



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

STATEMENT BY
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MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND
CHILD DEVELOPMENT ON YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT AND JOB
CREATION

Date: 28th October, 2010

MR. SPEAKER SIR

IT IS MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE ACCORDED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THIS AUGUST HOUSE AND THE NATION ON THE PROGRAMMES BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARTICULARLY ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND JOB CREATION IN ZAMBIA.

MR. SPEAKER,

STATISTICS SHOW THAT 68% OF THE POPULATION IN ZAMBIA COMPRISES CHILDREN AND THE YOUTH. TO BE SPECIFIC, THE YOUTH AGED BETWEEN **18 - 35 MAKE UP 28%** OF THE POPULATION WHILE THE CHILDREN BETWEEN 0 - 17 YEARS CONSISTS OF 40%.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS THE LARGEST SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY AND THE BEDROCK FOR PROSPERITY OF THIS NATION WHEN THE SECTOR IS ENGAGED IN PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER, THE SITUATION ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN FACE A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES IN THEIR LIVES AND SOME OF THESE CHALLENGES ARE-

- **INADEQUATE ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION**

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN TERMS OF BUILDING MORE SCHOOLS AND RAISING THE ENROLMENT RATE AT PRIMARY LEVEL, INADEQUATE PLACES AT TERTIARY LEVEL REMAIN A CHALLENGE.

- **POVERTY**

ACCORDING TO THE 2006 LIVING CONDITIONS AND MONITORING SURVEY, THE OVERALL INCIDENCE OF POVERTY DECLINED TO 64 PERCENT IN 2006 FROM 68 PERCENT IN 2004. HOWEVER, VARIATIONS EXIST BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. IN RURAL AREAS POVERTY AMONG THE YOUTH IS A PROBLEM FOR VARIOUS REASONS.

THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF POVERTY AMONG THE YOUTH INCLUDE POOR EDUCATION AND LACK OF SKILLS WHICH MAKE THEM UNEMPLOYABLE. POVERTY LEVELS ARE HIGH AMONG THE YOUTH WHO TEND TO LACK SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS.

- **UNEMPLOYMENT**

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT **28 PERCENT** OF THE YOUTH ARE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, WHILE THE UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS ARE HIGH, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE GOOD POLICIES AND THEREFORE CREATED CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR JOB CREATION. MANY OF THE PEOPLE BEING EMPLOYED ARE THE YOUTH FOR INSTANCE IN THE MINES, CONSTRUCTION, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM INDUSTRY ETC.

- **LIMITED ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

LIMITED ACCESS TO FINANCE IS ANOTHER MAJOR CONSTRAINT THAT THE YOUTH FACE: THE YOUTH FIND DIFFICULTIES IN BORROWING MONEY FROM THE FINANCIAL MARKETS BECAUSE OF THE STRINGENT ECONOMIC EVALUATION METHODS. THE MINISTRY IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A BANK SPECIFICALLY FOR THE YOUTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

BESIDES THE PRUDENT MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY WITH A VIEW OF EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, THE

GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SPECIFIC MEASURES AIMED AT EMPOWERING THE YOUTH. THESE ARE:-

(I) THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND IN THE 2010 BUDGET TO PROVIDE GRANTS AND LOANS FOR STARTING OR SCALING UP YOUTH ENTERPRISES

MR. SPEAKER

REALIZING THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE YOUTH AND THE POTENTIAL THE SECTOR HAS TO CONTRIBUTE TO JOB CREATION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY, THE MINISTRY HAS PLACED EMPHASIS ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND JOB CREATION. IN 2009 **K 5 BILLION** WAS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AS A YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND. THE FUND HAS THREE COMPONENTS NAMELY,

- **K 3,000,000,000** FOR GRANTS,
- **K 1,700,000,000** AS A REVOLVING FUND, AND

- **K300, 000,000** FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND ARE TO-

- PROMOTE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY,
- ENCOURAGE THE OUT OF SCHOOL, MARGINALISED AND UNEMPLOYED YOUTH TO VENTURE INTO SUSTAINABLE AND VIABLE INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS,
- PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE SUSTAINABLE AND GROWTH ORIENTED CITIZEN OWNED YOUTH ENTERPRISES,
- PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
- PROVIDE BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SUSTAINABLE YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT, AND
- CREATE SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS.

(II) SKILLS AND ENTREPREUERSHIP TRAINING.

THE PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED FOR ALL SCHOOL DROP OUTS, NEVER BEEN TO SCHOOL AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED BUT BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE ACCESS TO COLLEGES AND THE UNIVERSITIES THEY ARE UNABLE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR EDUCATION FURTHER.

MR SPEAKER

THE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRES OFFER VARIOUS SKILLS SUCH AS **TAILORING AND DESIGN, CATERING, FOOD AND BEAVERAGES, CARPENTRY, BRICKLAYLING, PLUMBING, COMPUTERS LESONS AND AGRICULTURE.**

(III) PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND START UP CAPITAL

IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISION OF SKILLS THE MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT GIVES GRADUATES FROM THE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRES AND CHIWOKO AND KITWE ZAMBIA NATIONAL SERVICE CAMPS EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS AND START UP CAPITAL IN ORDER TO VENTURE INTO THEIR OWN

BUSINESSES. IN SUMMARY OUR PROGRAMMES NOT ONLY EMPOWERS THE YOUTH WITH KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO WITH CAPITAL FOR THEM TO MEANINGFULLY ENGAGE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

(IV) ESTABLISHMENT OF INCUBATORS

THE MINISTRY HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE MOTIVATIONAL CENTRE FOR AFRICA'S TRANSFORMATION FOR THE PROVISION OF BUSINESS INCUBATORS TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PROVIDE SPACE TO IMPLEMENT TURN IDEAS INTO REALITY UNTIL THEY BECOME WELL ESTABLISHED.

(V) LEADERSHIP TRAINING

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME IS TAILORED TO EQUIP THE YOUTH WITH LEADERHIP SKILLS FOR THEM TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND FUTURE LEADERS OF THIS NATION.

MR SPEAKER

AS A MINISTRY WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING THE YOUTH TO FORM ENTERPRISES AFTER THEIR TRAINING SO THAT THEY CAN APPLY THEIR SKILLS BY PARTICIPATING IN SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT TENDERS ESPECIALLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE PROJECTS. I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE TO CONSIDER THE YOUTH IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM WORKS OR CONTRACTS THROUGH THE CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND. FOR EXAMPLE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARY OFFICES.

MR SPEAKER SIR

ALLOW ME TO TALK ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND AND THE PROCEDURE TO ACCESS THE MONEY.

MR. SPEAKER,

SO FAR **K1,012,000,000.00** OUT OF THE **K 3,000,000,000** GRANT HAS BEEN DISBURSED OF **K2,000,000** TO FIVE HUNDRED **(500) CLUBS ON AVERAGE OF TWENTY (20) PERSONS.** IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT ONE MILLION YOUTH HAVE BENEFITED AND EMPOWERED AND MANY MORE WILL BENEFIT ONCE THE MONEY IS EXHAUSTED. ON THE OTHER HAND **K1,000,706,250** OF THE **K1,700,000,00** REVOLVING FUND HAS BEEN DISBURSED TOO. TWENTY NINE (29) YOUTH ORGANISATIONS HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE FUND. IT IS ESTAMATED THAT ADDITIONAL **145** JOBS WOULD BE CREATED. THE MONEY WAS GIVEN OUT FOR VARIOUS PROJECT PROPOSALS RANGING FROM AGRICULTURE AND CONSTRUCTION.

PROCEDURE FOR ACCESSING THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND

THE PROCEDURE FOR ACCESSING THE FUNDS ARE THAT

- **THE YOUTH MUST BE REGISTERED CLUBS**
- **THE CLUBS SHOULD OBTAIN CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION FROM EITHER THE COUNCIL OR THE**

**PATENTS AND COMPANIES REGISTRATION OFFICE,
AND**

- **THE APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE
MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND CHILD
DEVELOPMENT,**
- **THEY SHOULD BE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 35 YEARS.**
- **AFTER LODGING IN THE APPLICATION FORMS, MPS
ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE
PROCESS.**

I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST
HOUSE TO ENCOURAGE THE YOUTH IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES TO
ACCESS THE FUND.

MR. SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A STRONG LINKAGE
BETWEEN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND JOB CREATION. AS THE
YOUTH ARE PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO FINANCIAL CAPITAL
WHICH HAS BEEN A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THEM BECAUSE OF
THE BANKING SYSTEM IN ZAMBIA, MORE WILL PARTICIPATE IN

PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE INCOME, EXPAND THEIR OPERATIONS BY REINVESTING THEIR PROFIT WHICH IN TURN WILL DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL LABOUR TO MATCH WITH INCREASED PRODUCTION CAPACITIES.

FURTHERMORE AS THEY ACQUIRE LEADERSHIP SKILLS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING AND MORE AND MORE ARE PROVIDED WITH EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND THE STARTING CAPITAL AND HAVE ACCESS TO INCUBATORS, THE YOUTH WILL NOT ONLY BE EMPOWERED WITH THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT BUT ALSO WITH THE TECHNICAL KNOW HOW TO CREATE JOBS.

FOR INSTANCE AS THE YOUTH USE THEIR SKILLS TO SET UP COMPANIES, USE THE FUNDS TO INVEST AND EXPAND THEIR ORGANISATIONS WEALTH WILL BE CREATED, THE FIRMS WILL EXPAND AND MANY WORKERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE EXPANDED CAPACITY.

FOR THOSE COMPANIES IN CONSTRUCTION, AS THEY GRADUATE FROM SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE TO LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THE DEMAND FOR LABOUR WILL INCREASE.

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO UNDERLINE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS VERY MUCH DETERMINED TO SCALE UP THE ACTIVITY. THE SERIOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE DOUBLING OF THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND FROM **K5 BILLION** IN 2009 TO **K10 BILLION** IN 2011:-

IT IS THE COMMITMENT OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN, TO CULTIVATE NOBLE VALUES AND TO FULLY UTILIZE AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL IMPROVE THEIR LIVES AND ENABLE THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO URGE THE YOUTH TO WORK HARD AND MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF PERSONAL DISCIPLINE AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE MORE JOBS.

MR. SPEAKER

I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.