World e-Parliament Conference 2014

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Capturing and Publishing Parliamentary Records

National Assembly of Zambia
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Introduction

• Parliament generates a lot of content from it’s various sittings in line with it’s legislative, oversight and representative mandate.

• ICT becomes a critical part of the legislative process, because not only does ICT facilitate the processes but also enhances information capturing, storage and dissemination.
Types of Information Captured

- Parliamentary Debates
- Committee Proceedings
- Plenary Attendance Register
- Plenary Voting
- Bills and Acts
- Ministerial Statements
- Speeches made on the Floor of the House
Reasons for Capturing, and Publishing

- To make national legislative information freely available to the public
  (Taking Parliament closer to the people)
- When captured in certain formats it can be retained for much longer periods of time and in a most cost effective manner which mitigates environmental pollution.
How information is captured and published

- Using the Annotator (FTR – For the Record), speaker-attached and time-stamped audio recording of the chamber and committee proceedings are captured.
- The information captured is then synchronized with a server, which is accessible to transcriptionists from the comfort of their offices.
Continued…

• Using the Annotator (FTR), transcribers generate verbatim report of the proceedings of the House.

• Using the DCN (Digital Congress Network) system we are able to run an electronic register for the members of parliament using identity cards.

• Snapshot of results on next slide
### Present list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>RUFUNSA</td>
<td>0074</td>
<td>15:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHITOTELA</td>
<td>PAMBASHE</td>
<td>0058</td>
<td>15:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>MUMBWA</td>
<td>0010</td>
<td>15:13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>LUENA</td>
<td>0142</td>
<td>15:19</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MWANDI</td>
<td>0149</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CHADIZA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CHEMBE</td>
<td>0060</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBULU</td>
<td>KALULUSHI</td>
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<td>MONDE</td>
<td>ITEZHI-TEZHI</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUCHELEKA</td>
<td>LUBANSENSHI</td>
<td>0093</td>
<td>15:19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The DCN system is also used to perform electronic voting. The results are displayed on the screens in the chamber for all members to see.
• The snapshots on the next slides...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Abst.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Totals:**

- Yes: 26 (78.79%)
- No: 3 (9.09%)
- Abst: 4 (12.12%)

Are we ready for the sitting

4/30/2014

15:34
The DCN feeds into Parliament Radio transmission system to enable the live coverage of proceedings by either the Plenary Assembly or Committee sitting.

Parliament Radio broadcasts to the rest of the country.

The studio enables us stream radio transmissions online. The streamer can be accessed from the parliamentary website.
Continued…

• Using the website, we publish most of the content that is generated by parliament, including and not limited to the ones below:
  – Transcripts of parliamentary debates proceedings
  – Committee reports
  – Order Paper (Agenda)
Continued…

– Bills and Acts of Parliament
– Ministerial Statements
– MPs’ parliamentary contributions
  • Points of Order and Rulings
  • Questions for Oral and Written Answers
  • Supplementary Questions
  • Vice President’s questions time
– Audio streaming link for Parliament Radio
Continued...

• Digitization of literature by the parliamentary library
• Old debates and proceedings are being digitized
  – Easy storage and retrieval
  – Easy access to information by stakeholders
Results

• A more informed and involved society
• With live radio broadcast and streaming of the proceedings of Parliament and Committee sittings, more people have been reached.
• And the people’s interest in national legislative matters has increased tremendously.
Challenges

• DCN and FTR systems are running on Windows XP, which requires more resources to support compared to the newer versions of the Operating System. We are currently exploring the possibility of running the systems on Windows 7.
Continued...

- Publishing of highly searchable content on the website has not been easy too. For this reason we are developing a new website whose content is easily searchable.
Thank you!!!!