000
Shimusako (Namusonde borehole)	300,000
Moobola Area Development Committee	300,000
Shimashikwe community	200,000
Chibunze Independence Day Celebrations	50,000
Law Development Association Seminar	50,000
1 computer - Ila Bible Translation Project	
	19,250,000

TOTAL OF SOME OF THE DONATIONS MADE BY THE MP 2002 - 2005

= K 65,910,000

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FOR ORAL ANSWER IN PARLIAMENT 2002-2005

Minister of Energy and Water Development

- How many boreholes were sunk in Southern, Central and Northern Provinces in 2003 and 2004?
- How many boreholes are to be sunk in 2005 in the same provinces?
- How many will be sunk in Namwala District?

Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

- a) What measures has the government taken to promote and facilitate private sector participation in animal disease control programmes?
- b) Whether there are any plans to conduct annual vaccinations following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Namwala District to prevent further outbreaks?
- c) Whether there are any plans to amend the Stock Disease Act to enable the private sector to buy their own vaccines?
- What was the maize yield for the 2003/2004 season?
- What measures the government has taken to :
 - a) empower women without collateral to access credit facilities?
 - b) ensure more women participate in development programmes?
- What tonnage of maize is required to feed Namwala District?

Minister of Works and Supply

- a) How many kilometres of the Choma/Namwala road were tarred as of December 2001 and when will this be completed?
- b) What caused the delay in the tarring of the road?
- When the Monze/Neiko road will be tarred?
- What support the ministry renders towards the maintenance of pool houses occupied by teachers in Namwala?
- When the reconstruction of the Mumbwa/Namwala road will commence?
- When a permanent bridge will be built across the Kafue River on the Mumbwa/Namwala road?

Minister of Health

- What is being done to ensure there is no water shortage at any given time at the University Teaching Hospital?
- What measures have been taken to improve facilities at the University Teaching Hospital so as to curb the transfer of patients to hospitals/clinics in the Republic of South Africa?

The Vice-President

- How long the government was going to take to address the issue of customs and practices that discriminate against women and children in Zambia?
- Is there a unit at the Gender and Development Division that deals with monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming?

- What measures have been taken to ensure that all government ministries implement the SADC gender declaration of attaining at least 30% women in decision-making positions by 2005?
- What is the Zambian government doing about the strike by South African Airways since:
 - (a) it affects Zambian tourism?
 - (b) it affects Zambian business and people are stranded either in South Africa or in Zambia?

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

- When local courts in Chief Mungaila and Mukobela's areas will be rehabilitated?
- What action has been taken on the suggested changes to customary law as presented in the Zambia Law Development Commission Report in 2003?

Minister of Education

- How much is provided in the 2003 budget for school boards in Namwala District?

Minister of Home Affairs

- When Namwala Prison will be provided with a utility vehicle?
- When prison wardens and prisoners, country-wide will be provided with uniforms?

Minister of Finance and National Planning

- (a) What measures have been taken to ensure that there was transparency in expenditure of the savings made as a result of having reached the HIPC Completion Point;
- (b) What measures have been taken to reduce domestic debt?
- (a) What has been done to strengthen the institutional framework for priority setting on poverty reduction programmes, monitoring and reporting from the grassroots level?
- (b) Which groups comprise the sector advisory groups and how are they selected?
- (c) When the report by the World Bank on the privatisation exercise in Zambia will be publicised?

Minister of Community Development and Social Services

- (a) Are there any plans to come up with a specific policy for aged persons?
- (b) What support is provided to families looking after elderly people?
- (c) What specific measures are targeted at elderly women, especially in view of the impact of HIV/AIDS?

Minister of Foreign Affairs

- What is the status of the New Partnership for Africa's Development?

MAIDEN SPEECH BY HON. OMPIE NKUMBULA-LIEBENTHAL AT THE FIRST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, FEBRUARY 27TH 2002.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the people of Namwala for electing me to represent them in this august House.

Mr. Speaker, may I associate myself with other honourable members who have congratulated the President on his speech, which came very close to what we on this side of the House have been advocating for some time.

The last 30 years in Zambia have seen the triumph of politics of personal gain over development and sound economic management. In 1980, Zambia's per capita income was US \$ 630. By 2000, it had declined to US \$300. With HIV/AIDS prevalence at more than 20%, most social indicators in our country have deteriorated, with life expectancy falling from 51 years in 1980 to only 38 years in 2000. Much of this reflected poor copper prices, followed by the veniality of the Chiluba era. At times it seemed as if Zambia was in some kind of competition to be the worst managed economy in the world, with the most precipitous decline in living standards and an unenviable position in the bottom one third of the Transparency International's corruption index.

Mr. Speaker, to add to our woes, is the KCM crisis. Some observers have described the withdrawal of Anglo-American Corporation from KCM as the worst crisis confronting our nation since UDI in 1965. Yet we have very few facts on this situation, not least the impact on the budget, foreign exchange, employment, growth etc.

The President has told us that a task force has been established to advise on the crisis, but little information has been shared with House. I hope that this situation will soon be rectified, through a ministerial statement by the government to the House, and that we can look forward to up-to-date reports from the same government.

Mr. Speaker, I wish now to address the issue of good governance. It was encouraging to hear the President of the Republic speak about the importance of good economic management and a sound anti-corruption programme. He will have the support of all of us if he is prepared to take actions to support these objectives. It is entirely within his hands to bring the required improvement and I would like to start by suggesting some concrete steps to help the executive follow through on their intentions.

1. The Presidential discretionary fund should be abolished. It serves no purpose other than to offer bribes and spend money without accountability.
2. The Office of the President – Special Division should become accountable like all other government departments, with a clear definition of its functions and submitting to the budgetary authority of parliament.
3. The selection process of key appointments to important positions such as commanders of police, armed forces, the Chief Justice and the Electoral Commission of Zambia Chairman, needs to be revised. The President selects or removes some of these appointees without reference to

- Parliament. This allows a situation where the President ensures, anyone, in a position of power is beholden to him to secure employment.
4. Institutions such as the Human Rights commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Drug Enforcement Commission need to be given greater powers of investigation, and be legally obliged to report to Parliament rather than the executive. That way, the executive will have less opportunity to prevent action on cases of corruption in the hope of gaining political leverage.
 5. The government should be compelled to follow up and prosecute well-known cases of suspected corruption and diversion of public funds, some of which have already been the subject of judicial inquiry and specific recommendations. Is it not time for the Meridien Bank bailout and the cobalt scandal, to face full public investigation? Sir, without action on these notorious cases, the government intentions sound like the '**old deal**' in new clothes.
 6. In the 'New Deal', surely there is no room for the state owned and government controlled media, as it continues to be a propaganda machine for the party in power. The public media has to be independent to educate and disseminate information. Government's role should be restricted to that of the appointment of a regulatory authority approved by parliament.

Let me now address the issue of constitutional and parliamentary reform. Mr. Speaker, the ease with which corruption gained hold in Zambia is part of a deeper problem of lack of accountability and imbalance between the legislature and the executive. It is necessary to change from a president's parliament to a people's parliament. Legislative change should be by consent and not decree. I suggest it is time to establish a constitutional court to address the numerous issues that have arisen since the first multi-party constitution in 1991.

There are several areas requiring attention, starting with an excessively casual attitude towards the introduction of legislation.

1. We should be accorded more time to consider proposed new laws. Members cannot be expected to vote responsibly on a bill on the same day as it is laid before the House, as happened in the last parliament. This applies particularly to the budget bill, which requires careful and detailed scrutiny.
2. The modification of laws by statutory instrument issued by ministers and then gazetted without being put before parliament flagrantly undermines the powers of parliament and cannot be allowed to go unchecked.
3. Every year parliamentary committees, such as the Public Accounts Committee, make recommendations to the executive, based on the Auditor General's reports, which then gather dust on the shelves. Motions of censure should be enforceable.
4. There should be changes in the manner in which parliamentary sessions are convened. The House should have an enforceable right to convene a

- session of parliament on the basis of a petition by a quorum of MPs, so that a further check on excessive executive power exists.
5. The gazetting of a fixed election date will prevent the fiasco of the last elections. The Electoral Commission of Zambia will not have to guess and will have ample time to prepare for elections. It allows for better planning by all stakeholders.
 6. The right of the President to nominate Members of Parliament should be removed. At the same time, the President needs to be able to draw upon the best talent available to constitute his Cabinet, but if he appoints ministers from outside this House, they should be answerable to parliament as ex-officio members, but not have the right to vote.
 7. Yes, why should they vote? Whom do they represent?
 8. Parliamentary committees should be strengthened, with resources to undertake their own independent research and adequate time to consider important issues.
 9. The manner in which presidential elections are held has its shortcomings. The simple majority constitutional requirement lacks popular support and has seen the ushering in of a minority government. To check the number of aspiring presidential candidates needs a run-off system.
 10. Changes need to be made to the Electoral Act as well. The Commission structure and composition, should be reconstituted to reflect the interest of all stakeholders. The Electoral Commission of Zambia should be accountable to Parliament.
 11. Loyalty should be to upholding the Constitution, which even the President should abide to. The oath of allegiance should be sworn to uphold the Constitution and the President as the custodian of the Constitution, thereby enshrining the supremacy of the constitution above all other institution in the land. This change in oath should apply to all other public officers.

Mr. Speaker, I now want to address the issue of the district administrators. A particularly important area in which politics has interfered in the development is in the office of the District Administrator. The introduction of this instrument of Presidential control has misdirected developmental resources. It should, therefore, be scrapped as it is a product of political engineering where patronage seems to be the only criterion for appointment. Not only do the district administrators absorb scarce public funds, they had undermined the development of democracy at the district level by usurping the rights of District Councils.

I would like to commend the President's proposal to have offices at constituency level for Members of Parliament to be able to stay in touch with the people. I would add the point that a budgetary parliamentary allocation should be made available to enable us, Members of Parliament, to employ one or more support staff.

The marginalisation of women, children and youths is another area of grave concern. They make up the majority of the population, but their needs are not

addressed. Our mothers look after our children and tend the fields. Having educated, healthy, self-sufficient women will only improve living conditions. Too often, discrimination against women who bear the brunt of poverty has been hidden behind traditional, cultural claims. To prevent this abuse, there is need for amendments to existing laws. The promotion of the girl-child education is a step in the right direction. The empowerment of women can only alleviate suffering.

Mr. Speaker, I now want to turn to Namwala Constituency. Mr. Speaker, Namwala District, in common with most other areas of the country, has about 80% of the population who are poor and there are many only just above the poverty line. Infant mortality is high. We do not even have reliable data on HIV/AIDS infection rate in the district since there are no testing kits in any of our health centres.

Health services should be available and affordable to all. Namwala has a population of about 90,000 with one hospital and one doctor. The hospital has no generator to service the life-saving equipment in times of power failure. Its only ambulance is old and does not function most of the time. There is a lack of facilities at the hospital resulting in the referral of patients to Macha Mission for surgical services. There are clinics in every ward, but few are in good condition. They are short-staffed partly because of inadequate staff accommodation and partly because of conditions of service in rural areas are not sufficiently attractive. Sanitation is poor with the result that there are many infections from water-borne diseases. A safe water supply is needed in many more communities.

Poverty cannot be reduced without health, education, safe water and sanitation. In Namwala district, the major health challenge is malaria, the incidence of which has been increasing. At the same time, the Namwala health team deserve congratulations on having achieved a nearly 100% immunization rate for the main child health interventions. But I mentioned earlier that HIV/AIDS, despite its importance is not even accurately recorded at this time.

HIV/AIDS presents all us leaders with one of our greatest challenges, since we know that only with behaviour change on a substantial scale, will we turn this around. Let us be blunt about it. So long as men believe they can have multiple sex partners, and so long as condom use is not supported by our health services, our society will continue to be ravaged by this epidemic. I hope that the Head of State and all of us in this House will speak about this scourge to our constituents. This year we face a catastrophe in Namwala due to a poor harvest last year and a failure in this year's rains. Mealie-meal prices are already at record high levels as we approach the end of the growing season and the need for relief is desperate. The district undoubtedly has tremendous potential. While the cattle population is reported to have declined to some 94,000 heads of cattle over the years because of disease, the district officially recorded sales of over 6,000 heads of cattle in 2001 with a value conservatively estimated at K2 billion. Official sales of fish totaled K30 million and the district is usually a net exporter of maize, cotton and sunflower.

I ask myself, why a district with such potential is still so poor. I do understand that government money is very tight, not least because of manifest corruption and incompetence of the previous MMD government, which cost the country US\$ 30 million per month while it criminally delayed in privatising the mines.

I have supporting evidence to this effect.

Mr. Speaker, at the national level, we hear about the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which is a condition of our access to debt relief through HIPC.

But it has not been brought before this House and I would earnestly suggest that time be set aside for debate on the PRSP in the context of the Budget debate or a ministerial statement to the House. Without a good understanding of the causes of poverty at the national and the district levels and a clear practical strategy for reducing poverty, we will all be missing the point.

Mr. Speaker we know that the rains fail about once every five to ten years in Zambia and neighbouring countries. Why then do we not have systems in place to deal with this? I would like to suggest a more effective early warning system which goes beyond the long-range weather forecast to set in motion plans to store or acquire food reserves at or near the point of consumption.

Mr. Speaker, on agriculture, the reforms in agriculture need modification. Inputs such as seed and fertilizer should be available on time. There should be greater assurance of produce marketing than has occurred in the unregulated private sector approach. There is an outcry to restore cooperatives because farmers knew where to go and what prices to expect. We may not be able to cushion farmers from uncertainty, but we should create a business-oriented support system for farmers. Possibly the single most important measure to reduce poverty in Namwala District would be to improve feeder roads. Many of these have not been graded since the Kaunda era with the exception of the November/December period prior to the elections.

On education, Sir, basic education is the right of every Zambian. It should be available, accessible and free up to grade 12 and not grade 7 as was retrogressively suggested by the President. Education and literacy are key to national development.

Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to stand alongside my late father Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula amongst other independence leaders, when the Zambian flag first flew on 24th October 1964 at Independence Stadium. Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed the evolution of Zambian politics from Chilenje to State House, from the Legislative Council to Manda Hill and still remember the vision and commitment of the founding fathers and it is attainable by us gathered in this august House. If we sincerely aspire for a greater Zambia, a Zambia without poverty, a Zambia with adequate health and educational facilities and a Zambia where once again people can walk tall and proud, truly our aspirations are noble and must be followed up with deed. Should we not, the elected Members of Parliament, as the people's choice, direct the legislation in this nation instead of being a rubber stamp?

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

**DEBATE BY OMPIE NKUMBULA-LIEBENTHAL ON THE FEBRUARY 3, 2006
BUDGET ADDRESS (13/2/06)**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the motion on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the non-inclusion of a budget allocation to the constituent assembly did not come as a big surprise, since the President, in his opening speech, failed to seriously address the Constitution. Action, Mr. Speaker, speaks louder than words. K34.6 billion was spent on the Constitution Review Commission and this should not be allowed to go to waste by delaying the exercise to 2008 or 2015.

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame to see in this year's budget, that the minister has introduced VAT on newspapers. We want to encourage people to read not one, but several newspapers to make informed choices or opinions. Only when the Times of Zambia and Zambia Daily Mail are privatised would this action be fair to independent papers. Introducing VAT on newspapers in an election year is to ensure that Zambians only read government opinion.

I hope the estimates committee will quash this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister briefly touched on Zesco and the 'successful' completion of its commercialisation. As part of the commercialisation programme, Zesco is supposed to be run without interference from government officials, and yet we hear reports of directives issued at rallies on electrification programmes.

Recent events indicate the company is facing serious problems. Zesco is borrowing a lot of money; some for rehabilitation, some for new projects and these loans must be repaid. If Zesco does not perform, the government will be forced to take on this debt.

Mr. Speaker, on the performance of key sectors of the economy, the Minister cited growth in all sectors, but in all sectors except tourism, this growth was at lower rates than in 2004 as indicated on pages 4 to 5.

The minister's macro-economic objectives for 2006 include achieving a GDP growth rate of 6%. These are not figures with which we will attain the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Speaker, on agriculture, despite having 'broad based consultations' with stakeholders, the government has failed to respond to the requests of the farmers, which I will not dwell on as other speakers have alluded to them. The taxes introduced in agriculture, combined with the kwacha appreciation will reduce gains made in export and employment.

Livestock is extremely important to the people of Namwala. The Minister in his speech on agriculture said on page 4 and I quote:

"The slow down in the growth of the sector was attributed to the effects of the partial drought and the outbreak of livestock Foot and Mouth Disease, especially in Southern and Central provinces."

The Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and drought are not new developments in this country. May I suggest that the government undertakes to eradicate

prevalent livestock diseases, before passing on the cost of preventative medicine to farmers.

Looking at the Minister's budget, it is hard to tell what the strategy for pro-poor development in agriculture is. The agricultural commercialisation programme will only work in areas, which are accessible. Completion of the Choma-Namwala road and tarring the Monze-Neiko road would go a long way in improving market accessibility.

Where are the financial institutions to help our small-scale farmers? Who will feed the nation if we do not support our small-scale farmers?

Mr. Speaker,

1. Why is it necessary to continue having tax incentives for the mining companies, when copper prices and profits are at record levels?
2. Why can't agreements be renegotiated to ensure that Zambia gets more from these companies, so that you lower PAYE, unless you are hiding something?
3. May I respectfully suggest that the committee on mining examine the the scope for renegotiation of the mining agreements during this session of parliament, so that we can take their conclusion into account before passing the budget?
4. This budget is for the rich, especially that you are not also taxing income on dividends earned on shares listed on the stock exchange.

Mr. Speaker, youth employment is indeed critical if the country is to develop.

Could the minister please clarify on the establishment of the "Youth Empowerment Fund", "Youth Investors Fund" and "Youth Constituency Development Fund", when he responds?

What about a special fund for women in business? We need to increase the share of women in employment in the non-agricultural sector.

Lump sum figures can be misleading. We need to know the number of youths that will benefit from the fund.

Since I became a MP four years ago, the allocation to women's clubs in my constituency has been K 6,000,000 which was limited to three clubs only.

Mr. Speaker, on external debt, the Minister mentioned the "Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative" (MDRI) as a new initiative which would 'hopefully' reduce Zambia's debt. I suppose this is G8 debt relief. Can the Minister clarify in his response please or come up with a ministerial statement.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated on pages 15-16 and I quote:

"The budget seeks to consolidate the gains made in 2005 and further strengthen the economy by continuing to direct more resources towards priority programmes." End of quote.

Economic gains, Mr. Speaker, should have a positive impact on the estimated 68% Zambians living in poverty. The benefits of growth should be shared equitably. Zambians suffered to reach HIPC. There has been debt-forgiveness, so why are the taxes on them so high?

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, what is in this budget for the ordinary Zambians living on \$1 or less a day. Where is the nshima? Where is the relish?

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

SPEECH BY HON. O. NKUMBULA-LIEBENTHAL MOVING THE MOTION ON THE RATIFICATION AND DOMESTICATION OF PROTOCOLS. (15/2/06)

I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing this motion.

I beg to move that in order to accelerate continental and regional socio-economic development, this House urges the government to ratify and domesticate all the African Union and Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocols, Zambia has so far signed.

Mr. Speaker,

Now that Zambia has acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), it is very important that we adhere to and domesticate the protocols, treaties, charters that we have signed, either with the African Union (AU) or with SADC. The APRM means we will be judged by our peers in the way we govern ourselves.

Good governance, one of the priority programmes of the African Union, is critical. This means ensuring transparency, accountability, tolerance of opposing views and respect for human rights in general and the rule of law.

The African Union has adopted 31 protocols, charters and other legal instruments, of which Zambia has signed 26. 12 of them have been ratified. Zambia has ratified 14 of the SADC protocols. As regards the accession to the SADC treaty and other legal instruments, Zambia has ratified only 2, while 8 are yet to be ratified.

These instruments cover a broad range of issues including, but not limited to energy, education, legal affairs, culture, human rights, shared watercourse systems and trade. These instruments, however, are not self-executing and need legislative implementation to be effective.

Mr. Speaker, few if any, have been fully implemented. Why do we sign these instruments if we do not intend to domesticate them?

I will lay on the table, lists of the African Union instruments and the SADC protocols. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs **should** make these available to us.

Mr. Speaker,

Under article 3 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, two of the objectives are listed as to:

- 1) **“promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance”** and
- 2) **“promote and protect human and peoples’ rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and other human rights instruments.”**

I will limit my debate to a few of the protocols related to these objectives.

Mr. Speaker,

Zambia ratified **The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights** - also known as the African Charter - in 1987. Reports are supposed to be submitted

every two years, but Zambia submitted its initial report on the implementation of the Charter last year.

The African Charter came into force in October 1986. Part 1 of the Charter includes rights and duties applying to individuals and groups, such as the right to life, equality before the law, freedom of information, expression and assembly. It also places special emphasis on the rights and duties of the community, especially the family, society and nation. The Charter also accords a place to '*third generation rights*' mainly rights to peace, solidarity, a healthy environment and development.

Chapter 11 of Zambia's initial report on the implementation of the African Charter deals with the Public Order Act. On "factors and difficulties" it reads on page 85 and I quote:

"Zambia recognizes that it still has difficulties in the application of the Public Order Act especially in interpretation of the Act by some police officers, politicians and members of the public. At times, overzealous individual police officers might apply excessive force on peaceful assemblers. Some demonstrators have not followed the provisions of the Act thereby putting the Police command in an awkward situation."

This House agreed to a motion in August 2004 on the revision of the Public Order Act and its application to bring it in line with democratic processes.

This should be expedited.

Chapter 9 of the same report deals with how the right to hold opinions and the right to freedom of expression are protected. A free and fair media is critical for democracy and development to thrive. Media reforms will enhance transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker,

Zambia last year signed, but is yet to ratify, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption. Enacting the convention would help Zambia recover illegally obtained money from foreign banks.

Mr. Speaker,

Internationally and within Africa, the pressure to conform to good governance measures includes women's rights.

Commitments on the issues of marginalised groups, such as women, the youth, children and the elderly, are reinforced by several regional declarations and instruments such as:

1. The African Union Solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa (2004)

African heads of state recognised the challenges gender inequality brings and urged member states to protect women's rights.

This contributed to the coming into force of the African Union

Protocol on Women's Rights to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in November last year. Although Zambia has signed it, the protocol has not been ratified.

The protocol addresses issues such as violations of rights of marriage, violence, physical and moral integrity to women and girls security.

This House passed a motion to repeal discriminatory practices in 2003, but we are still waiting for discriminatory laws and practices to be outlawed.

2. The African Union Declaration on Employment and the Fight Against Poverty (2004)

It acknowledges that nearly half the population of Africa lives below the poverty line and that at the current rate of economic growth, Africa could not very well reach the MDGs.

3. The 2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other related diseases by African Union Heads of State.

This recognised the role played by poverty, poor nutritional conditions and underdevelopment in increasing vulnerability, particularly for children and the youth. There is a commitment to placing HIV/AIDS as the highest priority issue in national development plans and a pledge made to set a target of at least 15% of the national annual budget to improvement of the health sector. This year's health allocation of the budget, stands at 10.6%.

Some of the SADC commitments are:

1. The 1997 SADC Declaration of Gender and Development.

Member states committed themselves to ensuring that there would be at least 30% women in decision making by 2005. This lapsed last year and Zambia failed to attain this Protocol.

2. The SADC Protocol against Corruption

This was ratified by Zambia in 2003. The Protocol recognises "the need for a joint and concerted effort, as well as prompt adoption of a regional instrument to promote and facilitate cooperation in fighting corruption". We know corruption knows no boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding my contribution, it is important to have such matters brought to the House to ratify rather than leave it to Cabinet alone.

These are matters that affect the lives of people, and we, as their elected representatives, should be able to put their views across.

The Human Rights Commission and other rights institutions need our support.

If the vision of a stable, secure and prosperous Africa is to be realised, we need to meet our commitments.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.