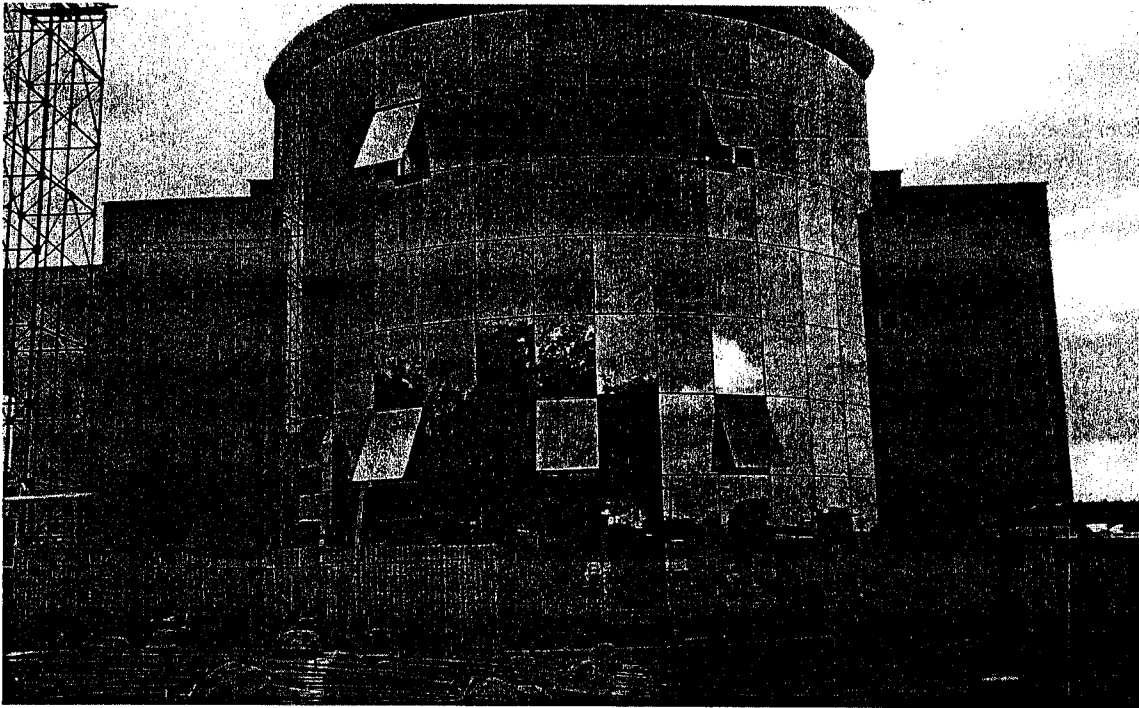




REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION



**STATUS ON THE OPENING OF ROBERT KAPASA MAKASA
UNIVERSITY**

Ministerial Statement by
Honourable Prof. Nkandu Luo, MP,
Minister of Higher Education.

13 October 2016

MR. SPEAKER,

I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to update the nation on the status of our newly constructed institution –The Robert Kapasa Makasa University which was commissioned by His Excellency the Republican President, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu on 28th July, 2016.

Sir, Robert Kapasa Makasa University has been constructed at a total sum of K 159 Million and has a bed capacity of 640 students. The institution consists of the following:

1. One double storey Library
2. Four No. four storey student hostels
3. Four No. double Storey Lecture Room Blocks
4. Two No. Lecture Theatres
5. Fifteen Staff houses
6. One No Administration block

The institution does not have all buildings as it will be constructed in phases. Phase 1 comprised of 15 staff houses. Phase 2 comprised the above named structures whilst Phase 3 included external and auxiliary works such as roads, power and water reticulation. Phase 4 will add other vital structures to the institution.

Construction works commenced in 2009 and despite some delays, the project has reached completion. The Contractor was expected to leave the site by August 2016. Due to a number of factors, including the cost of establishing a fully-fledged University Administration, and the risk of vandalism when the contractor moved out, a decision was made to best operationalize the University at the least cost. It was realized that the best option would be to place the new structure under an already existing University to

reduce on operational overheads and also to hasten the operationalization of the institution.

Consequently, The Ministry held discussions with the two oldest Public Universities: The Copperbelt University and the University of Zambia. The two Universities were requested to submit proposals on how they would run Robert Kapasa Makasa University as a faculty at the least cost to Government but in a sustainable manner. Among the proposals that were submitted, the Copper belt University submission was found to most meet Governments aspirations for enhancing development in the rural parts of the country through access to tertiary education. Upon assessment of the proposals, the Copper Belt University was accepted as the viable proposal. The Ministry then decided to open the institution as a faculty under CBU. The Robert Kapasa Makasa University will operate as a

satellite campus of the Copperbelt University for a specified period of time with a view to wean it off after attaining operational stability and allow it to operate as an independent University. Consequently, in the interim, the Copperbelt University Council through its management will provide oversight on the operations of the Robert Kapasa Makasa University. The University Management will put in place a lean management structure to run the University cost effectively.

In line with the original vision of the University, programmes that focus on Science and Technology will be introduced with a bias towards mainstreaming vocational and entrepreneurial education, which emphasizes the development of relevant practical skills.

The new hostels will accommodate only two students per cubicle as per design requirement to avoid

lowering university standards and also to prolong the structures' lifespan. Therefore, only 640 boarders can be enrolled. However, the university need not be attached to accommodation availability. Day scholars can also be enrolled.

Mr Speaker,

In order to optimise the use of the available infrastructure and in the short term, CBU management will make arrangements to start running the following programs

BSc. in Agro forestry

BSc. in Sustainable Aquaculture

BSc. in Wild Life Management

BSc. in Animal Science

BSc. in information and Communication technology with Education.

MR. SPEAKER,

I am pleased to report to this August House that the institution was opened on the 20th of September, 2016. Under these arrangements, Robert Kapasa Makasa will be able to contribute to poverty reduction and wealth creation for the local communities in the following manner:

- Provide training to the local communities in sustainable crop production, aquaculture and livestock production through outreach programmes.
- Undertake research and community outreach programs aimed at enhancing the supply of crop seedlings, fish fingerling, and livestock to the local communities and thereby increasing the agriculture potential and output from the community.

- Take a deliberate policy to empower the local community by outsourcing University cleaning, security and other services to community cooperatives

MR. SPEAKER,

I thank you.