



This project is funded by the European Union

## Supporting the National Assembly of Zambia

Zambia’s economy has slowed down significantly since 2015–2016, exacerbated by economic shocks, unprecedented debt distress, the COVID-19 pandemic, deficiencies in revenue collection, unsustainable public spending, and budget deficits. This has resulted in an unfavourable fiscal situation and mounting public sector financial challenges.

In order to facilitate the successful implementation of its strategic economic development initiatives and programmes, the Government has prioritised the need to further strengthen economic and public financial management (PFM) capacities. The focus of this effort is towards enhancing transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the management of public resources in order to ensure efficient mobilisation and prudent utilisation of public resources.



Figure 1 President of the Republic of Zambia, H.E Mr Hakainde Hichilema 2nd from right; poses for a photo with Her Honour, the Vice President, Mrs W.K Mutale Nalumango, MP (2nd from the left); the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Ms Nelly B.K Mutti, MP (to the right of the President); 1st D/Speaker, Hon. Malungo Attractor Chisangano, MP (far left); and the 2nd D/Speaker, Hon. Moses Moyo, MP (far right) after the approbation of the Presiding officers at State House, Lusaka on Friday, 3rd Sept, 2021.

The “Support to the National Assembly of Zambia, phase II (NAZ II)” project forms part of the Effectiveness and Transparency in Management of Public Resources (EFFECT) programme, which is funded by the European Union (EU) under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF).

### NAZ II expected results

1. Improved capacity for legislative scrutiny of the national budget.
2. Improved quality of analytical policy briefs on the budget by the Parliamentary  
  
Improved quality of Committees’ recommendations on the budgets.
3. Enhanced gender-responsive budget analysis.
4. Improve citizen awareness of the role of Parliament and MPs, and enhanced public participation in Parliamentary activities

### NAZ II overall objective

Improve the accountability, transparency and effectiveness in the management of public resources

### Project purpose

Enhance parliamentary budgetary oversight function and public awareness of parliamentary activities and policy debates



Left to right: Mr Alex Chikwese, Advisor - Governance, NAO, Maja Bosnic, NAZ II Project Director, Ms Chasiya V. Kazembe, Coordinator & Deputy Authorising Officer of the EDF, Jimmy Daka, NIRAS Project Manager

10 October 2021, at the NAO Office in Lusaka, Zambia.

NIRAS’ expert Mr Ballard Zulu presenting to the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources on the Review of the Farmer Input Support Programme objectives.

18 January 2022



## Project Result Areas

<p><b>Result 1: Improved capacity for legislative scrutiny of the national budget</b></p>	<p><b>Key Activities for Result 1</b></p>
<p>The pragmatic approach to achieving this result will be the delivery of a blended set of activities that are firmly rooted in practical advice and solutions designed to ensure that approved budgets accurately and clearly reflect stated Government policy. This strategy will ensure that scarce public funds are applied to activities that will add value to the socio-economic well-being of the Zambian citizens, women and men.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the annual national budget proposals and of the Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF)</li> <li>• Review of the Auditor General's reports and other special reports.</li> <li>• Capacity building of Committees members on PFM functions.</li> <li>• Peer to Peer Learning with European Parliaments</li> </ul>
<p><b>Result 2: The quality of analysis of the budget by the Parliamentary Budget Office and the technical Committees, and its execution is improved.</b></p>	<p><b>Key Activities for Result 2</b></p>
<p>The scope for budget analysis is limitless. Therefore, it is essential that the reason (s)/ purpose/expected outcomes for the analysis are established in advance otherwise we have a risk that time is wasted producing analysis that adds limited value. Similarly, when analysis is done on actual budget implementation, this must be preceded by unambiguous criteria justifying the purpose of the analysis. The PBO is a recent innovation and should be the primary source of budget analysis. To achieve this result significant assistance will be directed to this Office to improve the quality of budget analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of sector budgets.</li> <li>• Training for PBO staff in macro-economic analysis and revenue analysis</li> <li>• Capacity building for PBO staff and Committee Clerks on budget and expenditure analysis.</li> <li>• Capacity Building on public debt management, fiscal decentralization, and analysis of periodical reports, such as annual reports, national development plans and audit reports, and policy and bills costing analysis.</li> <li>• Revision of the PFM Handbook</li> <li>• Production of the selected manuals</li> <li>• Administrative support to project implementation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Result 3: Enhanced gender-responsive budget analysis.</b></p>	<p><b>Key Activities for Result 3</b></p>
<p>Gender responsive aspects are increasingly being incorporated into the PFM processes. It is with this understanding that gender responsive budgeting ensures that needs of different group of women and men in all their diversity is considered in budgetary decision making. This process requires that analysis of budget priorities is done with a gender lens, leveraging on the National Gender Policy from 2014 and the Gender Equity and Equality Act No 22 of 2015. They both call for a GRB and include reference to the MoF, that shall ensure that all sector plans and budgets (and utilization) comply with Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting principles supporting gender mainstreaming at all governmental levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training in gender budgeting</li> <li>• Conduct gender-based budget analysis</li> <li>• Gender-responsive reporting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Result 4: Citizens' awareness of parliamentary activities and policy debates is enhanced.</b></p>	<p><b>Key Activities for Result 4</b></p>
<p>The key to improving awareness is the development of trust between the policy makers and the citizens. The NAZ needs to embrace openness, equality and respect when dealing with individual citizens and wider civil society. To achieve this result, tried and tested practical modes of communication will be used, leveraging also on the strategic efforts NAZ has made to have Parliament more accessible and open to the public and civil society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen awareness raising and public participation</li> <li>• Media engagement</li> </ul>  <p><i>Representatives of the EU Diplomatic Corps pose for a photo with the Speaker of the National Assembly at the front of the Committee Buildings</i></p>