

**ADDRESS**

**BY**

**MR. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**ON**

**THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

**DELIVERED**

**TO THE FOURTH SESSION OF  
THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**FRIDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**GOOD MORNING.**

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO JOIN YOU, AND THIS AUGUST HOUSE TO REPORT PROGRESS MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 9 (2) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.**

**BEFORE WE PROCEED, ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO AN AFRICAN ICON, PAN AFRICANIST, FREEDOM FIGHTER AND NAMIBIA'S FOUNDING PRESIDENT, DR SAM DANIEL NUJOMA.**

**PLEASE JOIN ME IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE THREE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. HONOURABLE NASON MUSONDA FOR KAWAMBWA CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY, HONOURABLE JUSTIN KAPEMA FOR PAMBASHE CONSTITUENCY AND HONOURABLE SIMON BANDA FOR PETAUKE CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**THE CONSTITUTION, UNDER ARTICLE 8, OUTLINES THE NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES AS FOLLOWS:**

**(I) MORALITY AND ETHICS;**

**(II) PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY;**

**(III) DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM;**

**(IV) HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND  
NON-DISCRIMINATION;**

**(V) GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY; AND**

**(VI) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES ARE ESSENTIAL IN GUIDING OUR BEHAVIOUR, BUILDING OUR CHARACTER AND PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION. WE THANK THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR RESILIENCE IN 2024, OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES WERE TESTED, IN THE MIDST OF THE WORST DROUGHT IN LIVING MEMORY. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A BETTER FUTURE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO REPORT PROGRESS MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES.**

**MORALITY AND ETHICS**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**TO PROMOTE A MORALLY UPRIGHT AND ETHICAL NATION, WE ARE ADDRESSING SOCIAL ILLS. AMONG THEM ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, CHILD MARRIAGE, TEENAGE PREGNANCY, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CYBER CRIMES AND BULLYING.**

**TO TACKLE ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, ESPECIALLY BY OUR YOUTH, GOVERNMENT, WORKING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS, SENSITISED NEARLY 4 MILLION CITIZENS COUNTRYWIDE.**

**WE THANK OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS, THE CHURCH, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, LEARNING INSTITUTIONS AND MEDIA HOUSES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SENSITISATION PROGRAMMES.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**GOVERNMENT PROVIDED COUNSELLING AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE. FURTHER, 4,728 INDIVIDUALS, INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT DRUGS, WERE ARRESTED IN 2024.**

**WE URGE OUR FELLOW CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH, TO DESIST FROM ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE. AS GOVERNMENT, WE WILL CONTINUE WORKING WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN BUILDING A SOCIETY FREE OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE HAVE CONTINUED TO ADDRESS CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY BY SUCCESSFULLY WITHDRAWING OUR GIRLS FROM EARLY MARRIAGES, AN ILLEGAL PRACTICE WE CONDEMN. WE KEEP READMITTING OUR GIRLS INTO SCHOOL AFTER GIVING BIRTH.**

**THE PROGRESS RECORDED IS ATTRIBUTED TO A CONTINUOUS SENSITISATION OF COMMUNITIES ON THE DANGERS OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY.**

**ADDITIONALLY, CHANGE OF THE LAW ON THE AGE OF MARRIAGE, AND BURSARIES UNDER THE ENHANCED CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF), HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO KEEPING OUR GIRLS IN SCHOOL.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**CASES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY REMAIN HIGH. THESE ARE LIVES AFFECTED, DREAMS SHATTERED, AND VOICES SILENCED. THEREFORE, GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL GENDER POLICY AND STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT OF THE ANTI GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) ACT, TO REDUCE INCIDENCES OF THE VICE. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF GBV THROUGH PROVISION OF COUNSELLING SERVICES, LEGAL AID, AND SAFE SPACES.**

**A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH TO FIGHT GBV IS KEY. WE IMPLORE FAMILY MEMBERS, NEIGHBOURS, CHURCH MEMBERS, WORKMATES AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, TO TAKE THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV SERIOUSLY.**

**ALL CASES OF GBV MUST BE REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SO THAT PERPETRATORS ARE BROUGHT TO BOOK.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED WITH THE GROWING INCIDENCES OF CYBER CRIMES AND BULLYING, A NEW FORM OF VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS. ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE CONCERNED ON THE ESCALATION AND SOPHISTICATION OF SCAMMERS USING MOBILE MONEY SERVICES. WE ARE THEREFORE, REINFORCING MEASURES TO COMBAT THIS ABUSE.**

**IN CONSULTATION WITH THE RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, WE ARE CREATING A SAFER ONLINE ENVIRONMENT BY STRENGTHENING LEGISLATION ON CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERCRIMES.**

**WE WILL NOT RELENT IN OUR EFFORT TO RESTORE SANITY IN THE DIGITAL SPACE. IT IS FOR OUR OWN GOOD. IT IS GOOD FOR OUR MORALITY AND ETHICS. IT IS FOR THE GOOD STABILITY OF OUR COUNTRY.**

### **PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHAPING OUR SOCIETY AND NURTURING A STRONG NATION. THESE ARE KEY FACTORS IN FOSTERING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HELP US ACHIEVE OUR COLLECTIVE ASPIRATIONS AS A PEOPLE.**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECT FOR OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS IN ENTRENCHING PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED. WE HAVE THE NATIONAL FLAG, COAT OF ARMS, NATIONAL ANTHEM, NATIONAL MOTTO AND THE PUBLIC SEAL. THESE SYMBOLS REPRESENT OUR COUNTRY'S HERITAGE, ENDOWMENTS AND IDENTITY.**

**WE URGE ALL CITIZENS TO CONTINUE RESPECTING OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS, AS THEY REPRESENT OUR UNIQUE IDENTITY AND SOLIDARITY AS A PEOPLE.**

**WE MUST BE DEVOTED, LOYAL AND PROUD OF BEING ZAMBIAN. THESE CHARACTERISTICS OF PATRIOTISM MUST BE INCULCATED IN EVERY ZAMBIAN AT AN EARLY AGE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**AS PATRIOTIC CITIZENS, WE ALL HAVE A DUTY TO TAKE CARE OF OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTIES. UNFORTUNATELY, VANDALISM AND THEFT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY HAS CONTINUED, MAKING THIS NEGATIVE TREND A GROWING MENACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.**

**IN 2024, A HIGHER NUMBER OF CASES OF VANDALISM WERE REPORTED. TO THIS EFFECT, GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON LEGISLATION TO STIFFEN PUNISHMENT FOR PERPETRATORS OF VANDALISM AND THEFT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

**WE URGE ALL CITIZENS TO BE PATRIOTIC. CITIZENS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM AND REPORT ACTS OF VANDALISM AND THEFT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ASSETS AND SABOTAGE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. TO THE SECURITY WINGS, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL REMAIN VIGILANT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST VANDALISM.**

**THE GROWING TREND OF LAND ENCROACHMENT, PARTICULARLY ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND THE ILLEGAL ALLOCATION OF LAND IS A SERIOUS CONCERN THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY ADDRESSING. THIS UNLAWFUL PRACTICE IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO IT. WE URGE CITIZENS TO APPLY FOR LAND THROUGH LEGAL CHANNELS TO AVOID THE RISK OF HAVING ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED LAND REPOSSESSED.**

**WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CITIZENS THAT ARE BORROWING LOANS FROM CDF AND CEEC WITH INTENTIONS OF NOT PAYING BACK. THIS IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE STAGNATED GROWTH OF THESE FACILITIES WHOSE INTENDED OBJECTIVE IS TO ACT AS A REVOLVING FUND.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**ONE OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF PATRIOTISM, IS THE WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF THE NATION. THIS IS WHAT WE SEE IN OUR CITIZENS WHO CONTINUE TO EMBRACE VOLUNTEERISM AS AN INTERGRAL PART OF OUR CULTURE AND TRADITION.**

**THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN PROVIDING CRITICAL SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE GROUPS AND PARTICIPATING IN BUILDING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS IS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF OUR PEOPLE'S RESOLVE TO UPHOLD THE VALUES OF PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY.**

**WE THANK THE VOLUNTEER HEALTH WORKERS, TEACHERS, WARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY WELFARE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEES, NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH COMMITTEES, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEES AND MANY OTHER VOLUNTEERS IN THE COUNTRY. THESE ARE THE UNSUNG HEROES AWAY FROM PUBLIC GLARE, THAT CONTINUE TO SHAPE OUR NATION TO GREATNESS.**

**WE APPLAUD OUR SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN FOR THE GREAT SENSE OF DUTY, PATRIOTISM AND PRIDE THEY EXHIBIT WHEN REPRESENTING OUR COUNTRY IN VARIOUS SPORTS DISCIPLINES. WE NOTICE THAT THEY HAVE COINED "ZAMBIA KU CHALO" SLOGAN, MEANING ZAMBIA TO THE WORLD.**

**THIS IS THE SPIRIT WE SHOULD ALL EMULATE, AS WE REPRESENT OUR COUNTRY IN ALL OTHER SPHERES.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**AS PATRIOTIC CITIZENS, WE MUST CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF LOCAL PRODUCTS AND LOCAL SERVICES. YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO FAVOUR PURCHASE OF ZAMBIAN PRODUCED GOODS AND SERVICES THROUGH POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION.**

**OUR GOVERNMENT STANDS UNWAVERING IN ITS COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A THRIVING NATIONAL ECONOMY—ONE THAT DOES MORE THAN JUST GROW NUMBERS, BUT CHANGES LIVES, PUTS FOOD ON THE TABLE, AND SECURES A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD.**

**THIS IS NOT A ONE-TIME EVENT; IT IS A CONTINUOUS MISSION, A JOURNEY THAT CALLS UPON EVERY CITIZEN TO PLAY THEIR PART WITH DETERMINATION AND PATRIOTIC PRIDE.**

**FROM THE FARMERS TILLING OUR RICH SOILS IN MPIKA, TO THE FISHERMEN CASTING THEIR NETS IN MONGU, FROM THE TIRELESS MARKETTERS IN SOWETO, TO THE INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS IN CHIWEMPALA, FROM THE SKILLED CARPENTERS AND WELDERS OF KALINGALINGA TO THE RESILIENT WORKERS OF KATETE AND MANSA—THIS IS OUR COLLECTIVE FIGHT.**

**GROWTH OF A STRONG ECONOMY IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ONE INDIVIDUAL, NOR BY GOVERNMENT ALONE, BUT BY THE SWEAT, AMBITION, AND UNITY OF AN ENTIRE NATION INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.**

**WE MUST DREAM BIG AND WORK EVEN HARDER. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS PART IN FOSTERING UNITY, MAINTAINING PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY, TACKLING LEGACY DEBT, AND CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BUSINESSES CAN THRIVE.**

**BUT THIS SUCCESS WILL NOT BE HANDED TO US; IT MUST BE EARNED. WE MUST RISE, PUSH FORWARD, AND EMBRACE THE WORK THAT WILL MAKE ZAMBIA STRONG, INDEPENDENT, AND PROSPEROUS.**

**WHEN WE ACHIEVE THIS, OUR COUNTRY WILL PROSPER, CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS AND A BRIGHT FUTURE THAT ALL ZAMBIANS CAN BE PROUD OF.**

**OUR DESTINY AND INGENUITY IS IN OUR HANDS! LET'S WORK, WORK, AND MORE HARD AND SMART WORK! TOGETHER, WE WILL BUILD A ZAMBIA THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL BE PROUD TO INHERIT.**

**MADAM SPEAKER**

**IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF COMPANIES HAVE REGISTERED TO USE THE *PROUDLY ZAMBIAN* CAMPAIGN LOGO. WE WELCOME THE INCREASING LEVELS OF PATRIOTISM AMONG THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND URGE MORE COMPANIES TO COME ON BOARD.**

**WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE APPRECIATING OUR RICH TOURISM PRODUCTS. ACCORDINGLY, WE RE-LAUNCHED OUR LOCAL TOURISM CAMPAIGN DUBBED "*TAKE A HOLIDAY YAMU LOKO.*" AS AT NOVEMBER, 2024, THE NUMBER OF LOCAL TOURISTS THAT VISITED OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES, NATIONAL PARKS AND MUSEUMS DOUBLED FROM 181,945 IN 2023, TO 326,929. THIS IS PHENOMENAL PROGRESS.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**AN ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATION OF PATRIOTISM IS PAYMENT OF TAXES. PAYING TAX IS NOT JUST A MORAL OR LEGAL REQUIREMENT, BUT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO FUND PUBLIC SERVICES SUCH AS DESKS FOR OUR SCHOOLS AND MEDICINES FOR HOSPITALS.**

**TO ENHANCE TAX COMPLIANCE, GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED THE SMART INVOICING SYSTEM LAST YEAR. WE HAVE ALSO CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS INITIATIVES AIMED AT SIMPLIFYING TAX PROCESSES AND MAKING PAYMENTS MORE EFFICIENT.**

**THE TAX SYSTEM HAS BEEN INTERFACED WITH VARIOUS STANDALONE ONLINE PLATFORMS ON THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE BUS. WE ARE ALSO IMPLEMENTING TAX PAYERS' EDUCATION PROGRAMMES TO ENHANCE COMPLIANCE.**

**WE THANK TAX COMPLIANT CITIZENS AND COMPANIES, FOR THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THEY MAKE AND URGE ALL TO ALWAYS ADHERE TO TAX LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**NATIONAL UNITY IS CRITICAL TO OUR COUNTRY'S EXISTENCE, PEACE AND PROSPERITY. IT FOSTERS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND PROVIDES A SENSE OF BELONGING.**

**WE HAVE CREATED A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE TO FREELY INTERACT AND PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR PERSUASIONS. WE HAVE WITNESSED OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS ATTENDING TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES OF OTHERS, IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE DIFFERENT CULTURES. THIS IS IN THE SPIRIT OF "ONE ZAMBIA, ONE NATION" AND WE ARE, INDEED, ONE PEOPLE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**IT IS THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE TO LIVE AS ONE, IN PEACE, HARMONY AND UNITY. THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL, CONTINUE WITH OUR POLICY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO POLITICAL VIOLENCE, TO HATE SPEECH AND TO NEGATIVE CADREISM. THESE VICES HAVE NO SPACE IN OUR SOCIETY. NOT NOW. NOT TOMORROW. NOT IN THE FUTURE.**

**DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**OUR ADMINISTRATION IS RESOLVED TO ENHANCE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE PROMOTING AND PROTECTING FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, ASSEMBLY, MEDIA AND UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**CITIZENS, POLITICAL ACTORS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS, AS WELL AS DEFENDERS AND ADVOCATES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ARE ALL ENJOYING UNFETTERED FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. UNLIKE BEFORE, NO MEDIA HOUSES HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN UNDER OUR GOVERNMENT.**

**WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE MINDFUL THAT WHERE ONE'S FREEDOM ENDS, ANOTHER PERSON'S FREEDOM BEGINS. LET US, THEREFORE, BE RESPONSIBLE IN EXERCISING OUR FREEDOMS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE, HARMONY AND UNITY, WHICH OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IS RENOWNED FOR.**

**AS PART OF OUR TRANSPARENCY IN THE EXERCISE OF THESE FREEDOMS, THE UPND ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTARILY INVITED THE UN RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINIONS. A RARITY IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY. WE ARE ACTUALLY AMONG THE FEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THAT HAVE WILLINGLY OPENED OURSELVES TO INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY.**

**WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED FOR THIS TRANSPARENT REVIEW MECHANISM TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT DURING PAST ADMINISTRATIONS TO ALLOW FOR MORE WELL-ESTABLISHED COMPARISONS.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**THE MEDIA INDUSTRY HAS CONTINUED TO BE AN IMPORTANT TOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING. THE LIBERAL POLICIES GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE EXPANSION OF THE MEDIA INDUSTRY.**

**WE NOW HAVE OVER 188 RADIO STATIONS AND 66 TELEVISION STATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. MOST OF THESE MEDIA HOUSES ARE PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY OWNED. WE URGE ALL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO BE PROFESSIONAL CHANNELS OF TRUTH, PROMOTING FAIRNESS, UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT.**

**AS PART OF EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED THE ZANIS TELEVISION CHANNEL AND ZAMCOM RADIO.**

**WE ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX WAIVER ON BROADCASTING EQUIPMENT AND ESTABLISH RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS. THIS WILL INCREASE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PROMOTE LOCAL CONTENT, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB CREATION.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS A CORNERSTONE OF OUR DEMOCRACY. TO THIS EFFECT, GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED IMPLEMENTING THE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE.**

**WE HAVE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF DISTRICTS CONDUCTING CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION TO 30 ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AHEAD OF THE UPCOMING MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE. WE ENCOURAGE OUR YOUTH WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE VOTING AGE OF 18 YEARS, TO REGISTER AND EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**SINCE OUR ADDRESS TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE IN MARCH LAST YEAR, A NUMBER OF BY-ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD AT WARD, COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS, MAYORAL AND CONSTITUENCY LEVELS. THESE ELECTIONS WERE GENERALLY PEACEFUL, A CLEAR DEPARTURE FROM VIOLENCE OF THE PAST. AS A MATTER OF FACT, DUE TO THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE BY-ELECTIONS, MOST CITIZENS WERE UNAWARE, THAT ELECTIONS WERE TAKING PLACE.**

**WE WERE ENCOURAGED SEEING POLITICAL COMPETITORS INTERACTING AND SHARING POLITICAL PLATFORMS. THIS IS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF HOW FAR ZAMBIA HAS COME. WE URGE ALL POLITICAL ACTORS TO BE CIVIL IN THEIR LANGUAGE AND ABIDE BY THE ELECTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT. WE ARE ONE PEOPLE. POLITICS MUST NOT DIVIDE US.**

**LET US USE POLITICS TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT AND BUILD BRIDGES. TO REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER, TO COMPETE IN IDEAS, RATHER THAN PROMOTE HATE AND DIVISION.**

**HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND NON-DISCRIMINATION.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO UPHOLDING HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE FUNDAMENTAL IN FOSTERING PEACE, UNITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR COUNTRY.**

**THROUGH OUR FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME, THE ENHANCED CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF), NOW STANDING AT K36.1 MILLION PER CONSTITUENCY, PER YEAR, OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN OFFERED A NEW LEASE OF LIFE. THERE IS A CLEAR TRANSFORMATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVELIHOODS OF OUR PEOPLE.**

**WE ARE CONSTRUCTING SCHOOLS, HEALTH FACILITES, MATERNITY ANNEXES, POLICE POSTS AND REHABILITATING FEEDER ROADS. WE ARE ALSO CONSTRUCTING MARKET SHELTERS, CROSSING POINTS, CANALS, DIP TANKS, WATER POINTS AND SANITATION FACILITIES, AMONG OTHER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS IS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION.**

**CDF IS TOUCHING MANY LIVES, TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES, ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT INEQUALITIES. CDF IS, INDEED, A GAME CHANGER. WE ARE RESTORING THE DIGNITY OF OUR CITIZENS, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AND PERI-URBAN COMMUNITIES.**

**IN ORDER TO IMPROVE DISTRIBUTION AND DELIVER RESOURCES EQUITABLY AND FAIRLY TO COMMUNITIES, THERE WILL BE NEED TO DELIMITATE OR SUBDIVIDE OVERLY LARGE CONSTITUENCIES BY GEOGRAPHY AND POPULATION. THIS WILL REQUIRE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE EFFECTED.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE URGE THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND ORDINARY CITIZENS TO DEMAND EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF THE ENHANCED CDF IN CONSTITUENCIES. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY EXCUSE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO NEGLECT THEIR CONSTITUENCIES AS THEY ARE NOT RELYING ON THEIR PERSONAL RESOURCES ANYMORE. DELIBERATELY FAILING TO UTILISE CDF SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE PARTICULARLY, AGAINST THE LESS PRIVILEGED IN THE COUNTRY.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE AND LIVELIHOODS OF THE LESS PRIVILEGED IN OUR COMMUNITIES, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING A NUMBER OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES.**

**THESE INCLUDE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP), SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER, FOOD SECURITY PACK, PUBLIC WELFARE ASSISTANCE AND THE CASH FOR WORK PROGRAMME. THE PROGRAMMES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN AN EQUITABLE AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANNER, COUNTRYWIDE.**

**TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A MORE JUST, A MORE EQUITABLE AND A MORE PROSPEROUS ZAMBIA.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**TO ENSURE THAT OUR PEOPLE LIVE IN SANITARY ENVIRONMENTS, GOVERNMENT HAS EXPANDED WATER SUPPLY NETWORKS. WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED AND REHABILITATED WATER BOREHOLES, BENEFITING OVER 4 MILLION PEOPLE, ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF OUR COUNTRY.**

**IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT EXTENDED SANITATION FACILITY NETWORKS, ACHIEVING 73.6 PERCENT URBAN SANITATION COVERAGE. UNDER CDF, 2,352 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FACILITIES HAVE SO FAR BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN SCHOOLS, HEALTH FACILITIES, MARKETS, BUS STATIONS AND IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

**WE REMAIN RESOLUTE IN ENSURING THAT EVERY CITIZEN HAS ACCESS TO CLEAN AND SAFE WATER, AS WELL AS IMPROVED SANITATION.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**OUR FREE EDUCATION POLICY IS BEARING FRUIT. MANY MORE OF OUR CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND, ARE ACCESSING EDUCATION. OVER 2 MILLION LEARNERS HAVE GONE BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE PAST THREE YEARS SINCE WE BROUGHT BACK FREE EDUCATION, GIVING THEM A BETTER CHANCE OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE.**

**THIS POLICY HAS MOTIVATED SOME OF OUR CITIZENS INCLUDING AGED ONES. *FOR EXAMPLE, LETS WELCOME OUR 42-YEAR-OLD FEMALE PUPIL, DOROTHY KAMANISHA, FROM SOLWEZI, WHO HAS GONE BACK TO SCHOOL IN GRADE NINE.* SHE HAS COME WITH HER HEAD TEACHER, CHRISPIN MUMENA OF RODWELL MWEPU DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL. SHALL WE GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**OUR BELIEF IS THAT NO ZAMBIAN SHOULD BE DEPRIVED OF EDUCATION. IN OUR VIEW, EDUCATION, IS THE BEST INVESTMENT, EQUALISER AND INHERITANCE.**

**WE HAVE ALSO CONTINUED TO IMPROVE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. WE ARE PROVIDING SCHOOL DESKS, CONSTRUCTING AND UPGRADING CLASSROOMS AND RECRUITING MORE TEACHERS TO IMPROVE THE TEACHER LEARNER RATIO.**

**FURTHER, IN 2024, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VULNERABLE LEARNERS BENEFITTING FROM THE HOME-GROWN SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME, MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM 2.2 MILLION TO 4.7 MILLION LEARNERS. ADDITIONALLY, THE DISTRICT COVERAGE INCREASED FROM 82 DISTRICTS IN 2023 TO 106 DISTRICTS IN 2024.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**TO ENSURE EQUITY IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES, GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO RECRUIT HEALTH WORKERS. IN 2024, A TOTAL OF 4,216 ADDITIONAL HEALTH WORKERS WERE RECRUITED.**

**FURTHER, WE ARE BRINGING HEALTH SERVICES CLOSER TO OUR PEOPLE THROUGH CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH FACILITIES. UNDER THE CDF, FOR INSTANCE, 142 MATERNITY ANNEXES, 269 HEALTH POSTS AND 157 STAFF HOUSES HAVE SO FAR BEEN CONSTRUCTED.**

**WHILE ESSENTIAL DRUGS HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS, THE SPECIALISED DRUGS FLOW REQUIRES AN IMPROVEMENT. WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT A CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED FOR THE CANCER DISEASE HOSPITAL TO AVAIL NEW RADIOLOGY EQUIPMENT FOR RADIOTHERAPY TREATMENT.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**THE UPND ADMINISTRATION IS PROMOTING A DECENT WORK AGENDA IN THE COUNTRY. IN THIS REGARD, WE REVISED UPWARDS THE MINIMUM WAGE AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR DOMESTIC, SHOP AND GENERAL WORKERS, AS WELL AS BUS AND TRUCK DRIVERS.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE RULE OF LAW. TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION BY OUR PEOPLE, THE LEGAL AID BOARD OPENED DISTRICT OFFICES IN KAOMA, MPOROKOSO, LUNDAZI, ZAMBEZI AND KAWAMBWA IN 2024.**

**THE NUMBER OF CITIZENS WHO RECEIVED LEGAL ASSISTANCE COUNTRYWIDE INCREASED FROM 31,556 IN 2023 TO 45,305 IN 2024.**

**TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO QUICK AND FAIR JUSTICE, WE HAVE RECRUITED ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATES AND JUDGES AND INTRODUCED MOBILE COURTS IN RURAL AREAS. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED SPECIALISED FAST TRACK COURTS, STRENGTHENED JUVENILE COURTS AND ROLLED OUT THE DIGITAL CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**OVERCROWDING IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IS PROGRESSIVELY BEING ADDRESSED. WE COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO MODERN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN MUCHINGA AND CENTRAL PROVINCES CREATING AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 BED SPACES.**

**WE HAVE CONVERTED ONE OF THE CORRUPTION RELATED RE-POSSESSED PROPERTIES INTO A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, DIANA NALUPYA CENTRE FOR CIRCUMSTANTIAL CHILDREN, TO HOUSE FEMALE INMATES WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND ENSURE THAT THESE CHILDREN LIVE IN A CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT.**

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**IN TODAY'S FAST-PACED WORLD, CITIZENS ARE INCREASINGLY EXPECTING IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO SERVICES. OUR CITIZENS ARE ALSO EXPECTING TRANSPARENCY AND DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT.**

**OUR CITIZENS ARE SEEKING MORE ACCESSIBLE, EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIVE CHANNELS TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO GOVERNMENT.**

**IN THIS REGARD, GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED THE CITIZENS SUPPORT SERVICES PORTAL. THE PORTAL IS FOSTERING REAL-TIME ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT.**

**FURTHER, WE HAVE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ELECTRONIC SERVICES AVAILABLE ON THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE BUS FROM 300 IN 2023, TO 321 IN 2024. WE ARE INCREASING ACCESS TO AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE REMAIN RESOLVED TO DECENTRALISING PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY TO THE LAST MILE.**

**WE ARE, THEREFORE, HAPPY TO REPORT THAT FIVE ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS HAVE NOW BEEN DEVOLVED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THESE ARE DISTRICT AGRICULTURE SERVICES, DISTRICT LIVESTOCK SERVICES, DISTRICT FISHERIES SERVICES, DISTRICT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.**

**THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF FUNCTIONS DEVOLVED FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES SO FAR TO 13, HENCE EMPOWERING, AND TAKING DECISION-MAKING TO OUR PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**IN OUR QUEST TO UPHOLD OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES, WE ARE GOVERNING THE COUNTRY ON THE BASIS OF THE RULE OF LAW.**

**WE WILL ENSURE THAT OUR GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY AND AUTONOMOUSLY.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IS YIELDING RESULTS. WE ARE NOW WITNESSING ACQUITTALS AND CONVICTIONS AND THOSE FOUND GUILTY ARE SERVING SENTENCES.**

**AS A MEASURE, SIDE BY SIDE WITH PROSECUTION WE ARE ALSO RECOVERING TAINTED ASSETS AND RESTORING THEM BACK TO THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS, THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE.**

**THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) MECHANISMS AS AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE RESOLUTION OF CRIMES AND CORRUPTION-RELATED CASES.**

**BY INTEGRATING ADR METHODS SUCH AS MEDIATION AND NEGOTIATION, THE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO ENHANCE JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY, REDUCE CASE BACKLOGS, AND ENSURE SWIFT JUSTICE WHILE UPHOLDING PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.**

**THIS APPROACH ALIGNS WITH INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES IN COMBATING CORRUPTION AND REINFORCES THE GOVERNMENT'S DEDICATION TO STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE.**

**THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION CONTINUES IN A NON-SELECTIVE MANNER. WE WILL FIGHT PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE CORRUPTION. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX SCORE WHICH IMPROVED FROM 37 IN 2023 TO 39 IN 2024. FURTHER, ZAMBIA IMPROVED ON THE GLOBAL RANKING FROM 98 IN 2023 TO 92 OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES IN 2024.**

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**IN OUR PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS AN IMPERATIVE. THIS IS EVEN MORE CRITICAL IN THE WAKE OF THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**CLIMATE CHANGE HAS THREATENED OUR NATIONAL FOOD, ENERGY AND WATER SECURITY, AS WELL AS OUR BIODIVERSITY. INDEED, CLIMATE CHANGE HAS DISRUPTED OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND HAS HIGHLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASED COST OF LIVING.**

**NOTWITHSTANDING THE DISRUPTION, WE ARE SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE OUR RESILIENCE AS A NATION.**

**FOLLOWING THE WORST DROUGHT IN LIVING MEMORY WE EXPERIENCED LAST SEASON, THE IMPROVED RAINFALL IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS WILL POSITIVELY IMPACT THE COST OF LIVING. WE SALUTE OUR GALLANT FARMERS WHO HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL TO GROW FOOD DESPITE UNCERTAIN TIMES.**

**WE ARE HARVESTING WATER BY CONSTRUCTING AND REHABILITATING DAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO ENABLE OUR PEOPLE ENGAGE IN ALL-YEAR-ROUND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION THROUGH IRRIGATION. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE RAINWATER HARVESTING STRATEGY, WHICH WE LAUNCHED LAST YEAR.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEFORESTATION, GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTMENT IN ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY. WE INTRODUCED TAX INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE OUR CITIZENS TO IMPORT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS SOLAR TECHNOLOGY.**

**GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AUTHORITY (REA) HAS BRIDGED THE ELECTRICITY GAP BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS, BY SPEARHEADING PROGRAMMES AIMED AT ELECTRIFYING RURAL COMMUNITIES IN AN EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER.**

**FOR EXAMPLE, WE COMMISSIONED THE MPIDI SOLAR MINI GRID IN ZAMBEZI DISTRICT AND THE 640-KILOWATT KASANJIKU MINI HYDRO POWER STATION IN MWINILUNGA DISTRICT. SUCH PROJECTS ARE PROVIDING ELECTRICITY TO HOUSEHOLDS, SCHOOLS, CHIEFS' PALACES, HEALTH FACILITIES, AGRICULTURAL CENTRES AND LOCAL COURTS, IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

**IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT PROVIDED ELECTRICITY TO RURAL HEALTH CENTRES, AND AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVES THROUGH INSTALLATION OF SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS, THUS, EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES, INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**FUEL IS A CRITICAL DRIVER OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. IN RECOGNITION OF ITS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO SECURING COMPETITIVE PRICED FUEL FROM THE GLOBAL MARKETS TO LOWER COSTS AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**ILLEGAL MINING IS A SCOURGE THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO STAMP OUT AS IT DAMAGES OUR ENVIROMENT AND PUTS LIVES AT RISK. OUR INTERVENTIONS TO FORMALISE ARTISANAL MINING THROUGH FAIR PRICED CAPITAL, ENHANCED TECHNOLOGY, JOINT VENTURES AND VALUE ADDITION WILL ENSURE A VIBRANT, FORMAL MINING SECTOR, WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF OUR DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH AGENDA.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT OVER 1.1 MILLION FARMERS HAVE ADOPTED SMART AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES, IN 2024. WE URGE MORE OF OUR FARMERS, ESPECIALLY SMALL-SCALE FARMERS, TO ADOPT SMART AGRICULTURE PRACTICES TO ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY AMID CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**PROPER MANAGEMENT OF WASTE IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH LITTERING AND INDISCRIMINATE DISPOSAL OF PLASTICS AND OTHER WASTE MATERIALS IN OUR COMMUNITIES, ON OUR ROADS AND DRAINAGES BY SOME OF OUR CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES.**

**WHERE IS OUR COLLECTIVE SENSE OF CLEANLINESS GONE? WE HAVE THE BY-LAWS, BUT AS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN. WE MUST KEEP ZAMBIA CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

### **CONCLUSION**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**AS DEMONSTRATED ABOVE, WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THE APPLICATION OF OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES AND STRENGTHENED THE PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY AND**

**CONSTITUTIONALISM. WE HAVE PURSUED GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY SUCH THAT CITIZENS NOW ENJOY MORE FREEDOMS AND GREATER PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AND A MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY THROUGH OUR DECENTRALISATION EFFORTS AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES.**

**THE JOURNEY IS FAR FROM COMPLETE. THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IS PART OF THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE MUST BUILD A BETTER ZAMBIA. THIS IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH OUR PEACE, UNITY AND PROSPERITY MUST BE FOREVER ANCHORED. THE JOURNEY REQUIRES OUR DETERMINATION, PASSION AND COURAGE. WITH FOCUS, PROGRESSIVELY, WE WILL GET THERE.**

**WE REMAIN VIGILANT AND COMMITTED TO UPHOLDING THE NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR NATIONAL AFFAIRS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE MORALITY AND ETHICS IN ALL OUR CONDUCT.**

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADAPT OUR NATION'S CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO ADVERSITY, INCLUDING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE NEED THE COMMITMENT AND POSITIVE ACTION FROM ALL CITIZENS. EVERY EFFORT COUNTS. WITH HARD WORK, UNITY AND PATRIOTISM, WE SHALL TRIUMPH. LIVING BY OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES IS A DAILY OBLIGATION FOR EVERY CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTRY.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE MUST ALL BECOME PATRIOTIC CITIZENS OF HIGH VALUES AND PRINCIPLES. LET OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES INSPIRE US TO BUILD A FUTURE WORTHY OF GENERATIONS TO COME. LET US ALL COMMIT TO ACCOMPLISH MORE AND BETTER.**

**WE CAN ONLY DO THIS IF WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY, ARE GOOD CITIZENS AND ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF MOTHER ZAMBIA.**

**A ZAMBIA FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, TEENAGE PREGNANCY, CORRUPTION AND CYBER CRIMES AND BULLYING IS ATTAINABLE. A PROSPEROUS ZAMBIA ANCHORED ON OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES IS ACHIEVABLE.**

**MAY GOD BLESS US ALL.**

**MAY GOD BLESS OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, ZAMBIA.**

**MADAM SPEAKER,**

**WE THANK YOU.**