



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORT

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND
SPORT ON COMMUNITY SPORT

BY HONOURABLE VINCENT MWALE (MP)

MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORT

OCTOBER 2015

MR. SPEAKER SIR,

I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE, AND THROUGH THIS HOUSE, INFORM THE NATION ON THE PROGRAMME OF REVITALIZING GRASS ROOT SPORT THROUGH THE COMMUNITY SPORT PROGRAMME.

MR. SPEAKER,

THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH MY MINISTRY, ATTACHES VALUE TO SPORT AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS REGARD, WE SHALL CONTINUE CREATING AN ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT TO ENCOURAGE THE CITIZENRY AND COOPERATING PARTNERS TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE AND SUPPORT SPORT DEVELOPMENT AT GRASS-ROOT LEVEL.

MR. SPEAKER SIR,

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE CRITICAL ROLE SPORT PLAYS IN ENHANCING COMMUNITY COHESION, COMBATING LIFE THREATENING COMMUNICABLE AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS HIV/AIDS, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND DIABETES. THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY HAS PROVIDED GUIDANCE TO REVITALIZE COMMUNITY SPORT WHICH ENVISIONS MASS PARTICIPATION IN SPORT BY ALL CITIZENS REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE AND RELIGION BY THE YEAR 2030.

THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY ENCOURAGING CITIZENRY PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ENGAGING IN A SPORT OF THEIR CHOICE USING SIMPLE LOCALLY DEVELOPED SPORT EQUIPMENT.

MR. SPEAKER SIR,

IT IS THROUGH SUCH PLATFORMS THAT TALENT WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND NURTURED FOLLOWING THE PROGRESSION PROCESS AS ATHLETES ARE BEING PREPARED FOR BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS. AM SURE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT FROM YOUR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES, YOU HAVE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN THAT ARE TALENTED IN VARIOUS SPORTS DISCIPLINES SUCH AS BOXING, FOOTBALL, NETBALL, ATHLETICS AS WELL AS SWIMMING IN REGIONS WITH ABUNDANT WATER BODIES REGIONS LIKE WESTERN AND LUAPULA PROVINCES. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAS NOT BEEN A FRAMEWORK UNDER WHICH SUCH TALENT CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND HARNESSSED TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL FOR THE GLORY OF OUR COUNTRY. IT IS IN THIS REGARD THAT TOMORROW I WILL BE LAUNCHING THE COMMUNITY SPORTS PROGRAMME.

MR. SPEAKER SIR,

THE NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY ADVOCATES FOR PHYSICALLY FIT CITIZENRY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL FITNESS ACTIVITIES. UNFORTUNATELY, IN OUR COUNTRY, MOST OF US DO NOT EITHER

PARTICIPATE IN ANY SPORT OR PHYSICAL FITNESS ON A REGULAR BASIS. THIS HAS RESULTED IN MOST OF US BEING SUSCEPTIBLE TO OPPORTUNISTIC DISEASES. THE TREND HAS EXACERBATED THE PREVALENCE OF NON-COMMUNICABLE PREVENTABLE DISEASES. ACCORDING TO THE 2013 ANNUAL HEALTH STATISTICAL BULLETIN, HYPERTENSION INCREASED FROM 37.7% IN 2012 TO 41.6% IN 2013. SIMILARLY, CASES OF DIABETES INCREASED FROM 6.1 % IN 2012 TO 7.6 % IN 2013. PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL FITNESS ACTIVITIES AND SPORT CAN TREMENDOUSLY REDUCE THESE INCIDENCES AND CONSEQUENTLY REDUCE ON THE NATIONAL HEALTH BUDGET AND ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, THE PROGRAMME WILL PROVIDE A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORT ACTIVITIES.

MR. SPEAKER SIR,

WE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAMME USING EXISTING PLAY-GROUNDS OR OPEN SPACES IN COMMUNITIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY USED FOR SPORTING ACTIVITIES BY THE COMMUNITIES. WHERE SUCH OPEN SPACES DO NOT EXIST, THE MINISTRY SHALL ESTABLISH STRUCTURES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP. IN THIS CASE, WE WILL RECOGNIZE, THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES SUCH AS THE PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEES, CONSTITUENCIES AND WARDS. IN ADDITION, MY MINISTRY WILL WORK WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS, EDU SPORT, SPORT IN ACTION AND GRASSROOT SOCCER ACADEMY, PLANNED PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION AMONG OTHERS. I ALSO WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE OPEN SPACES WILL NOT BE DONE BY

GOVERNMENT ALONE BUT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITIES IN AREAS SUCH AS ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROPRIATE FACILITIES, PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND MANAGEMENT. THE FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS:

- i. MULTI-PURPOSE COURTS TO CATER FOR BASKETBALL, NETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, HANDBALL AND TENNIS,
- ii. A PITCH TO CATER FOR FOOTBALL AND RUGBY WITH A BASIC RUNNING TRACK,
- iii. MALE AND FEMALE CHANGE ROOMS WITH SANITARY FACILITIES, AND
- iv. A FENCE AND BASIC SITTING TERRACES.

MR. SPEAKER SIR,

I AM AWARE THAT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ARE FACING HIGH DEMAND FOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES. IN THIS REGARD, WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR THIS PROGRAMME TO UNFOLD FOR US TO DISTRIBUTE BALLS, JERSEYS AND OTHER SPORTS NECESSITIES. INSTEAD, MY MINISTRY WILL USE THE EXISTING STRUCTURES AND ENSURE THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH EQUIPMENT IS EQUITABLY DONE. HOWEVER, THIS IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. THEREFORE, I AM APPEALING TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAMME AS ITS FULL AND SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION DEPENDS ON OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

MR. SPEAKER,

AS I LAUNCH THIS PROGRAMME TOMORROW, MY MINISTRY FOR A START WILL DISTRIBUTE 10 FOOTBALLS TO EACH CONSTITUENCY. AS THE PROGRAMME UNFOLDS, WITH MATCHING RESOURCES, MY MINISTRY WILL ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES. A MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO TRACK IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAMME TO ENSURE THAT THE DESIRED RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED.

I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE HERE THAT THE LAUNCH OF THIS PROGRAMME WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW, 7TH OCTOBER, 2015 AT KALINGALINGA SCHOOL GROUNDS NEAR KALINGALINGA CLINIC IN KALINGALINGA COMPOUND AT 09:30HRS.

THROUGH YOU SIR, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO JOIN ME AT THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION.

THE FOOTBALLS CAN BE COLLECTED FROM MY MINISTRY AT THE NEW GOVERNMENT COMPLEX ON THE 11TH FLOOR IN ROOM 6.

MR. SPEAKER SIR,

I THANK YOU