



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD
DEVELOPMENT ON ZAMBIA'S DISMAL PERFORMANCE AT 2016 RIO OLYMPIC
GAMES**

PRESENTED BY HON. MOSES MAWERE (MP)
MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

11TH OCTOBER, 2016

MR. SPEAKER,

I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE, AND THROUGH THIS HOUSE, INFORM THE NATION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ZAMBIAN TEAM AT THE 2016 RIO OLYMPIC GAMES.

MR. SPEAKER,

ZAMBIA BEING A MEMBER OF GLOBAL, CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL SPORTING GROUPINGS AND IN REGULAR STANDING HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS COMPETITIONS AS ORGANISED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS, IN ORDER FOR ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL GAMES SUCH AS THE OLYMPICS. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO QUALIFY THROUGH PRELIMINARY CONTINENTAL AND GLOBAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENTS. THE AIM OF COMPETING IN THE GAMES IS TO REAP MEDALS, AND RAISE THE FLAG OF ZAMBIA AND PUT THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY ON THE WORLD MAP.

MR. SPEAKER,

I AM GLAD TO STATE THAT THE PARTICIPATING OF TEAM ZAMBIA AT THE 2016 RIO OLYMPIC GAMES WAS SPONSORED BY KAGEM. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A PRIVATE COMPANY HAS COME ON BOARD TO SPONSOR A ZAMBIAN TEAM AT OLYMPIC GAMES. AS GOVERNMENT, WE COMMEND KAGEM FOR THIS NOBLE GESTURE AND URGE THEM TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY. WE ALSO CALL UPON OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS TO EMULATE KAGEM.

MR. SPEAKER,

DURING THE 2016 RIO OLYMPICS THE COUNTRY PARTICIPATED IN FOUR (4) SPORTING DISCIPLINES WITH SEVEN ATHLETES AS FOLLOWS:

1. ATHLETICS – IN WHICH TWO (2) MALES AND ONE (1) FEMALE QUALIFIED IN HUNDRED METRES, EIGHT HUNDRED METRES AND MARATHON;
2. BOXING – IN WHICH ONE (1) MALE QUALIFIED IN SEVENTY FIVE KILOGRAMMES (75KG) CATEGORY;
3. JUDO – IN WHICH ONE (1) MALE QUALIFIED IN UNDER SIXTY SIX KILOGRAMMES (66KG); AND
4. SWIMMING – IN WHICH ONE (1) MALE AND ONE (1) FEMALE QUALIFIED ON WILD CAT BASIS.

MR. SPEAKER,

IN TERMS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, THE COUNTRY DID NOT PERFORM FAIRLY WELL AS THE ATHLETES DID NOT REAP ANY MEDALS FROM THE 2016 RIO OLYMPIC GAMES. THIS IS DUE TO THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- i) INADEQUATE PREPARATION OF ATHLETES: IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT IT TAKES 8 YEARS TO GROOM AN ATHLETE OF OLYMPIC STANDARDS IN TERMS OF CONTINUOUS TRAINING, APPROPRIATE FEEDING AND PSYCHING. IN ZAMBIA, DUE TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, EARNEST PREPARATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS NORMALLY START A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE COMPETITION. MEANING, OUR ATHLETES ARE GENERALLY INADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR THESE COMPETITIONS. THIS HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY INADEQUATE MODERN EQUIPMENT AND APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE.
- ii) WHILE GOVERNMENT IS CREATING A POSITIVE AND CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED THAT MOST OF THE SUCCESSFUL ATHLETES ARE SPONSORED BY THE CORPORATE WORLD. EXAMPLES INCLUDE USAIN BOLT OF JAMAICA, THE WILLIAM SISTERS THE UNITED STATES, TO MENTION BUT A FEW. IN ZAMBIA, THERE ONLY FEW CORPORATE ENTITIES WHO NORMALLY

SPONSOR ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE IN TOURNAMENTS AND DO NOT PARTICULARLY SPONSOR PREPARATION OF ATHLETES.

MR. SPEAKER,

AS A RESULT OF THE REASONS I HAVE MENTIONED, OUR ATHLETES STAND VERY LITTLE CHANCE TO QUALIFY AND LATER ON COMPETE FAVOURABLY AGAINST WELL PREPARED ATHLETES.

MR. SPEAKER,

I AM GLAD TO STATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, IS ACTIVELY IDENTIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING INTERVENTIONS THAT ARE AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF ATHLETES AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS. MR SPEAKER, THE INTERVENTIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

i. REVIVAL AND STRENGTHENING OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT IN SCHOOLS AND HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO INSTILL A CULTURE OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL FITNESS AMONG OUR CHILDREN AT AN EARLY AGE AND TO IDENTIFY TALENT THAT WOULD BE NURTURED FOR COMPETITIVE SPORT. AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION ON SPORT HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED AND THE CURRICULUM HAS BEEN REVISED TO INCLUDE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT AS AN EXAMINABLE SUBJECT.

ii. PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY SPORT

THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED THE COMMUNITY SPORT PROGRAMME IN OCTOBER 2015. THE PROGRAMME IS AIMED AT BOOSTING CITIZENRY PARTICIPATION IN SPORT, PHYSICAL FITNESS ACTIVITIES, TALENT IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT. AMONG THE SALIENT ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN UNDER THIS PROGRAMME ARE: ESTABLISHMENT OF

COMMUNITY SAFE SPACES, CAPACITY BUILDING OF COMMUNITY COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS AND DISTRIBUTION OF START UP SPORT EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE.

iii. PODIUM PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

THIS PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED TO NURTURE ATHLETES TO ELITE LEVELS TO REAP MEDALS AT REGIONAL, CONTINENTAL AND WORLD COMPETITIONS. THE INITIAL SPORTING DISCIPLINES BEING FOCUSED ON, MR. SPEAKER, ARE ATHLETICS, BOXING AND JUDO. SO FAR, CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN FOR COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS PROVINCES IN THESE DISCIPLINES. IN ADDITION, ATHLETES WITH POTENTIAL TO WIN MEDALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED AND ARE BEING NURTURED UNDER THIS PROGRAMME TOWARDS DEVELOPING THEM INTO ELITE ATHLETES.

iv. SPORT EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION SYSTEMS (SEAS)

THIS IS A PLATFORM WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO HARMONISE COACHES' QUALIFICATIONS TOWARDS UPGRADING THEM TO ACCEPTABLE WORLD STANDARDS AND THIS WILL LEAD TO THE PRODUCTION OF QUALITY ATHLETES TO REAP MEDALS FOR THE COUNTRY IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS. THROUGH THIS, MR. SPEAKER, A COUNCIL FOR ZAMBIAN COACHES HAS SINCE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

v. REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL ACT AND NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY

THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMENCED THE REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL ACT AND NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING THAT WILL HELP TO BRING THE TWO DOCUMENTS IN TANDEM WITH CURRENT WORLD SPORTS DEVELOPMENT TRENDS SUCH AS SPORT INCENTIVES, SPORTS FOR PEACE AND

DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS FOR HEALTH THEREBY REDUCING ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WHICH ARE BECOMING A SERIOUS DRAIN ON THE NATIONAL TREASURY.

vi. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

THIS IS ONE OF THE CORE PROGRAMMES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH MY MINISTRY IS IMPLEMENTING IN ORDER TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MODERN SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT AT NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND PHYSICAL FITNESS ACTIVITIES THE PROGRAMME, MR SPEAKER, INVOLVES CONSTRUCTING AND REHABILITATION OF SPORTS FACILITIES. AMONG THESE ARE NATIONAL HEROES STADIUM, UPGRADING OF NKOLOMA STADIUM, TO MENTION BUT A FEW.

MR. SPEAKER,

GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING THE CORPORATE WORLD TO EXPLORE WAYS OF RAISING RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION, SPONSORSHIP AND PROVISION OF INCENTIVES TO ATHLETES.

MR. SPEAKER,

GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE INTERVENTIONS WILL IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF ZAMBIA'S ATHLETES AT REGIONAL, CONTINENTAL AND WORLD COMPETITIONS.

MR. SPEAKER,

I THANK YOU.