

The Southern African Hub

Hosted by

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

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Background

✦ Regional uniqueness

- ✦ We share common practices in the way we conduct Parliamentary business – they are our people therefore we can listen to them
- ✦ We speak similar language and benchmarking with each other on best practices is cardinal
- ✦ There exists strong political will for parliaments to share common practices – this is reflected by initiatives such as ZIM/ZAM/BOT

Background (cont'd)

- ✦ **Disparity in ICT adoption (wide gap here)**
- ✦ **Constraints in resource envelope (mostly due to weak ICT governance to plan and mobilize resources)**
- ✦ **Lack of political will in some parliaments**
- ✦ **Lack of dedicated ICT staff to service Parliament (Parliament has unique business process that require dedicated staff)**
- ✦ **Lack of needed basic skill set in some parliaments**

Purpose

- ✧ **Knowledge sharing and collaboration**
 - ✧ **Project implementation – learning best practices from parliaments that have already implemented similar projects reducing project failure rate**
 - ✧ **Adoption of solutions that are already in use by other parliaments – avoid re-inventing of the wheel**
 - ✧ **Easy access to available pool of expertise that may lack in one parliament**

Purpose (cont'd)

- ✧ **Creation of a Pool of experts**
 - ✧ **To avoid costly approaches of hiring consultants who know nothing or little regarding parliamentary business process**
- ✧ **Parliamentary driven initiatives**
 - ✧ **Secures political buy-in considering the fact that its parliamentary driven and not initiatives imposed by external forces**

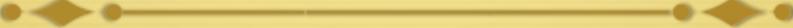
Purpose (cont'd)

- ✦ **Enable Hub members to work together towards sharing fundamental approach to design and implementation of parliamentary initiatives that aim at making parliaments more open, accountable and inclusive; and**
- ✦ **Enhanced communication and cooperation at regional level as well as global level**

How the Hub will function

- ✦ **Hub coordinator – Desk officer will be appointed**
- ✦ **Parliaments from the region or similar scale connected to the hub**
- ✦ **Take part in:**
 - ✦ **ICT related conversations.**
 - ✦ **Sharing of ICT related innovations, projects, business cases, Policies, Strategies as part of ToRs of ICT departments (show case your developments)**
 - ✦ **Video conferencing sessions between requesting parliaments and regional and global champions**

How the Hub will function



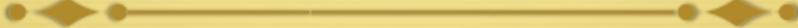
✦ Hub outputs:

- ✦ Number of contributions (from conversations, sharing, conferencing) to a hub knowledge base
- ✦ Number of parliaments that were serviced in their requests

✦ Hub access for:

- ✦ CIP
- ✦ All hub participants
- ✦ ICT champions and thought leaders from ICT advanced parliaments
- ✦ International development actors e.g. staff from UNDP, NDI, or EU funded projects at parliaments. Often these projects have ICT component, and they can learn about regional practices, and what worked / what not?

Why National Assembly of Zambia?



✦ Strengths

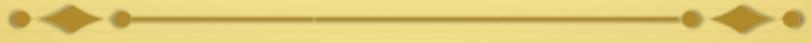
- ✦ We are willing to test the storms that come with blazing a new trail;
- ✦ We have and are building a very strong pool of experts that could be useful in helping other parliaments who are yet to build capacity; and
- ✦ We have management and political will to make the Hub a reality.

Why National Assembly of Zambia?

✦ Opportunity

- ✦ Support from H.E Mr. Edgar C. Lungu the President of Republic of Zambia, as demonstrated by the presence of senior government officials;
- ✦ We have strong political will and leadership. This can be demonstrated in the way we hosted the 134th IPU Conference held from 19th to 23rd March 2016 in Lusaka
- ✦ Support from Hon Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly (our involvement in supporting parliaments in ICT strategic planning)

Hub challenges and Risks



- ✦ Lack of permanent ICT staff in some parliaments. ICT staff are seconded to Parliaments by the government and these ICT personnel could be recalled any time and redeployed else where;
- ✦ Budgetary constraints and conditionalities in accessing funding. This is both from co-operating partners as well as government perspective
- ✦ Lack of recognition of ICT as critical business partner in parliamentary business. This perception is changing; and
- ✦ Lack of active involvement by member Parliaments.

How do we deal with Hub challenges?

- ✦ **Active involvement of Centre for Innovation in Parliaments (CIP) to sensitize the politician on the critical role ICT plays and the need to be involved in business decision making. A platform exists through bi-annual IPU conferences)**
- ✦ **Multilateral approach in resource mobilization to assist needy parliaments**
- ✦ **Sensitize politicians and government leadership on the need to have permanent ICT staff who can understand parliamentary business processes. ICT is no longer about fixing a computer or network but a critical business partner.**

Regional /
thematic hub

Regional /
thematic hub

Other
parliaments
(e.g. EP, ..., ..)

- CIP**
- Consolidate knowledge
 - Reach out for assistance

Development
actors e.g.
UNDP, EU, etc

**Zambia Regional
Hub**

- Directly assist parliaments
- Knowledge base
- Identify needs

Parliament

PMOs, dev.
actors on
the ground

Parliament

Parliament

Conclusion

The CIP and Hubs are a great initiative, which are expected to have resounding positive impact as they address or try and cure the mischief of resource divide in parliaments.

Thank you