



**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
RESOLUTIONS OF THE 53rd PLENARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
HELD IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA BY THE PARLIAMENT OF
ZIMBABWE**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Parliament of Zimbabwe responses to the resolutions adopted during the 53rd Plenary Assembly of the SADC PF are guided by Section 119 of the Constitution which **“empowers Parliament to protect the Constitution by exercising oversight over all Government institutions and agencies at all levels”**.

1.2 From the onset, it is imperative to indicate that the 53rd Plenary Assembly Meetings held in Arusha, Tanzania, took place during Zimbabwe’s electoral season, hence not much decisive implementation strategies took place as the country then held its harmonised elections on the 23rd and 24th August 2023.

2.0 Report on the implementation of the Resolution on the Symposium on the Theme: **“Modernizing Agriculture to Address Food Insecurity and Youth Unemployment in the SADC Region: Role of the Parliaments”**.

1. Zimbabwe is now food secure with surplus maize harvest of 3, 5 million tonnes and 475 993 tonnes of wheat harvested in 2023.
2. Zimbabwe is implementing the climate proofed agriculture commonly known as ***Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme*** which supports over 1.6 million vulnerable households in maize, sunflower, small grains and soya beans production. *Pfumvudza/Intwasa* is a Zimbabwean two main vernacular languages’ term literally referring to the blooming of new leaves during the spring season signalling the beginning of a new farming season. *Pfumvudza /Intwasa* is unique for the minimum small size of plot 16 m × 39 m, which is enough to easily prepare, including mulching and the application of fertiliser in the same hole together with seed to avoid waste. The holes can now be

- dug using a hand motorised hole digger for speedy planting process.
3. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Development surpassed the training target of 1600 youths in the agricultural sector to enhance productivity and technical expertise employed by the same youths.
 4. A fully-fledged Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training has been created to cater for this critical demographic youth group.
 5. The same Ministry has crafted a National Youth Policy (2020 to 2025) to promote youth participation in the Zimbabwe mainstream economy, including agriculture.
 6. The Youth Empowerment Bank Limited established in 2018 has availed loans to 2425 youths to venture into agricultural value chain projects.
 7. The Junior Parliament programme provides an opportunity for young people in Zimbabwe to discuss matters affecting them as well as advocating for the rights of young people in Zimbabwe, including the right to access land.

3.0 *Recommendation (viii): Parliaments which have a responsibility of passing the national budgets, should ensure that the agriculture sector gets adequate budgetary allocation with the aim of improving agricultural productivity.*

The Zimbabwe 2023 National Budget has attempted to comply with the Malabo Protocol of ensuring that 10% of the Budget is allocated to the Agriculture Ministry.

4.0 Report on the implementation on the Resolutions on Adoption of a Motion on Debt Ceiling in SADC Members States: Recommendation (i) Urges member States to

strengthen their external oversight by establishing and implementing the following measures: (i) Independent Government Bodies like Public Debt Management Offices; (ensuring cooperation with government agencies and Debt-Servicing costs through the domestication of the Model Law on Public Finance Management. (ii) making use of the reports by the civil society organizations or think tanks.

In 2010, Zimbabwe established the Debt Management Office which is under the Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion for the purpose of effective debt management in order to comply with SADC debt-to-GDP ratio of no greater than 60% for all Member States. The Public Debt Management Act [Chapter 22:21] (Act 4 of 2015) is the legal framework of the debt management policy. Debt management in Zimbabwe is undergirded by Parliament. The Zimbabwe Anti –Corruption Commission and the Auditor- General’s Office also bolster the effectiveness of public debt management strategies by thoroughly scrutinising the national Budget expenditure regime. To bolster the implementation of the provisions of the Public Debt Office, Parliament is amending the Public Finance management Act to incorporate the provisions of the Model Law on Public Financial Management thereby strengthening the effectiveness of the Debt Management Office.

5.0 *Recommendation (vii) implores resources rich countries to leverage on God-given resources to support public expenditure, rather than resort to borrowing. This is very evident in the case of Botswana, for instance, which has leveraged on its diamonds.*

Zimbabwe has adopted the policy on value addition and beneficiation of its mineral resources thereby resulting in downstream mining industries. The recent 2024 Pre- Budget

Seminar hosted by Parliament of Zimbabwe implored Government to accelerate the implementation of the value addition and beneficiation policies in the mining and agricultural sectors.

6.0 Report on the Implementation of the Resolutions on: “What Can Parliamentarians do towards a Rights Based Approach to the Conduct of Business within the Natural Resources Sector in the SADC region”

Recommendation (i) reaffirms the centrality of Parliamentarians in advancing the concept of business and human rights in the extractive sector in Southern Africa, to ensure that TNCs comply with the human rights and environmental laws and that remedies are available and accessible to citizens and communities in case of violations.

Parliament of Zimbabwe has a new Thematic Committee on Climate Change to specifically conduct oversight on Government policies, among other areas, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programmes being undertaken by the Government. Parliament will soon consider the Climate Change Bill which seeks to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate low carbon development technologies, including strengthening appropriate institutions and funding mechanisms by working together with the Select Committee on Climate Change. These two Committees are advocating for the enactment of the Climate Change Bill into law as supported by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA) in the same endeavour. Furthermore, the Parliament of Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) in 2020 in an effort to capacitate

Parliamentarians and staff in order to achieve robust oversight on environmental protection, climate change impact and how to engage communities in the protect the environment.

Additionally, a delegation of Members of Parliament attended COP 27, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. This year, Parliament of Zimbabwe will be represented at COP 28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in order to benchmark on how the Zimbabwe Parliament can consummate the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

7.0 *Resolution on the Leveraging Social Media to Advance Women's Political Participation in the SADC Region. Recommendation (ii) prompts SADC Member Parliaments to streamline Parliamentary programmes to allow for ICT inclusiveness and an enhanced engagement by Women MPs, especially on fast-evolving issues such as social media.*

Recently, the Hon. Speaker led a delegation to the Second World Summit of the Committees of the Future which was held under the overarching theme- **“Bringing The Future To The Present: The Democracy of the Future, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Parliaments”**. Participating Parliamentarians recognized the fundamental importance of incorporating the application of the Artificial Intelligence in Parliamentary processes vis-à-vis e- governance which is now prevalent in several developed States. Accordingly, Parliament of Zimbabwe will establish a “Committee of the Future” to ensure the application of e-governance whilst at the same time curtailing the negative effects of Artificial Intelligence application through the enactment of a sound legal framework.

I submit, Mr. President