

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**ON THE**

**CHOLERA VOLUNTEERS RECRUITMENT IN CIVIL SERVICE**

**BY THE**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH (MRS MASEBO), MP**

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to be given this opportunity on this occasion, to address this august House and through you, the nation, with regard to the recruitment of volunteers from various cholera treatment centres countrywide into the civil service.

Madam Speaker, as you may be aware, His Excellency, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, the President of the Republic of Zambia, during his last visit to the National Heroes Stadium, which was used as the National Cholera Treatment Centre during the recent cholera outbreak, did direct that all volunteers be recruited. In accordance with the President's directive to absorb all volunteers into the civil service, I would like now to update the nation on the progress made so far in implementing the President's directive.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that immediately after the President's directive, a thorough validation process was undertaken by the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) and the Civil Service Commission to ensure that no volunteer was omitted, as well as ensure that only those persons who, for the love of mankind, risked their health to serve others –

Madam Speaker. The House may wish to note that immediately after the President's directive, a thorough validation process was undertaken by the PSMD and the Civil Service Commission to ensure that no volunteer was omitted, as well as ensure that only those persons who, for the love of mankind, risked their health to serve others despite the fact that no reward in form of a salary or allowance was expected at that time, were shortlisted.

Madam Speaker, further, as directed by the Republican President, the Civil Service Commission, working with the Ministry of Health and the PSMD, undertook to identify vacant positions created through natural attrition, that is, through death, retirements, resignations, unpaid leave, promotions, dismissals, among others.

Madam Speaker, in this period, I wish to inform the House and the nation at large that over 314 positions have been identified, and these include the following:

- (a) ninety-five junior resident medical officers;
- (b) 100 registered nurses;
- (c) twenty-eight clinical officer generals;
- (d) forty-six environmental health technicians;
- (e) fifteen medical laboratory technicians;
- (f) six pharmacy technologists;
- (g) nineteen public health nurses;
- (h) four biomedical scientists; and
- (i) one pharmacist.

Madam Speaker, this is against the background of 853 validated health professional volunteers in all the cholera centres. To this effect, the Civil Service Commission proceeded to appoint 314 health workers as Phase I of the process, and the appointees started collecting their letters effective Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

Madam Speaker, in view of this development, I wish to take this opportunity to assure the House that all those who volunteered that this is not the end but the beginning, and the process will continue in a phased approach until all the professional volunteers and indeed volunteers in general, have been absorbed. Furthermore, the process to validate the volunteers under the general worker category is still ongoing and once the process is completed, the number of general workers who will be absorbed in Phase II will also be announced in a similar manner.

Madam Speaker, the 800 plus were professional health workers that volunteered. Those remaining are now the general worker category.

Madam Speaker, wish to therefore appeal for patience as the Ministry working with the Civil Service Commission is working round the clock to ensure that all the volunteers are absorbed into the Civil Service. We hope that before the end of this month the list for the general workers will also be announced.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to confirm that, the Civil Service Commission did announce the names of the successful candidates of the Phase one recruitment of the Cholera volunteers in the Times of Zambia. Zambia Daily Mail and News Diggers as well as on the Civil Service Commission and the Ministry of Health Websites and the Facebook pages, on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. To this end I also wish to confirm that the list of all the validated health workers was published in the same newspapers on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

Madam Speaker, before, I conclude, I wish to state that Government is aware and recognises the works of all the health workers that have continued to offer voluntary services in our various

health facilities before, during and after any epidemic. I wish to urge them through you Madam Speaker, to continue with this good will and the will surely not forget their good deeds.

Madam Speaker, I am aware, of the anxiety among every job seeker especially in my Ministry and I wish to take this opportunity to encourage every qualified health worker that this Government under the able Leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr Hakainde Hichilema is resolved to ensure that all qualified health workers are employed in our facilities and serve our people.

To this end, I want to encourage those health workers that have been volunteering that, they shall soon be considered in the subsequent recruitments that the Ministry will be undertaking including but not limited to the 2024 net recruitment of 4000 health workers that was announced by the hon. Minister of Finance and National Planning during his presentation of the 2024 National Budget to this august House.

Madam Speaker, As I conclude, I wish to once again, to make an appeal through this House to our volunteers to exercise patience as the Ministry and the Civil Service Commission is working towards ensuring that all the volunteers are absorbed into the Civil Service.

Madam Speaker, I thank you

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