DEPUTY Speaker of the National Assembly Mkondo Lungu has said the fight against corruption should start with parliamentarians as they play a pivotal representative role in the broad development agenda of the country.

Mr Lungu said parliamentarians should go to the House on a "clean platform" for them to engage meaningfully in their oversight role and fight the abuse of public resources.

He said this in Lusaka yesterday during the official opening of a two-day capacity building conference for the African Parliamentarian Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Zambia Chapter.

"You will agree with me that corruption undermines democratic progress of a country by making the process of electioneering expensive.

"Therefore, fighting corruption should start with Parliament because parliamentarians play a pivotal role in the broad development agenda of a country," Mr Lungu said.

He said corruption was the greatest threat to the democratic ideals of self-government as it compromised the institutions of governance and development.

Mr Lungu said corruption also violated social justice, which was the foundation of human dignity in a modern democratic State.

He said many economies on the African continent were stagnating because of the cumulative effects of corruption. He commended the Southern African Parliamentary Support Trust for bringing the workshop to Zambia.

APNAC Zambia chairperson Cornelius Mweetwa said the conference was being held at the right time as it would enhance the capacity of members of Parliament (MPs) to provide and execute an oversight role.

Mr Mweetwa said the conference would also equip MPs with appropriate knowledge in approving the national Budget and identifying inefficiencies within the Budget cycle.