



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola
23–27 October 2023



Governing Council
Item 17

CL/212/17-P.4
29 June 2023

Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(Article 19 of the Statutes and Rules 6, 7 and 8 of
the Rules of the Governing Council)

Candidature

of

Mr. Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo MUDENDA (Zimbabwe)

On 29 June 2023, the Secretary General received a communication from the Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Mr. Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, submitting his candidature for the office of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which is to be filled at the 212th session of the Governing Council.

The text of this communication and the additional materials received in support of this candidature can be found attached.

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#IPU147

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE**

RE: Submission of my candidature for the presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):
2023 to 2026

Causeway, 29 June 2023

The above subject matter refers.

As you are aware, the Office of the IPU President will fall vacant at the 147th IPU Assembly and related meetings scheduled for Luanda, Angola, from 23 to 27 October 2023, after the end of the tenure of President Duarte Pacheco, Member of Parliament from Portugal representing the Twelve Plus Group.

Accordingly, in tandem with Article 19 of the IPU Statutes (and Rules 6, 7 and 8 of the Rules of the Governing Council), I hereby formally submit my candidature for the IPU Presidency representing the African Geopolitical Group. His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, and the Parliament of Zimbabwe fully support my candidature. To this extent, if elected President of the IPU, I pledge my commitment to execute the mandate in line with the founding principles of the IPU.

For ease of reference, I have attached my credentials which affirm my suitability for the position of President of the IPU.

Please accept, Dear Colleague, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo MUDENDA
Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe



HON. ADVOCATE JACOB FRANCIS NZWIDAMILIMO MUDENDA'S PROFILE FOR THE IPU PRESIDENCY

INTRODUCTION

Hon. Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda is the current Speaker and Head of the Parliament of Zimbabwe since 2013 to date. He was elected a Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Executive Committee in 2020 having served as the President of the Africa Geopolitical Group. A veteran educationist and a long serving legal practitioner by profession who also is an avowed human rights defender, Hon. Advocate Mudenda has dedicated his life in pursuit of justice, equality, inclusivity, participatory democracy, transparent accountable governance and the rule of law. There is, therefore, no better candidate to promote and uphold the operative mantra of the IPU which is: ***“FOR DEMOCRACY, FOR EVERYONE.”***

Speaker Mudenda boasts of a vast experience of over 53 years in public affairs, governance and political activism dating back before and after Zimbabwe's independence. In the same vein, Hon. Advocate Mudenda has more than 20 years experience as a Parliamentarian in Zimbabwe and ten years experience as Head of the Zimbabwe Delegation to the IPU. During his public affairs tenure, he has held numerous senior positions in public institutions, the Government and Parliament of Zimbabwe as well as in the national, regional and multilateral organisations such as the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, the Small Enterprises Development Corporation, the SADC Parliamentary Forum where he is a member of the Executive Committee, Southern Africa Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC), African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC), African Parliamentarians Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE) and in the IPU. Equally, he has risen through the ranks of the IPU, having served as the President of the Africa Geopolitical Group in 2019 and to the IPU Executive Committee from 2020 to date. Speaker Mudenda's vast

experience and leadership versatility as a politician and technocrat have, therefore, bequeathed him with unique dynamism and thought leadership, a prerequisite in holding the esteemed office of the President of the IPU.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Hon. Advocate Speaker Mudenda has attained the following qualifications:

- Master of Laws degree (University of Zimbabwe)
- Bachelor of Laws degree (University of Zimbabwe)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Labour Law (Arbitration) (University of Zimbabwe)
- Bachelor of Arts Degree (University of South Africa)

SOME OF THE PUBLIC OFFICES HELD BY HON. ADVOCATE SPEAKER MUDENDA

- Current Speaker and Head of the Parliament of Zimbabwe
- A Registered Advocate with the High Court of Zimbabwe
- Former Headmaster of Marist Brothers Secondary School in Hwange, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe
- Former Principal English Lecturer at the United College of Education in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
- First post-independence District Administrator for Kariba District and subsequently Binga District under the Ministry of Ministry of Local Government, Zimbabwe
- First Provincial Administrator for Matabeleland North Province after independence, Ministry of Local Government, Zimbabwe
- Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe
- Board Chairman, Small Enterprises Development Corporation, Zimbabwe
- Board Chairman, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
- Board Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe

POLITICAL CAREER

Politically, Hon. Advocate Mudenda is a Member of the Zimbabwe African Union Patriotic Front Party (ZANU PF), the governing Party. He is a member of the highest Party's decision-making organ, the Central Committee, as well as being a member

of the Politburo which is the Executive Committee of the Central Committee where he serves as the National Secretary for Legal Affairs of the Party.

Hon. Advocate Mudenda has also served as a Member of Parliament for 10 years after Independence (1985-1990 and 1995-2000). He was unanimously elected as the Speaker of Parliament in 2013. In a resounding vote of confidence in his leadership, he was again re-elected Speaker of Parliament in 2018 up to date. Under his stewardship, the Parliament of Zimbabwe has spearheaded the alignment of Zimbabwe's laws to the new 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe. As Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Advocate Mudenda chairs the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders (CSRO) of Parliament, which is the administrative policy making body of the Parliament of Zimbabwe. He also chairs the Joint Business of the House Committee which is responsible for planning and scheduling the annual sitting calendar of Parliament.

WHY HON. ADVOCATE MUDENDA IS THE IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR THE IPU PRESIDENCY

- ❖ Hon. Advocate Mudenda is an unwavering champion of human rights, democracy, gender equality and the inclusion of youth in public affairs. As an avowed *HeforShe* champion, Speaker Mudenda has championed the establishment of a vibrant Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the Zimbabwe Parliament and at the SADC Parliamentary Forum. This is in addition to his ensuring that sixty (60) proportional representation female Parliamentarians, six from each of the ten (10) Provinces of Zimbabwe, are guaranteed a further ten (10) years of service in the National Assembly following the amendment of the national Constitution in 2022.
- ❖ Hon. Advocate Mudenda was one of the first political Heads of Parliament to sign up for the ***"Say Yes to Youth in Parliament"*** IPU campaign. He has also deliberately included a young Parliamentarian in the Speaker's Panel as one of the Presiding Officers in the National Assembly of Zimbabwe. Furthermore, Hon. Speaker Mudenda has advocated for the inauguration of the Youth Parliamentary Caucus as a way of engaging young Parliamentarians in Parliamentary processes. Guided by the Head of State and Government, President Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa and under the Speakership of Hon. Mudenda, the Parliament of Zimbabwe amended the National Constitution to provide for 10 young Parliamentarians to represent youth interests in the National Assembly.

- ❖ He is a meritorious candidate with profound knowledge of the strategic thrust of the IPU having actively participated in the IPU Executive Committee in crafting the IPU's Strategic Plan.
- ❖ Hon. Speaker Mudenda has demonstrated consistent commitment to the objectives of the IPU over the past 10 years both as an ordinary member and a member of the IPU Executive Committee and a delegate to the IPU Governing Council where his legal experience has been a recognized asset. Relatedly, Speaker Mudenda chaired the Working Group set up by the IPU Executive Committee to craft Special Rules of Procedure to regulate the conduct of virtual sessions of the Assembly and Standing Committees, not only for the 142nd Assembly but also for possible future Assemblies to be held virtually. Resultantly, the IPU successfully convened virtual Governing Council meetings and Assemblies thus sustaining the work of the IPU during the unforeseen exigencies occasioned by the impact of COVID -19 pandemic.
- ❖ **CONSEQUENTLY, THE AFRICA GEOPOLITICAL GROUP HAS UNANIMOUSLY NOMINATED HON. ADVOCATE SPEAKER MUDENDA AS AFRICA'S SOLE CANDIDATE FOR THE COVETED 2023 CREMER-PASSY PRIZE AWARD BECAUSE HE HAS FULFILLED THE NOMINATION CRITERIA WHICH INCLUDES THE PROMOTION OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH POLITICAL DIALOGUE, COOPERATION AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTION WITH THE VIEW OF PROMOTING THE IPU'S OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE UNITED, PEACEFUL, SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE WORLD.**
- ❖ Unsurprisingly, Speaker Mudenda has always enjoyed the trust and confidence of his colleagues within the IPU family. This recognition will help him guarantee the equality and equity of all Geopolitical Groups by ensuring that their issues and concerns receive dispassionate attention by the IPU.

GIVEN THE ABOVE RICH EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND HIS UNANIMOUS NOMINATION AS A SOLE CANDIDATE FOR THE CREMER-PASSY COVETED PRIZE BY THE AFRICA GEOPOLITICAL GROUP, HON. ADVOCATE MUDENDA IS, THEREFORE, THE MOST ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE IPU PRESIDENCY FROM THE AFRICA GEOPOLITICAL GROUP.