



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

Written Parliamentary Question

Subject: The position of the government on the 2012 'Doing Business' Report

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The annual Doing Business Report prepared by the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank measures and tracks changes in the regulations applying to domestic companies in 183 economies. The objective of the report is to encourage simple and efficient regulations designed to facilitate the establishment and operations of businesses.

The 2012 Report, 'Doing Business in a More Transparent World', highlights the need for regulations that are accessible and transparent to business, and which safeguard important aspects of the business environment while avoiding unnecessary costs to companies. This latest Report uses for the first time 'getting an electricity connection' as an indicator of doing business.

Many governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have made substantial reforms to the regulation governing their private sector and have achieved substantial advances in their business environment to attract new investment. Rwanda, Cape Verde, and Zambia are often cited as best case scenarios and should be taken as an example for reforms.

My questions are:

"What regulatory measures have been undertaken to improve this country's ranking since the last Doing Business Report? What are the measures taken by the government in the last few years to overcome the various shortcomings identified in the previous reports?"

"More and more economies are focusing their reform efforts on strengthening legal institutions such as courts and insolvency regimes and enhancing legal protections of investors and property rights. Has this government undertaken such reforms and what are they?"

"New data shows the importance of access to regulatory information such as fee schedules, documentation requirements and information relating to commercial cases and insolvency proceedings. What measures have been taken by this government to facilitate access to regulatory information?"

"Which measures is the government going to adopt to improve the overall investment climate in our country for the coming years, particularly in terms of governance, business development and operations? Do these measures fit into the framework of a partnership with international financial institutions?"

"Considering the importance the report gives to access to electricity, what investments have been allocated for strengthening local infrastructure to facilitate electricity connections?"