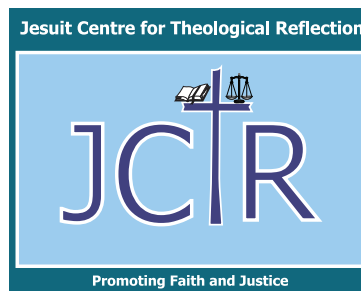


I have the right to participate

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that, state parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

This means that children must be given an opportunity to be heard and taken seriously .

All children are capable of expressing their views and they have the right to freedom and participation.



With the support from



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Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection

The National Budget Cycle

Children's Participation



The basics...

What is a National budget?

- A national budget is a document plan of public revenue and expenditure.

What is a budget cycle?

- These are stages and procedures by which government builds and prepare the national budget, gets it approved by cabinet and also the implementation and auditing.

Why it is important for us children to take part in the formation of the national budget?

- It is a way of exercising our right of taking part in the decision making process and getting our voices heard as children.
- Government can only budget for those things which they know. Therefore we should let them know what we need .
- Our participation influences the setting of development priorities and budgeting that responds to our needs



Constitutional provisions

- The Constitution of Zambia Article 205(d) guarantees public participation for all citizens.

How do I take part in the national budget planning

- Firstly there is need to identify what needs my school or community have
- Prepare a list of the needs identified

Where can I participate?

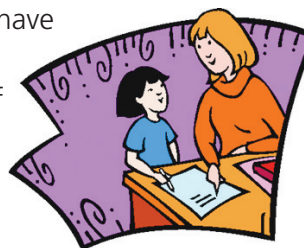
- Through the school council
- By giving ideas that I think should be included to the school council leaders or my teachers
- By giving my submission to the local council or my area councilor through the school council
- Presenting our submission through the school council to the District Development Coordinating Committee (DDCC)

What is a submission?

- These are suggestions given by me and other citizens on what should be included in the budget .

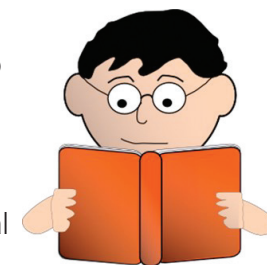
When are submissions made?

- From May to July every year we must have our submissions ready for presentation. Therefore we should have already identified and prepared a write up of our submission by March or April.



Follow up on submissions

- listen to the national budget presentation to parliament and paying attention to see if the submission made was included in the national budget.
- Read copies of the national budget speech presented
- It is important to give feedback to the ministry through the platforms used to make submissions
- Access the citizens budget and read from the ministry and see what has been included



Monitoring the budget

- Once the budget has been approved by parliament, it is implemented from January to December of the Financial year
- We can participate by monitoring the implementation of the budget to ensure that resources are being used accordingly

Auditor Generals report

The auditor generals report is a report given after an analysis of the public sector highlighting how public resources have been used by public institutions to deliver services.