



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE MALUNGO A CHISANGANO, MP,  
FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF  
ZAMBIA DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF 16 DAYS OF  
ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

*For release, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023*

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The National Assembly of Zambia (NAZ) wishes to join the country, and the world at large, in commemorating the **Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, under the theme, ***"UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls."*** Essentially, this theme calls on all of us, in our various capacities and settings, to showcase what we are doing to end gender-based violence, in all its ugly forms. In addition, the theme aims at galvanising governments and authorities worldwide to invest more in preventing gender-based violence, in order to create a world free of violence against women and girls.

Further, I must mention that the theme purposefully emphasises women and girls, because they are disproportionately affected by gender based-violence. However, I am alive to the fact that even men and boys are also victims of gender-based violence. This, therefore, underscores the need for concerted effort from all stakeholders, authorities and individuals alike, to end this problem.

## **Country men and women,**

It is saddening to note that violence against women and girls remains one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world. This is an irony especially that many countries are enacting laws and policies to combat gender-based violence, particularly, against women. However, due to weak enforcement and discriminatory social norms, gender-based violence remains a significant problem. Global statistics by the United Nations indicate that an estimated 736 million women, almost one in three, have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence, either by their partner or non-partner, at least once in their life.

Speaking from a national perspective, the narrative is no different because statistics from the 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey show that about 36 percent of all women between the age of 15 and 49, have been victims of physical violence since the age of 15. In addition, the 2014 Violence Against Children in Zambia Survey indicated that 20.3 percent of girls in Zambia experienced sexual abuse prior to the age of 18.

These are truly distressing statistics that require urgent attention by all of us. Government, development actors, civil society, women's organisations, young people, the private sector and the media, must all come together to end gender-based violence, especially against women and girls.

As the National Assembly of Zambia, we remain resolute to contributing towards an enabling legal and policy environment for ending gender-based violence. So far, Parliament has, among other pieces of legislation, enacted the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011, which provides for, inter alia, the protection of victims of gender-based

violence, as well as, the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015, which prohibits harassment, victimisation and harmful social, cultural and religious practices, among other things. We believe that these pieces of legislation are critical for combating gender-based violence.

With the foregoing, I would like to call on all relevant actors to work together in guaranteeing women and girls' right to live in a violent free world. Together, we can create a world, where everyone, particularly women and girls, can focus on reaching their potential, without the distraction or fear of being victims of gender-based violence.

I thank you.



Honourable Malungo A Chisangano, MP

**FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA**

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