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## PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION SERVICES:

# THE ROLE OF THE LIBRARY AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS IN THE ZAMBIAN PARLIAMENT IN HELPING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT MAKE BETTER LAWS



**TO BE PRESENTED BY:**

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**29<sup>TH</sup> IFLA PRE-CONFERENCE, SINGAPORE, 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013**





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# PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS





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# Overview

- This paper gives an overview of the Role of the Library and Research Departments in providing information and research services to help Members of Parliament make better laws.





# The Library Department

## Background

- The Library department was established in 1953.
- Provide up-to-date information on all aspects of Zambian political, social, economic and developmental areas.
- Parliamentary papers include Debates, Bills and Acts of Parliament, budget speeches, Annual reports of government ministries, Roll of Honour and departments and papers laid on the table.



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# Helping Members of Parliament make better laws

Measures put in place to ensure that decision making process is based on factual and up to date information:

- Indexes and Abstracts
- Databases
- Training for members of staff
- Digitisation
- Capacity building programmes for MPs





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# Participation at international conferences

- Member of the Zambia Library Association),
- Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Eastern, and Southern Africa (APLESA).
- By participating at international level such as IFLA and INASP, our understanding of library services is expanded from the small environment of our libraries to a global view of best practices.



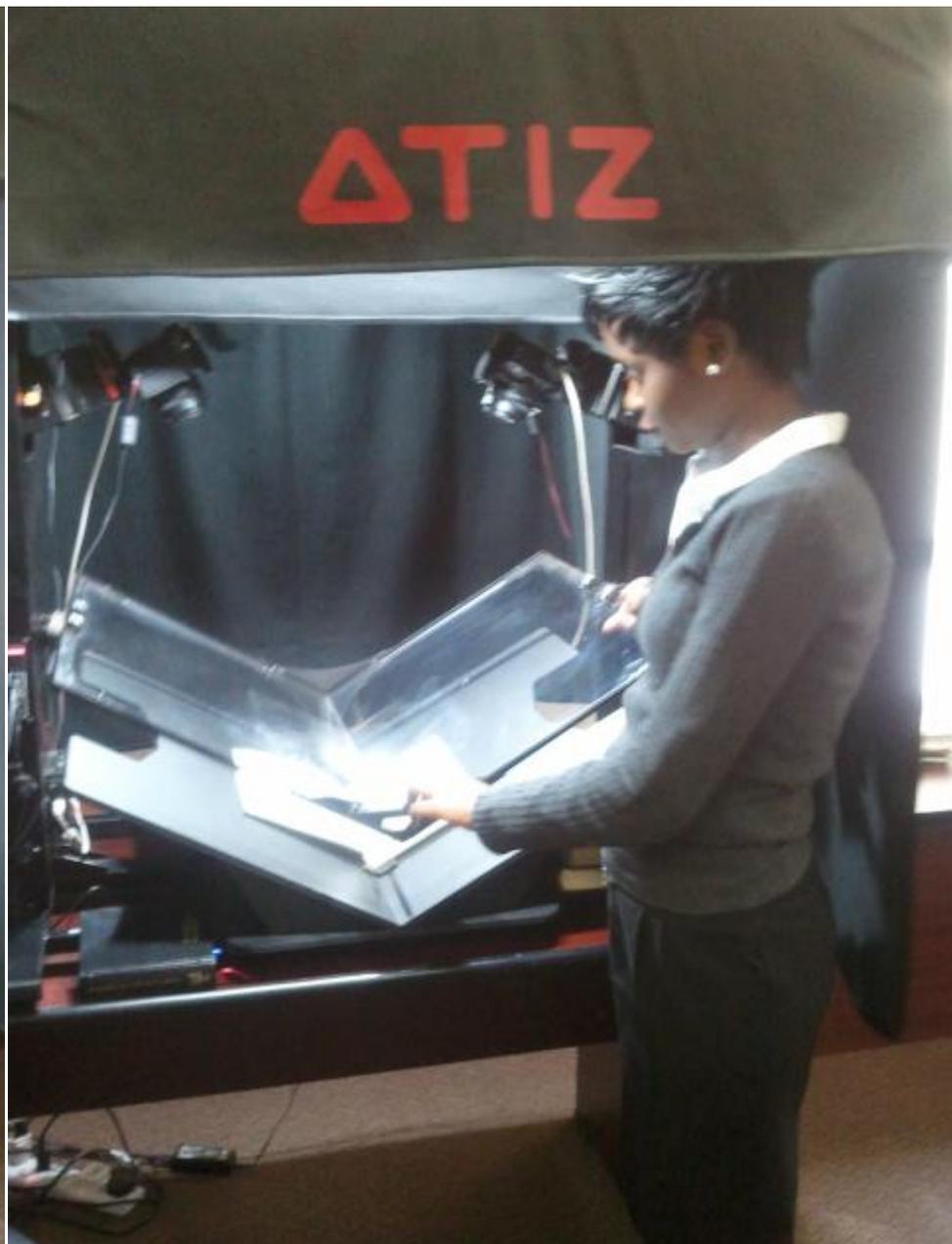
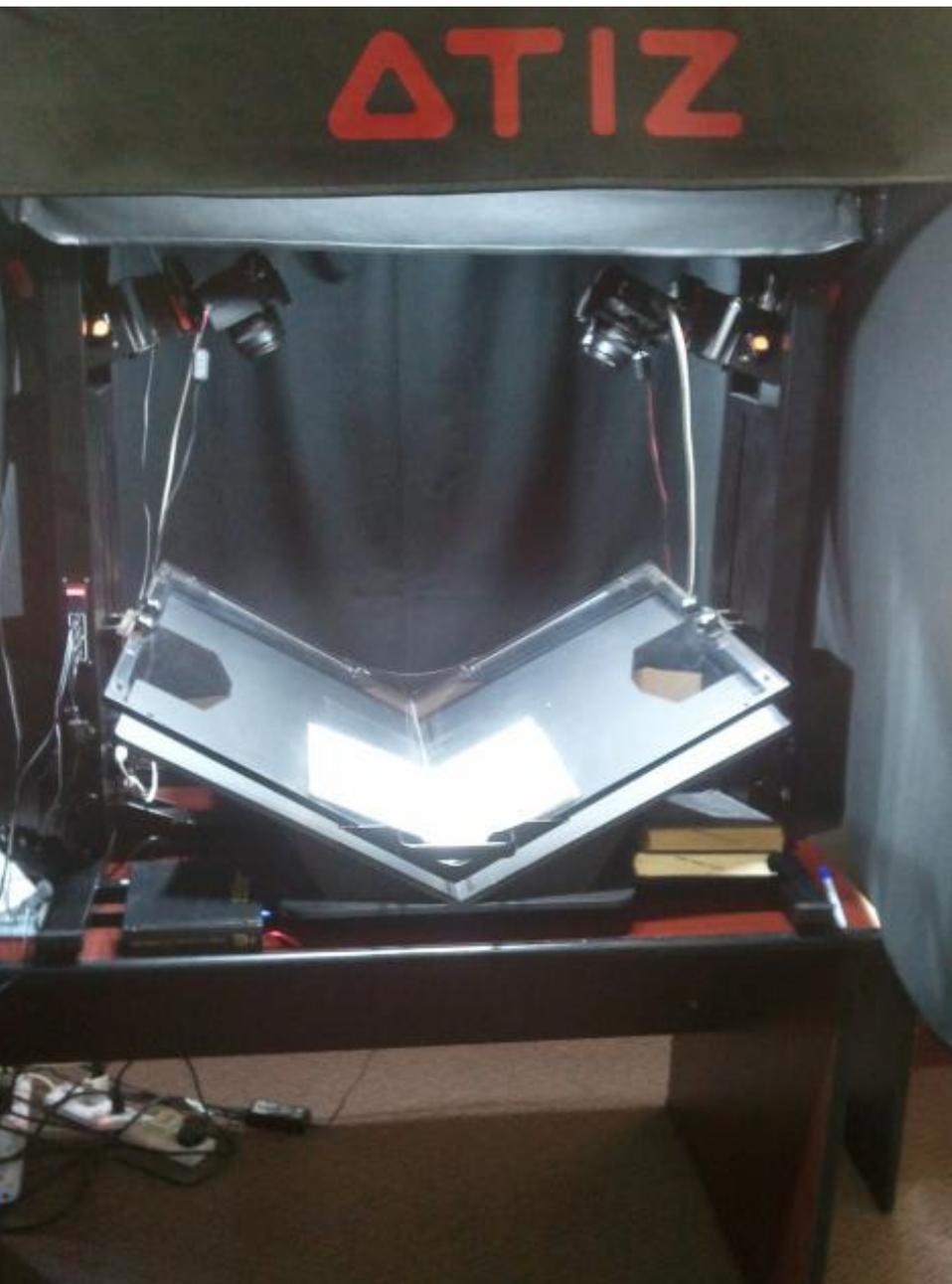


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# Cooperation with other departments

- The constituency office Library project





- Constitution and Laws
- Office of the Clerk
- National Assembly
- Tenders
- Links
- Search
- Contact Us
- Usage policy
- Vacancies
- First Draft Constitution 2012

## Speakers/Presiding Officer

- SADC Region
- Africa
- CPA International
- CPA Africa Region

## Related Links

- SADC-PF
- CPA Africa Region
- IPU
- SADCOPAC

[Read more...](#)**[Communique 31st Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Maputo.](#)**

Tuesday, 24 July 2012

Communique 31st Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Maputo, Mozambique 08th -16th, July 2012. [Read more.](#)

**[IPU Welcomes Release of Speaker of Palestinian Legislative Council](#)**

Friday, 20 July 2012

Geneva, 20 July 2012 – The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has greatly welcomed the release of the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) Aziz Dweik by Israel yesterday (19/7) after six months in administrative detention.

[Read more...](#)

ORDER PAPER

SPEECHES

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**[IPU Commits to Further Assisting Maldives to Help Resolve Political Crisis](#)**

Tuesday, 24 July 2012

Tuesday 24 July 2012: IPU Secretary General Anders B. Johnsson has reiterated support to the divided Maldives parliament at a meeting with a cross-party delegation from the Asian country in an effort to help resolve the political crisis there.

[Read more...](#)**[Meeting with Russian Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives in international organisations](#)**

Wednesday, 18 July 2012

July 9, 2012, 14:30 Moscow: Vladimir Putin addressed a meeting of Russian ambassadors and permanent representatives. The theme of the meeting was Russia in a Changing World: Stable Priorities and New Opportunities. The President outlined in his speech Russia's main foreign policy priorities and clarified the tasks Russian diplomats will have over the coming period, taking into account the current international agenda and the processes underway in Russia itself.

[Read more...](#)

## Publications

- Debates & Proceedings
- Bills Before Parliament
- Order paper
- Acts of Parliament
- Abstracts on Procedure
- IPU News
- IPU E-Bulletin
- Library e-Resources
- Ministerial Statements
- e-Newsletter
- Bills Reports
- Library Databases
- Standing Orders

## Parliamentary Reforms

- About the Reforms
- Reforms

## Events Calendar

July 2012

S M T W T F S



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# The Research, Public & International Relations Department

## Background

- Officially established on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1971;
- Staff drawn from various fields;
- Provide Members of Parliament with readily processed and factual information to enable them carry out their duties effectively; and
- Provide MPs with oral or written information on matters or subjects that come before the House.





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# Main Responsibilities

- To prepare background papers;
- To provide research services to parliamentary committees;
- To carry out anticipatory research on topical issues;
- To broadcast live parliamentary debates & committee proceedings on Parliament Radio; and
- To provide research services and act as Secretariat to parliamentary caucuses



# Legislative Oversight

The contribution of the research department in the legislative process is through the mechanisms and tools of oversight available in the National Assembly.

These include:

- Parliamentary committees;
- Questions to Ministers and Vice-President  
Question Time;
- Motions;
- Public hearings; and
- Budget oversight



# Conclusion

Although Parliaments differ in their form and practice to suit their countries' political system, they have one aim in common, namely; to make Parliaments as effective as possible in order to meet the demands of the people who they represent. Thus, Parliaments worldwide play a vital role in the governance of their countries through their core functions of representation, legislation and oversight. Through their oversight functions, Parliaments ensure a balance of power, transparency and openness of Executive activities



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# THE CHAMBER





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THANK YOU

