

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES



# MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME (Progress report)

PRESENTED BY HON. CABINET MINISTER  
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MR. SPEAKER, THANK YOU FOR ACCORDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME.

**SIR, ALLOW ME FIRST TO GIVE YOU GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXPANDED SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IN ZAMBIA BEFORE I GIVE THE PROGRESS REPORT.**

THE INCAPACITATED AND LOW CAPACITY HOUSEHOLDS DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT LIVELIHOOD SECURITY TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS AND PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE WORST IMPACTS OF RISKS AND SHOCKS. THEREFORE, SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES AIM TO PROVIDE BASIC SOCIAL PROTECTION TO THOSE SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION WHO FOR REASONS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES. PEOPLE IN NEED OF BASIC SOCIAL PROTECTION USUALLY LIVE IN LABOUR-CONSTRAINED HOUSEHOLDS. FOR INSTANCE HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO ADULT

MEMBERS FIT FOR PRODUCTIVE WORK. DUE TO THEIR LIMITED SELF-HELP CAPACITY, THESE HOUSEHOLDS CANNOT ACCESS ANY OF THE LABOUR-BASED POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER COOPERATING AGENCIES.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

THE GOAL OF THE EXPANDED SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER SCHEME IS TO REDUCE EXTREME POVERTY AND THE INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER OF POVERTY IN THE DISTRICTS COVERED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME. THIS YEAR THE EXPANSION OF THE SCHEME IN KALOMO, MONZE, CHIPATA, AND KAZUNGULA WILL CONTINUE AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE END OF DECEMBER, 2010 THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 16,928 HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITING FROM THE CURRENT 12, 677 HOUSEHOLDS USING THE INCLUSIVE MODEL, WHILE THE KATETE SOCIAL PENSION SCHEME WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY NEXT YEAR.

THREE DISTRICTS WITH HIGH LEVELS OF MALNUTRITION AND UNDER FIVE DEATH RATES HAVE BEEN ADDED AND THESE ARE; SHANG'OMBO WITH 87% POVERTY RATE, KAPUTA WITH 90% POVERTY RATE, AND IN KALABO WITH 96% POVERTY RATE.

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO DIE BEFORE THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAY AVERAGES 200 PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS IN THESE DISTRICTS. THEREFORE, SUCH DISTRICTS NEED THE CHILD GRANT. THE CHILD GRANT IS INTENDED TO SUPPORT CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OLD IN POOR FAMILIES AT HIGH RISK OF SICKNESS AND DEATH. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD GRANT IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING VULNERABILITY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTHS TO PROTECT THEM FROM ALL FORMS OF ABUSE AND DISCRIMINATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CHILD GRANTS CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL (MDG No. 04) WHICH AIMS AT REDUCING UNDER FIVE DEATHS BY 2015.

THE TARGETING CRITERIA FOR THE CHILD GRANT IS UNIVERSAL TARGETING FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS, HOWEVER THE ENTRY POINT INTO THE PROGRAMME IS FOR CHILDREN AGED 36 MONTHS AND BELOW. THE UNIVERSAL TARGETING CRITERIA HAS BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE OF HIGH POVERTY LEVELS IN THESE DISTRICTS AND THEREFORE, THE NUMBER OF THE NON POOR WILL BE VERY SMALL. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS FROM THE CHILD GRANT DISTRICTS IS EXPECTED TO REACH 6, 893 BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. THE OTHER TWO DISTRICTS FOR THE CHILD GRANT, CHILUBI AND MILENGE WILL BE ADDED BY 2012.

MR SPEAKER SIR, ALLOW ME NOW TO UPDATE THIS AUGUST HOUSE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANDED SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IN ZAMBIA.

**SETTING UP OF THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER UNIT AT THE  
MINISTRY AND CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES  
UNDERTAKEN**

THE MINISTRY IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THE COUNTRY HAS ADEQUATE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT CASH TRANSFERS ON A NATIONAL SCALE. IN THIS VEIN, MY MINISTRY HAS SET UP A DEDICATED UNIT WITH A STAFF ESTABLISHMENT OF FIVE (5) OFFICERS. IN ORDER TO INCREASE CAPACITY AT DISTRICT LEVEL, ASSISTANT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICERS HAVE ALSO BEEN EMPLOYED IN KALABO, SHANGOMBO AND KAPUTA.

IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, 23 OFFICERS FROM THE IMPLEMENTING PROVINCES, DISTRICTS, AND HEADQUARTERS ATTENDED A TRAINING COURSE IN DESIGNING SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.

**PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES**

THE MINISTRY IS AWARE THAT THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME OPERATES IN THE MOST HARD TO REACH PARTS



OF THE COUNTRY. IN THIS REGARD, MY MINISTRY WITH SUPPORT FROM COOPERATING PARTNERS HAS ALREADY PROCURED 4 LANDCRUISERS. THE MINISTRY HAS EARMARKED A TOTAL OF 13 VEHICLES TO BE PROCURED FOR THE PROGRAMME BY 2013.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD GRANT IN KALABO, SHANGOMBO AND KAPUTA.**

SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED AND RIGHT NOW REGISTRATION AND TARGETING OF THE ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS HAS BEEN DONE IN KAPUTA, SHANGOMBO AND KALABO. IT IS EXPECTED THAT BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR A MINIMUM OF 6,893 HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE RECEIVING K50, 000 MONTHLY.

MR SPEAKER SIR, IN ORDER TO HAVE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILD GRANT, A MANUAL OF

OPERATIONS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WITH INPUT FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND OTHER LINE MINISTRIES.

**PROCUREMENT OF PAYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER**

MR SPEAKER SIR, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE FIDUCIARY RISK ASSOCIATED WITH BULK LOW VALUE CASH PAYMENTS; MY MINISTRY WITH SUPPORT FROM OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS IS IN THE PROCESS OF PROCURING A PAYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER (PSP). IN THIS REGARD, THE MINISTRY HAS HELD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH BANKABLE FRONTIERS ASSOCIATES AND FINMARK ZAMBIA TO DISCUSS THE PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED. BANKABLE FRONTIERS AND FINMARK ZAMBIA ARE CONSULTANTS WHO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED TO SUPPORT THE PAYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER (PSP) PROCUREMENT PROCESS.

A COMMITTEE OF TECHNICAL ADVISORS HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE PROCESS



WHILE THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP WILL ACT AS THE STEERING COMMITTEE.

**PAYMENT OF TRANSFERS IN THE OLD CASH TRANSFER DISTRICTS**

ALLOW ME ALSO TO SAY THAT THE SCHEMES IN THE OLD IMPLEMENTING DISTRICTS NEEDED TO BE EXPANDED INORDER TO REACH THE REMAINING HOUSEHOLDS. TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, COMMUNITY WELFARE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN REACTIVATED AND RETRAINED.IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, KALOMO, KAZUNGULA,MONZE, CHIPATA AND KATETE SCHEMES WILL HAVE 16,928 HOUSEHOLDS AS BENEFICIARIES.THIS WILL REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF 4,251 HOUSEHOLDS.

**SETTING UP OF THE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM  
(MIS)**

**MR SPEAKER SIR,** EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME DEPENDS ON HIGH QUALITY INFORMATION. IN THIS VEIN, MY MINISTRY AND COOPERATING PARTNERS HAVE ENGAGED THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH (AIR) TO DESIGN A MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM THAT WILL MEET THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE. DESIGNING OF REPORT FORMATS IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE.

THE BASELINE SURVIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN KAPUTA, KALABO AND SHANGOMBO DISTRICTS.

**MR. SPEAKER**

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO URGE THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHERE THE SCHEME IS CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED AND ROLLED-OUT TO, TO

SUPPORT THE SCHEME AND HELP GOVERNMENT PUBLICISE  
THIS VERY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTAL INTIATIVE IN THEIR  
RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES.

**MR. SPEAKER I THANK YOU.**