



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON  
THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH AND MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH**

**Hon. Dr. Joseph M. Kasonde, MP**

**Minister of Health**

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Thank you Mr. Speaker** for according me the opportunity to issue a statement in response to a point of order raised by my brother, the Honourable Member of Parliament for Monze, Hon. Jack Mwiimbu, on the realignment of functions of the Ministry of Health and those of the Ministry of Community Development Mother and Child Health. I shall address three critical elements of the policy, namely the rationale, implications for the budget and staff concerns.

## **RATIONALE**

**Mr. Speaker**, with regard to the rationale, I can do no better than repeat my own budget statement to the House, and I quote: “In developing the Ministry’s Budget for 2013, we were guided by our belief in the intrinsic value of the paradigm shift which has led us to realign the functions of Ministry of Health and the

Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health.

We are convinced that active participation of the community in our efforts to improve maternal and child health, was the missing link in the attainment of the desired outcome.”

**Mr. Speaker,** I wish to remind the House that earlier in the Year, the Motion to realign functions of Government Ministries was tabled before this house, and unanimously supported. This proposal included the realignment of some functions from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health that has since taken up an additional mandate of primary health care services.

## **Implications for the Budget**

**Sir,** in my Policy Statement on the Ministry of Health of 2013 Budget, and indeed in the Policy Statement of my Colleague the Hon. Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child Health in support of his Ministry's 2013 Budget, we emphasized the functions and Budget-lines that have been realigned.

In summary, the 2013 Budgets presented to this august House fully outlined the realigned functions, and I wish to thank the House for their support.



I specifically mentioned, and I quote: **“that of the K3.6 Trillion total budget allocation to the health sector, K2.2 Trillion has been allocated to the Ministry of Health while the balance goes to the functions of Primary Health Care, Mother and Child Health in line with the re-alignment of mandates between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health”**.

**Mr. Speaker**, the Statement in the Media released by the Secretary to Cabinet was merely meant to inform stakeholders and Cooperating Partners, over this realignment in conformity with the Patriotic Front (PF) practice of an inclusive Government. Indeed, that statement read, in part, as follows:

“In line with the decision to reorganize the two Ministries, an appropriate structure has been proposed under the Ministry of Community Development headquarters for the Department of Mother and Child Health. The realignment of functions will require financial, human and material resources. The implementation process of realigned functions under Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health is estimated to cost K1.4 Trillion and funds have been budgeted for in the 2013 Budget.”

**Mr. Speaker,** may I also inform the House that this realignment does not in any way affect staff emoluments that are centrally managed with an automated central Payroll at Cabinet Office.

Where functions have moved from one Ministry to the other and staff transfers have been made, the employment status of individuals has not been

affected. More, importantly, the budgetary reallocations were made as part of the process of preparing the two budgets which were subsequently presented to this august House and approved.

**Mr. Speaker,** in conclusion, I cannot help speculating on why a misunderstanding appears to have occurred following the various statements I have described.

One possible explanation might be that some honourable members were absent from the chamber at the time of my previous statement. It must be left to honourable members to have alternative interpretations.

**Mr. Speaker, I thank you.**