SPEECH BY
THE RT HON JUSTICE DR PATRICK MATIBINI,
SC, MCIArb, MP, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
POST ELECTION SEMINAR FOR MEMBERS OF THE
TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AT PARLIAMENT
BUILDINGS, ON 12TH NOVEMBER, 2016
Her Honour the Vice-President and Leader of Government Business in the House, Mrs Inonge Mutukwa Wina, MP; The First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Catherine Namugala MP; Honourable Cabinet and Provincial Ministers present; The Leader of Opposition; Honourable Members of Parliament; The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary General (CPA), Mr Akbar Khan; Representatives of Cooperating Partners; Distinguished Resource Persons; Mr Michael Tatham, Clerk, Legislative Assembly Northern Territory, Australia The Clerk of the National Assembly; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour for me to address you on the occasion of the official opening of the Post Election Seminar for Members of Parliament of the Twelfth National Assembly. I warmly welcome you Honourable Members, all the dignitaries including our distinguished resource persons, some of whom have travelled long distances to Lusaka. I trust that your stay here will be both
pleasant and productive as we learn and exchange views and experiences.

As the Clerk mentioned in her opening remarks, the Seminar has been organised by the National Assembly with the support of the CPA and Cooperating Partners. The Post Election Seminar offers Members an opportunity to learn parliamentary practice, procedure and etiquette. Furthermore, the Seminar aims at augmenting and enhancing parliamentary literature issued to Members of Parliament because it provides them with an opportunity to interact with resource persons and experts in parliamentary issues.

Honourable Members
I note from the Seminar programme that you will cover interesting and challenging topics, among which include the following:

1. Rights, immunities, privileges and responsibilities of members of Parliament.
2. The budget approval process and the budget office.
3. Ethics, governance and professional values for Members of Parliament.
5. Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): the role of Members of Parliament in facilitating development.

6. The role of Members of Parliament in accelerating the SDGs towards the realisation of universal health coverage in the SADC region.

7. The Public Accounts Committee and the role of the Auditor-General in parliamentary oversight.


9. The Development of the Commonwealth and the role of the CPA.


12. Parliamentary committees.

13. The role of constituency offices in enhancing citizen’s participation in governance.


Honourable Members
Considering these topics that I have just outlined, which were carefully chosen, you will agree with me that this seminar is very important because the knowledge you will gain will contribute immensely to your professional development. It is also my hope
that at the end of the seminar, your understanding of parliamentary practice and procedure and your roles as Members of Parliament as well as the CPA to which our Parliament is a member, will be enhanced.

Honourable Members

The National Assembly with the assistance of the CPA has constituted a team of experts to walk you through the programme of this Seminar. I, therefore, urge you to take maximum advantage of their presence, and expertise in order to engage them and exchange views on various aspects of your parliamentary work.

As I conclude, may I take this opportunity to thank the CPA and all the resource persons for being available and in ensuring that a comprehensive programme is designed. Let me also take this opportunity to thank our cooperating partners, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Irish Aid for their continued financial support, without which the programme would not be a success.

You may wish to note that UNDP and Irish Aid are part of the consortium of cooperating partners that have been supporting the
implementation of parliamentary reforms here at the National Assembly. Their support to this Seminar will go a long way in building the capacity of Members of Parliament to effectively perform their functions.

It is now my honour and privilege to declare this Seminar officially opened.

I thank you.