



Republic of Zambia

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION BILL

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HON. MWANSA KAPEYA MP.
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2013

Mr Speaker;

I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to update this House on the progress made so far on the preparation of the Access to Information Bill. You may also wish to know that His Honour the Vice President did update this House and gave Government position regarding the progress made in the preparation of the Access to Information Bill.

Mr Speaker,

The Access to Information Bill aims at increasing openness and transparency, guaranteeing freedom of information and the right to access information, improving accountability and improved government relationship with the people. These are the values the Patriotic Front (PF) Government stands for.

Access to Information Bill was initiated by the previous government in the year 2002. The draft of this Bill was introduced for the first reading in Parliament but it was later withdrawn for further consultations.

Mr Speaker;

The MMD Government then kept the Bill at this consultative stage for close to ten years. On the contrary, when the PF took over the running of Government, it recognised the need to make our people have access to information held by public institutions and about their government.

Mr Speaker;