



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORT

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BY

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORT,
HON. CHISHIMBA KAMBWILI, MP ON NAMING
THE STADIUM UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN
LUSAKA ON 17th JULY, 2013**

MR. SPEAKER, I THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE NAMING OF THE NEW STADIUM UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN LUSAKA.

SIR, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT IN THIS COUNTRY AND HAS SINCE EMBARKED ON MASSIVE INVESTMENTS IN SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

IN THIS REGARD, A 40,900 SEATER, LEVY MWANAWASA 'ULTRA-MODERN' STADIUM IN NDOLA WAS COMMISSIONED IN 2011. CURRENTLY, WE ARE CONSTRUCTING A 50,009 SEATER STADIUM IN LUSAKA AT A COST OF 94 MILLION US DOLLARS. GOVERNMENT WILL SOON START THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO MORE STADIA IN LIVINGSTONE AND MONGU.

MR. SPEAKER, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STADIUM IN LUSAKA WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT TO INDEPENDENCE STADIUM COMMENCED ON 6TH JULY, 2011.

MR. SPEAKER, THE PROJECT IS NOW 85 PERCENT COMPLETE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE HANDED OVER TO GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER, 2013. THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO GIVE IT A NAME IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE CONTRACTOR TO PROCURE THE MATERIALS FOR LABELING THE NAME BEFORE COMMISSIONING.

THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVING PROPOSALS ON THE NAMING OF THIS STADIUM. THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN GOOD WITH A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, A MEMORANDUM ON NAMING THE STADIUM WAS TABLED BEFORE CABINET. I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT THAT CABINET AT ITS 13TH MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY, 2013, DECIDED THAT THE STADIUM BE NAMED "GABON DISASTER HEROES STADIUM" IN MEMORY OF THE ZAMBIAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM THAT PERISHED IN A PLANE CRASH ON THE COAST OF GABON IN APRIL, 1993. SIR, THE NAME WAS WELL MEANING AND WAS AGREED ON AFTER A PROTRACTED DISCUSSION, AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE PAIN AND ANGUISH WHICH UNFORTUNATE EVENT, LEFT IN THE

LIVES OF MANY OUR PEOPLE. THEY WERE OUR HEROES AND WE SALUTE THEM TO THIS DAY

MR. SPEAKER, THE RESPONSE FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING; SOME IN SUPPORT AND OTHERS AGAINST THE NAME. THE MAJORITY VIEW HAS DEEMED THE NAME TO HAVE A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION, IN PARTICULAR THE INCLUSION OF 'GABON AND DISASTER' IN THE TITLE. THEY SAID THAT GABON WAS A NAME OF ANOTHER COUNTRY AND THAT DISASTER IS ASSOCIATED WITH BAD LACK.

SIR, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT IS A LISTENING GOVERNMENT AND RESPECTS ITS' PEOPLE'S VIEWS. THEREFORE, THE CONCERNS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE BEEN NOTED. FOLLOWING THIS, MY GOVERNMENT FURTHER CONSULTED THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND IS PLEASED TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE STADIUM. THIS SHOWS PATRIOTISM AND TOGETHERNESS IN NATIONAL MATTERS. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE STADIUM SHALL NOW BE CALLED "NATIONAL HEROES STADIUM". GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN RECOGNITION THAT THE NAME WILL NOT ONLY HONOUR THE GABON PLANE CLASH FALLEN HEROES BUT ALSO ALL HEROES IN SPORTS AND ACT AS A MOTIVATOR FOR THE SPORTS PERSONS TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE.

MR. SPEAKER, I ALSO WANT TO ATTEST THAT SINCE THE NEW NAME OF HEROES STADIUM WAS ANNOUNCED ON 10TH JULY, 2013 AND THE ARTICLES IN THE NEWSPAPERS ON 11TH JULY, 2013, THERE HAS BEEN HAPPINESS AND POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC.

CABINET ALSO AT ITS 14TH SITTING OF 15TH JULY, 2013 ADOPTED THE NEW NAME OF "HEROES STADIUM"

MR. SPEAKER, I SUBMIT AND THANK YOU.