

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH, 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
REFINEMENT OF THE REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION
GIVEN BY THE
THE HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MR LUBINDA

Mr Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to update the House and through it the nation on the process of the refinement of the Republican Constitution. His Excellency the President of Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, assented to the Constitution of Zambia Act, 2016 and Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act, 2016 on 5th January, 2016. The Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act, 2016 amended the provisions of the Constitution, except for Part III and Article 79 of the Constitution of Zambia Chapter 1. The amendment to the Constitution has led to the enactment of several consequential pieces of legislation to bring the laws in conformity with the new provisions of the Constitution.

Sir, allow me to repeat that because earlier today a statement was made concerning this matter. For the purpose of clarity for the people in the House and outside, the amendment to the Constitution has led to the enactment of several consequential pieces of legislation to bring the laws in conformity with the new provisions of the Constitution.

Mr Speaker, on 27th October, 2016, I made a ministerial statement to this august House following the outcome of the referendum on the question of the enhancement of the Bill of Rights and the proposed way forward. Following that event, a Motion to amend some provisions of the Constitution following the inconsistencies identified in the Constitution was presented before Parliament by a private hon. Member of this House on 9th November, 2016 and Motion was accordingly successful. The Ministry of Justice, as a consequence of that, has been taking specific steps to ensure that the resolution of this House is carried out. I now wish to provide an update on the status of the amendment to the Constitution thus far and the various steps remaining to be undertaken in the process.