



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT AND ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT

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Committee on Youth, Sport and Child Development Matters: Drug and Substance Abuse among the Youth in Zambia

Scope of the Paper

1.0 Background

2.0 Drug and Substance Abuse among the Youth in Zambia;

3.0 Ascertain the adequacy of the policy and legal framework supporting programmes against drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia;

4.0 Appreciate the measures that the Government has put in place to address drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia;

5.0 Appreciate the role of the state and non-state actors in combating drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia;

6.0 Ascertain the challenges if any faced in combating drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia;

7.0 Make recommendations on the way forward in addressing the vice of drug Background.

1.0 Background

Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. One of the key impacts of illicit drug use on society is the negative health consequences experienced by its members. Drug use also puts a heavy financial burden on individuals, families and society. Substance abuse is typically defined as a pattern of harmful use of any substance for mood-altering purposes. Substances can include alcohol, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, illegal drugs, inhalants and solvents, nicotine, and even other caffeine dominant substances.

2.0 Drug and Substance Abuse among the Youth in Zambia

Zambia is among the top nations with people especially youths abusing drugs. According to Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) report. According to Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) a total of 271 juveniles aged between 10 to 17 years were arrested of which 254 were male and 17 were female. The total number of juveniles in 2016 represented 2.3 per cent increase from the 265 arrested in 2015. DEC added that in terms of arrests by provinces, the highest share of arrests in the year 2016 were made in Lusaka Province with 1110 arrests. Lusaka was followed by Luapula Province with 996, Copperbelt (900), Southern (547), Central (484), Eastern (459), North-western (435), Northern (332), and Muchinga Province with 328. Western Province had the least arrests with 310. Out of the 5901 people arrested, 2600 people were convicted from 5002 cases while 2767 cases were pending in the Courts of Law.

In terms of drug seizures, the Commission seized 59.09 tonnes of cannabis which represents a reduction of 55.3 per cent compared to 132.1tonnes recorded in 2015. Other drugs seized included 304.01kg of Miraa, 26.18Kg of Cocaine, 23.46Kg of Pseudoephedrine, 3.57Kg of Hashish cake, 476.96g of Heroin, 447.3g of raw opium, 110.80g of Diazepam (Valium), 50g of Lignocaine, 9.28g of Diphenhydramine and 1.2g of Lidocaine. This just shows a wide range of drugs and substances to which the youth are exposed to.

Further, DEC highlighted that the Commission through its Education and Counselling Department (ECD) sensitised a total number of Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Seven (320,577) people through the workplace, community

and institutions of learning programmes representing a 0.5 per cent increase from 2015 in which 319,091 people were sensitized. Under the Counselling and Rehabilitation programme, a total of 610 clients were counselled in 2016 as compared to 415 in 2015. This indicates an increase of 47 per cent. Out of the 610 clients, 22 were referred to psychiatric units of the various hospitals countrywide for treatment. The common substances of abuse were Cannabis followed by Alcohol, Heroin, Cocaine, Codeine (in Cough Syrups), Tobacco and Diazepam (Valium).

3.0 Ascertain the adequacy of the policy and legal framework supporting programmes against drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia:

Currently the country through interventions under the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts of preventing drug and substance abuse are undertaken under the programme called Anti-Doping. Anti-Doping is a fight towards elimination of Doping (use of enhancing substances). The programme is adequately highlighted in the National Sport Policy where doping is pointed out as a vice that is danger to the health of the athletes and a compromise to sport integrity. The policy calls for collective collaborative interventions from all stakeholder that includes line Ministries such Ministry of Health, Ministry Home Affairs and Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare.

In this endeavor the Ministry also collaborates in implementing international policies with international organizations in fighting doping in sport. The Ministry implements the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport and the World Anti-Doping (WADA) Code. Zambia signed the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport in 2008.

4.0 Appreciate the measures that the Government has put in place to address drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia:

Under the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts, the Government through the Ministry has continued implementing measures aimed at addressing drug and substance abuse among the youth in the country. The Government in collaboration with the National Olympics Committee of Zambia (NOCZ), National Sport Council of Zambia (NSCZ), Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) and other institutions has established an Interim National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) which spearheads programmes and activities aimed at eliminating doping in sport. The Interim NADO undertakes

education and sensitizations programmes and activities using the International Standard Education (ISE) among athletes and athlete support personnel. This is done through the trained Anti-Doping Education Officers (ADEO). Additionally, the government undertakes In-Competition and Out-Of-Competition testing among athletes to ensure athletes play true.

The Ministry is also in the process of developing an Anti-Doping piece of legislation that will guide the establishment of an independent NADO as guided under the UNESCO Convention Against Doping in Sport and the WADA Code. Currently the Ministry has a zero draft of the Anti-Doping piece of legislation which was developed with the support of the UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport.

5.0 Appreciate the role of the state and non-state actors in combating drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia:

As highlighted above, the state has continued collaborating with non-state actors in an endeavor to fight drug abuse and substance use in the country both locally and internationally.

6.0 Ascertain the challenges if any faced in combating drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia:

The work of fighting drug and substance abuse is enormous and demands consented and collaborative effort from diverse stakeholders. Currently, there are few stakeholders in the fight and there is need to do more collectively. To this end, there are challenges in the work of fighting drug and substance abuse in the country especially among the youth.

Salient among the challenges are:

- 6.1 Inadequate budgetary allocation by stakeholders to the drug and substance abuse programmes and activities including anti-doping;
- 6.2 Inadequate information on the dangers of drug and substance abuse among the youth in the country; and
- 6.3 Lack of elaborate synergies among state and non-state stakeholders in the work of fighting drug and substance abuse in the country especially among the youth.

7.0 Make recommendations on the way forward in addressing the vice of drug and substance abuse among the youth in Zambia:

Considering that the fact the issue of drug and substance abuse especially among the youth in the country is not only a danger to our society but a threat to the future of this nation, there is great need to amplify the work of fighting drug and substance abuse by:

- 7.1 lobbying stakeholders to increase budgetary allocations to the drug and substance abuse programmes and activities including anti-doping;
- 7.2 intensifying information sharing using different platforms including social media on the dangers of drug and substance abuse among the youth in the country; and
- 7.3 re-defining and amplify synergies among state and non-state stakeholders in the work if fighting drug and substance abuse in the country especially among the youth.