

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES



FINANCE & PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (FPAC)

MISSION REPORT ON THE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION OF
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (SADCOPAC)
GOVERNANCE MEETING & TRAINING FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES
(PACs) AND TECHNICAL OFFICIALS SUPPORTING PACs
HELD IN
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
FROM 2ND TO 6TH APRIL 2023

ATTENDED BY:

Hon. Churchill Gill – Member of FPAC

Hon. Georges Romain – Member of FPAC

Ms. Alexandria Faure – Deputy Clerk (*Secretary to the Committee & SADCOPAC Desk Officer*)

The National Assembly delegation composed of the Members as listed below, submits its Report:

Hon. Churchill Gill
Member



Hon. Georges Romain
Member



Ms. Alexandria Faure
Deputy Clerk
SADCOPAC Desk Officer



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliament of Zambia hosted the Governing Council Meetings and Training for Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and technical officials supporting the PACs of the SADCOPAC. The Sessions were attended by a delegation from the National Assembly namely; *Hon. Churchill Gill, Hon. Georges Romain* and *Ms. Alexandria Faure*, Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly.

2. COURTESY CALLS (Monday 3rd April 2023)

Attended by Hon. Churchill Gill, Hon. Georges Romain & Ms. Alexandria Faure

2.1 COURTESY CALL ON THE 2nd DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The delegation attended a brief courtesy call on the 2nd Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Zambia, Hon. Moses F Moyo. The 2nd Deputy Speaker welcomed the Member States present to Zambia and further highlighted the important of the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) as crucial mechanisms of oversight on the spending and use of public resources.



Figure 1: A photo of the delegation with the 2nd Deputy Speaker at Parliament.

Further discussions took place on the functions and political system of governance of Zambia and the Parliament. The Deputy Secretary General of SADCOPAC, Hon. Brian Dube noted the importance of technical staff on the PACs and their functions to push legacies of Committees and their roles as guarantors of consistency and institutional memory. The Chairperson of SADCOPAC, Hon. Warren Chisha Mwambazi further mentioned the importance of the peer reviews that have taken place and the benchmarking within the organisation to further enhance the capacity of the respective PACS.

2.2 COURTESY CALL ON MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ZAMBIA (MISA ZAMBIA):

The delegation participated in a courtesy call on MISA Zambia, headed by the Director, Mr. Austin Kayanda. The director provided the delegation with an introduction to the functions and projects of MISA Zambia including the Radio Listeners Clubs which take place in the villages to further promote democratic participation and governance. Discussions surrounded the involvement of the organisation in media law development and the reviewing of laws that are not in tandem with modern democratic societies. This also includes the production of evidence-based publications on media landscapes and the promotion of using verification platforms.

In the discussions that took place with the delegations present and Mr Kayanda it was highlighted and agreed that the media play a crucial role in providing transparency and the visibility of the work of the PACs.



Figure 2: Meeting with MISA Zambia.

The preparation of the National Budget and MISA Zambia's role within that discussed, especially with enhancing the submissions from the public and to scrutinise how the submissions are reflected in the budget. The Members had an opportunity to address questions relating to the transparency of the media in Zambia, its relationship with the PAC and how the organisation is capacitated.

3. GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING & COURTESY CALLS (Tuesday 4th April 2023)

3.1 GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

Attended by Hon. Churchill Gill & Ms. Alexandria Faure

The Chairperson of the FPAC was represented by Hon. Churchill Gill in his capacity as a Member of the Committee and participated actively in the Governing Council Meeting.

The Chairperson of the SADCOPAC expressed the need to work together as a block in order to further develop the strength and capacity of the organisation. It was also highlighted that Seychelles had settled its arrears and it was confirmed that the Member State wishes to remain a Member of the SADCOPAC.

The Agenda in Annex One was adopted by the Council.

Points Raised by Hon. Churchill Gill in the Governing Council Meeting:

1. **Agenda Point 10 on Matters Arising:**

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2021/2022

The outstanding Membership fees of Seychelles and Angola were discussed.

It was minuted and put on record that Seychelles, as of 23rd February 2023 had managed to pay the 40,000 dollars arrears that were outstanding.

Hon. Gill highlighted the outstanding membership fees due by Angola and it was agreed that further follow ups would take place. Additionally, Hon Gill further stated that Seychelles remains a member of the SADCOPAC based on the questions addressed in respect of the letter which was sent back in 2019.

FUNDRAISING FOR SADCOPAC

Hon. Gill supported the initiatives of the organisation seeking diverse ways to raise funds and requested that a copy of the signed MOU with SADC PF be shared. He further reiterated the importance of the SADCOPAC ensuring it raises funds in order to ensure the organisation is fulfilling its mandate.

3.2 COURTESY CALL ON THE ZAMBIA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY (ZPPA)

The delegation participated in a courtesy call at The Zambia Public Procurement Authority, headed by the Director General Mrs. Idah Chella. The director general provided the delegation with an introduction to the functions and projects of ZPPA explaining that the Authority is charged with the responsibility of regulating public procurement. The other responsibilities are standard setting, planning, compliance and performance monitoring, professional development and information management and dissemination in public procurement.

3.3 COURTESY CALL ON THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ZAMBIA

The delegation participated in a courtesy call at the Office of the Auditor General of Zambia. The delegation was provided with an overview of the functions of the office and the role of the Auditor General in Zambia.

4. TWO-DAY PAC TRAINING (Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th April)

Attended by Hon. Churchill Gill, Hon. Georges Romain & Ms. Alexandria Faure

The delegation participated in the two-day training which comprised of presentations and topics such as the below:

- How the Parliament and PAC of Zambia Conduct its Business (*Parliament of Zambia*)
- The State of Extractive Industries Sector in SADC Economies (*AFROSAI-E*)
- Audit Extractive Industry Contracts: Role of SAIs in Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in the Extractive Industry (*Auditor General of Zimbabwe*)
- Transfer Pricing Regulations and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFS) (*Zambia Revenue Authority*)
- Enhancing Integrity and Reforms in Public Procurement (*Public Procurement Oversight Authority*)
- SAI/PAC Strategic Support and Cooperation (*Auditor General of Zambia Staff*)
- The Role of PACS in Climate Change (*Parliament of Botswana*)
- The Role of SAI and PACs in Public Debt Management (*Parliament of Mozambique*)
- Relationship between Parliament and the Law Enforcement Agencies of Zambia (*Agency in Zambia*)

- The Role of the SADC PF in the Public Financial Management Model Law (*SADC PF Secretary General, Mrs Boemo Sekgoma*)

Intervention of Seychelles on the Transfer Pricing & Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs):

Hon. Gill urged SADCOPAC to facilitate further capacity building to provide the Committees, Members and Support Staff with focused training on investigating and analysing Reports covering IFFs and transfer Pricing.

Intervention of Seychelles on the subject matter from the Auditor General’s Office of Zambia relating to the institution protecting its independence by not always investigating matters brought to it by the PAC: Hon. Gill made mention that the stakeholder relationship between the PAC and the National Auditor General is crucial in maintaining public financial management oversight. He further stated that the Auditor General should welcome requests from their PAC.

Intervention of Seychelles on the PAC of Zambia, that the Auditor General’s Report is presented to Parliament within 9 months. Hon. Georges Romain put a question forward on the sanctions and implications if this is not followed and it was confirmed that this has never happened.



4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The delegation considers and recognises the aims to revive and strengthen the organisation.

Following the successful mission and taking into account the critical oversight role that PACs undertake in their respective jurisdictions the delegation recommends the following;

1. That the SADCOPAC advocate for the best practices of the PACs and the involvement of the Opposition in the PACs of SADC to ensure the efficient oversight of the spending of public funds across the Member States. The Organisation should be a strong advocate for such parliamentary practices especially when a Member State is facing challenges with the functions of its PAC.

2. That the SADCOPAC implement serious measures to ensure Members States which have not honoured the payment of Membership fees do so expediently, to ensure the sustainability and development of the organisation.
3. That the Seychelles FPAC request further support and capacity building as a Member State of SADCOPAC.
4. That the Seychelles FPAC consider matters of Climate Change and implementation tracking mechanisms to further increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee.

ANNEXURE

Annex 1: Governing Council Meeting Agenda

	Agenda	Estimated time	Action
1.	Attendance	5 minutes	Secretariat
2.	Apologies	5 minutes	Secretariat
3.	Opening	5 minutes	Chairperson
4.	Adoption of the agenda	5 minutes	Chairperson
5.	Confirmation of the minutes of the Governing Council meeting held on 22 nd October 2022 in Gaborone, Botswana (annexure 1)	15 minutes	Chairperson
6.	Matters arising (annexure 2)	15 minutes	Secretary-General
7.	SADCOPAC Operational Budget for 2022/2023, document for unfunded activities due to budget constraints and Procurement plan (annexure 3a, 3b and 3c)	10 minutes	Treasurer
8.	Updates on SADCOPAC training for members of PACs / Similar Committees and Official supporting oversight committees (annexure 4)	15 minutes	Secretary-General
9.	Updates on the preparations for the 15 th SADCOPAC Annual Conference and 19 th Annual General Meeting to be held in Cape Town, South Africa - 2023 Theme and Sub themes (annexure 5)	10 minutes	Chairperson
10.	Host for the Annual Conferences and AGMs in 2024 - Zimbabwe, 2025 - Lesotho, 2026 - Kingdom of Eswatini, 2027 - Malawi, 2028 - Mauritius (annexure 6)	10 minutes	Chairperson
11.	Program for SADCOPAC activities - 2023/2024 (Annexure 7)	10 minutes	Secretary-General
12.	A.O.B	5 minutes	Chairperson
13.	Closing of the meeting	5 minutes	Chairperson
14.		02hrs:00mnts	