

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**ON THE**  
**DILAPIDATED HOSPITAL IN ZAMBEZI DISTRICT**  
**BY**  
**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MRS MASEBO), MP**

Madam Speaker, I wish to thank you most sincerely for granting me this opportunity to update the House and the nation at large on the dilapidated hospital in Zambezi District and measures taken to address the issues affecting the hospital.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to recall that on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2022, the Hon. Madam First Deputy Speaker directed that a ministerial statement be issued on the dilapidated hospital in Zambezi District. This directive followed a matter of urgent public importance raised by Hon. Kambita, Member of Parliament for Zambezi East Parliamentary Constituency.

Madam Speaker, may I begin by giving a brief background of Zambezi District Hospital. Zambezi District Hospital is indeed an old and dilapidated district hospital which was built in the colonial era in 1940. The hospital has no staffing housing and was intended to serve a much smaller population than it is serving today. Zambezi District has not benefitted from the infrastructure rehabilitation or construction of a new district hospital.

Madam Speaker, the hospital was last accessed in March 2022 and it was found to have vertical cracks arising from the foundation and extending to all major support walls which included the operating theatre. Various stakeholders were engaged to discuss the way forward and the consensus arrived at was to build a new Zambezi District Hospital including installation of modern medical equipment. In this regard, the site for the new hospital has been identified under customary land within 6 km from the existing hospital.

Madam Speaker, secondly, the plans to build a new hospital were captured in the ministry of health infrastructure operational plan for 2022 and the construction of a new hospital has been included in the 2022/2024 medium term expenditure framework.

Madam Speaker, in terms of human resources I wish to inform the House that Zambezi District does not currently have an anaesthetist. However, there is a trainee anaesthetist who is due to complete training in 2024. Further, another anaesthetist has been identified to start training next year 2023. The House may further wish to note that anaesthesia is an in-services training programme and as such there are no unemployed anaesthetist that we could have employed in the just ended recruitment of more than 11,00 health care workers. The New Dawn Government equitably allocated Zambezi District with 107 new health workers or members of staff. Out of 107, Zambezi District Hospital was allocated thirty-nine new members of staff, broken down as twenty-nine professional staff and ten general workers. This was done to alleviate the staffing shortages at the hospital.

Madam Speaker, may I also mention that statistics at the hospital has not shown a substantial increase in deaths at the facility. The theatre operating table is old and indeed requires replacement and so is the theatre operating light. Despite these challenges the hospital has not recorded any deaths on the theatre operating table in the last three years.

Madam Speaker, in as much as the operating theatre is in a deplorable state, it is functional and the hospital is able currently to conduct surgeries such as caesarean section, surgery to correct hernias, surgery of the abdomen such as ectopic pregnancy and ovarian mass.

Madam Speaker, Zambezi District has two level one hospitals namely: Zambezi District Hospital and Chitokoloki Mission Hospital which is about 52 km away from the district hospital. The mission hospital has specialised surgeons and a good operating theatre and anaesthetist. Therefore, the district hospital refers patients that require major surgeries and intensive care unit to Chitokoloki Mission Hospital. The district hospital has one ambulance that is in good condition and two utility vehicles.

Madam speaker, as I conclude allow me to take this opportunity to commend the health workers across the country in general and in particular the health workers at Zambezi District Hospital who have continues to provide quality health services to community despite the state of the hospital caused as a result of many years of negligence by the former Government. d

Madam Speaker, the New Dawn Government is committed to providing affordable quality health services at levels. In order to take health services as close to our people as possible the

New Dawn Government under the able leadership His Excellency Mr Hakainde Hichilema has continued with the construction of the thirty-six district hospitals countrywide completing the remaining sixteen mini hospitals as well as completing the eighty-seven out of the target of 650 health post.

Madam Speaker, as highlighted in the Speech for the official opening of the Second Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly by His Excellency Mr Hakainde Hichilema, the New Dawn Government, going forward will not only focus on completion of on -going projects, but will also embark on construction of additional health facilities, as well as upgrading and modernising existing ones. Including construction of maternity wings at all health centres in Zambia.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

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