



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE FUTURE OF
FOOTBALL IN ZAMBIA**

**PRESENTED BY HONOURABLE FACKSON U.
SHAMENDA (MP), MINISTER OF LABOUR,
YOUTH AND SPORT**

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MR SPEAKER SIR,

I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR ACCORDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF THE HOUSE AND THROUGH THIS HOUSE THE NATION ON THE STATE OF FOOTBALL AND THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL IN ZAMBIA.

MR SPEAKER SIR,

I INTEND TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER AS FOLLOWS:

1. FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION

FOOTBALL IN ZAMBIA IS ADMINISTERED BY THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA WHO ARE AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS (FIFA).

IN TERMS OF ZAMBIAN LAW ALL SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE REGULATED BY THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA ESTABLISHED UNDER AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA.

THIS MEANS THEREFORE THAT BY ZAMBIAN LAW THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA IS AFFILIATED TO THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA AND SUBJECT TO ITS REGULATION.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA HAS A CONSTITUTION WHICH CONTAINS VARIOUS PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GAME. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE, THE FAZ

COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND A SECRETARIAT. THE CONSTITUTION ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL BODIES.

WHILE THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DRAWS IT'S FUNDS FROM MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS, LEVIES AND CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS, THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE ASSOCIATION THROUGH SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL TEAMS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE SALARIES OF THE COACH.

2. ZAMBIA NATIONAL TEAM COACH

MR SPEAKER,

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA HAD ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT WITH MR DARIO BONETTI. ONE OF THE CLAUSES IN THE CONTRACT PROVIDED FOR REVIEW OF THE CONTRACT SHOULD THE COACH FAIL TO QUALIFY THE TEAM TO THE FINALS OF THE AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS.

MR SPEAKER SIR,

THE CONTRACT WAS TO RUN FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AND WAS DUE TO COME TO AN END IN JULY 2012. THE TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT MEANS THE COUNTRY WILL BE LIABLE TO PAYING ALL THE DUES TO THE COACH, AS THIS IS PLAINLY A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

FURTHERMORE, THE MINISTRY DOES NOT SUPPORT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE TERMINATION AND SEPARATION WAS HANDLED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

MR SPEAKER SIR,

MY MINISTRY ALSO DEALS WITH LABOUR ISSUES AND IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES WHETHER BY SEPARATION OR NOT, THE DIGNITY OF THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE UPHELD.

WHILE THE MINISTRY WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SEPARATION, WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE MANNER OF RECRUITMENT OF THE REPLACEMENT COACH. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RE ENGAGEMENT OF MR HERVE RENARD WAS UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT DUE CONSULTATION WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO MEET THE COST OF THE EMOLUMENTS OF THE COACH THEN ALL PARTIES MUST COME TO THE TABLE AND AGREE.

MR SPEAKER SIR,

SPORT IN THIS COUNTRY IS REGULATED BY THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA AND THEREFORE AS THE MAIN PLAYERS THEY MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GAME. THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION RECOGNISES THIS AND THE EXECUTIVE IS SUPPOSED TO DRAW TWO MEMBERS FROM THE NATIONAL SPORT COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT. THESE POSITIONS HAVE REMAINED UNFILLED.

MR SPEAKER SIR,

I HAD REQUESTED FOR A FULL REPORT TO BE FURNISHED TO ME AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS ON THE PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN RECRUITING THE COACH.

AS FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE NEW COACH, THE MINISTRY WAS NOT AWARE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AS CONSULTATIONS WERE NOT MADE. THE WHOLE PROCESS SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A LOT CONSULTATION WITH A VIEW OF REACHING CONSENSUS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED. IN THE INTERIM, A LOCAL COACH COULD HAVE BEEN ENGAGED BECAUSE AS A COUNTRY, WE DO HAVE A LOT OF QUALIFIED ZAMBIANS WHO WOULD HAVE TAKEN CHARGE OF THE TEAM AND ALLOWED FOR THE SEARCH OF A COACH TO LEAD THE NATIONAL TEAM. WE HAVE THE LIKES OF PATRICK PHIRI, FIGHTON SIMUKONDA, WEDSON NYIRENDA, FREDDIE MWILA, BONIFACE SIMUTOWE AND BESTONE CHAMBESHI WHO HAVE ALL EXCELLED WITH THE NATIONAL TEAM PREVIOUSLY.

MR SPEAKER SIR,

THE MINISTRY WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE CURRENT COACH.

3. FUTURE OF ZAMBIAN FOOTBALL

ZAMBIA IS ENDOWED WITH A LOT OF TALENT TECHNICALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY. FOOTBALL IS A GAME THAT MOST ZAMBIANS CHERISH AND LOVE. LIKE ALL SPORT IT IS A UNIFYING FACTOR IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH DEFINES OUR EXISTENCE AS ZAMBIA. IT ALSO BELIES OUR MOTTO OF ONE ZAMBIA ONE NATION. IT IS THEREFORE DESIRABLE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF OUR GAME REFLECTS THIS DIVERSITY.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA SHOULD THEREFORE BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT PRIOR TO ANY DECISION THEY MAKE, CONSULTATIONS WITH MY MINISTRY AND THE NATIONAL

SPORTS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA ARE CARDINAL ALTHOUGH THE FINAL DECISION MAY REMAIN THE BABY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE PF GOVERNMENT WILL DEAL WITH ALL ISSUES IN A TRANSPARENT MANNER INCLUDING FOOTBALL. THERE WILL BE NO SACRED COWS.

THE FUTURE OF ZAMBIAN FOOTBALL IS INDEED BRIGHT IF ONLY THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CAN PUT ITS HOUSE IN ORDER.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT RECRUITMENT OF A NATIONAL COACH WITH A PROVEN PEDIGREE PROVIDED RECRUITMENT IS DONE TRANSPARENTLY AND NOT BASED ON PATRONAGE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE OPERATIONS AT FOOTBALL HOUSE AND THE FAZ COUNCIL ARE TRANSPARENT AND ORDERLY.

MY MINISTRY WILL NOT ALLOW THE UNNECESSARY POLITICISATION OF THE GAME.

FOOTBALL IS FOR ALL ZAMBIANS AND NOT A CLIQUE OF ARROGANT INDIVIDUALS. AFTER ALL IT IS THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY THAT IS SPENT ON FOOTBALL.

MR SPEAKER SIR, I THANK YOU.