



Republic of Zambia

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE LUCKY MULUSA
MP.**

**MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
ON THE STATUS OF THE PREPARATION OF THE SEVENTH
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (7NDP) 2017-2021**

19th
October 2016

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament,

Let me thank this August House for according me an opportunity to share with the nation on the status of developing the Seventh National Development Plan 2017-2021. The re-emergence of long and medium-term planning in Zambia in 2002 to date has witnessed significant strides towards coordinated development planning processes. This can be evidenced by the production and implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 2002-2004, Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) 2002-2005, Vision 2030, Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) 2006-2010, Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) 2011-2015 and the Revised Sixth National Development Plan (R-SNDP) 2013-2016. These planning instruments have been providing a platform for a coordinated and systematic approach in undertaking national development planning.

It is worth noting that the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was aimed at reducing the high levels of poverty that were pervasive in the economy especially after the privatisation process. Despite the implementation of this national development instrument and subsequent plans, poverty levels and inequality have remained high at 60 percent and 0.65 respectively in the midst of impressive economic growth rates that have been posted over the past decade. This negative trend justifies the need to have a holistic approach to tackling development in an integrated manner using a bottom up approach whilst ensuring that we put in place appropriate economic governance reforms and instruments aimed at promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development. This is the approach we have taken in developing the Seventh National Development premises us on a higher level to succeed than in previous Plans.

Mr. Speaker,

Amidst all situations, Government remains resolute in adhering to long and medium term development planning processes. Government shall in this regard, continue to be guided by the National Vision 2030 as a framework for achieving long term national development goals. In keeping with principles of good governance and entrenching

ownership of development plans, our planning process involves wide consultation of key stakeholders who include; Cooperating Partners, Government Institutions, Civil Society, and Faith Based organizations, Academia, the Private Sector, Traditional Leaders and the general public. The planning process uses mainly the Bottom-Up approach. The top down approach is also applied with a view to harmonize the plan with regional and global development benchmarks to national targets.

Mr. Speaker,

The Bottom- Up approach entails consultations that start at the district level, through the District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs), then proceed to the Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs) and subsequently reaching the Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs). The major focus of the bottom up is the identification of growth areas in the districts, as well as obtaining the key recommendations that would stimulate economic growth and poverty reduction in the country and ensure ownership of the plan by the people. The views and recommendations from the district and provincial consultations are synthesized with those of the Sector Advisory Groups to constitute the draft of the Plan. It is our duty as we implement the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) that all advisory groups including the National Development Coordinating Committee are not only active but are repositioned as institutions for accelerating implementation of Development Programmes to be contained in the Plan.

Mr. Speaker,

The Top-Down approach entails consultations that start with The National Steering Committee (NSC), through to the Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs), which comprise Cooperating Partners, Civil Society and other stakeholders, down to other specialized organizations and associations. These consultations define the Macroeconomic parameters from the Global level to the country specific, issues to determine the level of GDP growth, Financing Framework, Level of Debt Contraction and the Level of Private Sector participation. In

addition, other indicators such as inflation and interest rate targets as well as exchange rates and per- capital income targets are also defined, over the five-year period of the plan. These parameters are shared with lower level structures with a view to ensuring that objectives and strategies are harmonized at various levels.

Mr. Speaker,

During the Official opening of the First Session of Twelfth National Assembly, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu announced that Government's focus for the next five years will be premised on the developmental milestones which will be in the Seventh National Development Plan, whose focus will be to achieve a resilient and diversified economy. There has been significant progress made in the preparation of the Seventh National Development and efforts are being made to synchronize strategic interventions to addressing economic diversification and create resilience in the economy. The Zero draft document has been prepared and is currently being edited in readiness for validation. Planners from all sectors are meeting to jointly review the programmes and projects contained in the draft document and how these contribute to meeting the strategic focus. It is also worth mentioning that attempts are being made to mainstream National, Regional and International initiatives in the Plan like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) under the auspices of SADC. Issues of gender, disability and climate change will also be mainstreamed in the planning process

Mr. Speaker,

The plan is expected to meet key developmental outcomes such as reducing poverty and vulnerability, reducing development inequalities, improving governance environment, enhancing human development and directly take measures to enhance economic diversification. These outcomes once they are met are expected to meet key criteria required for Zambia to graduate from being a least developed country to moving towards being a prosperous middle income country. Zambia has so far met one criteria regarding income graduation threshold having a per capita Gross National Income of

US \$ 1,327 against a threshold of US \$ 1, 242. The country however is below the graduation threshold on human assets index and economic vulnerability. Zambia requires to meet 25.2 points or reduce the economic vulnerability index by 13.6 points. The Seventh National Development Plan will contain specific policies, programmes and projects, predominantly targeted towards economic diversification and job creation and subsequently poverty reduction which will enable Zambia take tremendous strides to graduating from being a Least Developed Country.

It is our endeavour in the 7NDP to reduce the paradox of high poverty levels against a rich resource country. It still remain inconceivable that Zambia which is endowed with mineral resources, wild life, rivers, good soils, flora and fauna yet the economy is characterized by low industrialization, low beneficiation from our rich natural resources weak diversification and high levels of unemployment resulting in the high levels of poverty that persist. There is need to stimulate the contribution of sectors where we have comparative advantages to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) such as Agriculture, Mining and Tourism with a view to accelerate growth and development.

Mr. Speaker,

With regard to the relocation of the Capital City from Lusaka, this is a matter that will have to undergo serious consideration and should be taken as part of a long term development consideration which will require consensus among stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.