

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
**HOSTING OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC
HEALTH IN AFRICA**

BY
**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY (MR
MWIIMBU), MP *ON BEHALF* OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MRS MASEBO),
MP**

Madam Speaker, I thank you most sincerely for granting me this opportunity to deliver a ministerial statement to this august House, and through the House, the nation at large, on the hosting of the Third International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) 2023 by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) that is scheduled to take place from 27th to 30th November, 2023 in Lusaka.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that Africa CDC was established in 2016 by the 26th Ordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government to improve coordination among health institutions within the African Union (AU) member States in dealing with disease threats.

Hosting of the conference, Madam Speaker, is in the interest of the New Dawn Administration for two key reasons. Firstly, Zambia must establish itself as a regional leader in public health security matters as led by His Excellency, the President Mr Hakainde Hichilema. Secondly, it is in our economic interest. It aligns with the desire for Zambia to host as many regional and international conferences and meetings. This you may agree, will among other benefits market the country's tourism, boost its economy and enable our citizens to build skills and increase knowledge through interactions.

Madam Speaker, Zambia and more specifically Lusaka stand to enjoy an increased global profile growth in local employment, immediate and short-term economic benefits and increased long-term investment. The CPHI 2023 aims to provide a unique platform for African researchers, policy makers and stakeholders to share scientific findings, collaborate

on research and implementation and chart a shared course towards a more secure future for Africa. The CPHIA 2023 will be hosted by Africa CDC and AU in partnership with the Zambian Government through the Ministry of Health and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPFI). The planning for the international conference will include leading health experts from Zambia, Africa and around the world. We anticipate an attendance of 5000 or more people from all over the world.

Madam Speaker, as the House may be aware, Africa continues to grapple with numerous disease outbreaks and significant public health threats and cross-border transmission also remains rife. The countries vary in their response and management of these public health situations, with some performing effectively while others face challenges. It is crucial to convene and exchange experiences and lessons learned in order to enhance local, regional, and continental health systems for an effective response and management of disease threats and events.

Madam Speaker, the CPHIA is an annual Africa CDC that aims to place public health at the centre of the continent 'Agenda 2063, the Africa we want'. The inaugural conference, held during the peak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, CPHIA 2021 virtually brought together over 12,000 public health stakeholders from across the continent and the world over to share scientific findings, collaborate on research and implementation and jointly plan out a path towards a more secure future for Africa.

Madam Speaker, last year, CPHIA conference was held in Rwanda and one of the agreed action points was to request for the Government of Zambia, in collaboration with the Africa CDC to prepare for the CPHIA 2023 in Lusaka Zambia. The CPHIA 2023 will build on the 2022 agenda by focusing on building and strengthening sustainable health systems, research and manufacturing of medicines and medical supplies. The hosting of the third conference will mostly be funded by the AU through Africa CDC.

Madam Speaker, as we forge forward with the new public health order for Africa, this year, the conference will also serve as a catalyst to strengthen resilient health systems across the continent to better prepare and manage emerging health threats while addressing long-standing health infectious diseases that affect the continent.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I would like to issue a call to action to our local researchers, research institutions, local pharmaceutical manufacturers, and stakeholders to be a part of this important agenda.

Madam Speaker, considering health is determined by many factors beyond the disease-causing agent, such as the environmental and social determinants, a multi-sectoral response to health threats and events remains key. With this background, I invite my fellow hon. Members of this august House and the public at large to take a keen interest in the findings and recommendations of this conference as they pertain to improving our health. To the media, your role in disseminating information timely manner remains critical.

Madam Speaker, finally, allow me to encourage Hon. Members of this august House to take an interest in this conference, primarily because it presents an opportunity to promote Zambia as an excellent destination for both professional endeavours and tourism-related activities.

As you may be aware, Madam Speaker, we are also working diligently to promote local pharmaceutical industry manufacturing in Zambia. This conference, which is expected to host around 5,000 delegates from all over the world and this, will be a unique opportunity for us all. It is my sincere hope that all sector ministries with relevance, as well as area hon. Members of Parliament, will engage to explore ways in which their sector could benefit.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.
