

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR HAIMBE, SC, MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON EFFECT OF THE
WITHDRAWAL OF AID BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GOVERNMENT ON
THE AID SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN THE COUNTRY

Madam Speaker, thank you for permitting to make this ministerial statement. The ministerial statement is on the effects of the ninety days foreign aid suspension by the United States of America (USA) from a Zambia perspective or context.

Madam Speaker, the Government of the USA on 20th January, 2025, through an Executive order signed by His Excellency, President Donald J. Trump, commenced a ninety-day global freeze on aid to foreign partners to re-evaluate and redesign U.S foreign aid with its foreign policy objectives. The Executive order froze all U.S foreign aid disbursement worldwide, pending the outcome of the re-evaluation and realignment process, leading to the suspension of funding for various programmes supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U.S. Government funded initiatives.

Madam Speaker, in order to meet the expectations of the American people, the USA Government during the period under review, will decide whether to resume, modify, or terminate assistance. In this regard, on Wednesday 29th January 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Tourism, the Bank of Zambia and other relevant institutions held a meeting with His Excellency, Mr Michael Gonzales, Ambassador of the USA to Zambia to gather preliminary information on the implications of new U.S.A policy.

Madam Speaker, it is worth noting that the USA established diplomatic relations with Zambia in 1964, following Zambia's independence and has long been one of Zambia's most valued development partners. Zambia receives approximately US\$600 million annual aid from the American people which represents a significant portion of Zambia's external assistance.

Madam Speaker, the USA supports key sectors such as health, agriculture, education and governance. The support is disbursed through various channels such as the USAID, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Defence, Peace Corps and the Millennium Challenge Cooperation.

Madam Speaker, 75 per cent of the total U.S. assistance to Zambia is channelled to the health sector of which the biggest portion goes towards supporting the country's HIV/AIDS response activities and health commodities. Currently, there are over 16,000 health workers and community health workers remunerated under these health programme. This aid has led to a significant reduction in the maternal mortality rate and an increase in life expectancy in the country.

Madam Speaker, it is important to mention that there was a second order issued by the U.S. Department to waive the freeze on humanitarian assistance and this was viewed as a move that was greatly welcomed, not only by the by the Zambian Government, but by others who equally benefit from the generosity of the people of USA. The waiver covers lifesaving medicines and medical services, food, shelter, and humanitarian assistance.

Madam Speaker, thus, support granted to Zambia through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which was benefitting over one million citizens through access to antiretroviral drugs is likely not to be affected by the initial Executive order.

Madam Speaker, from our preliminary analysis, we expect that the health sector, in relation to the provision of lifesaving medicines and medical services, feeding programmes aimed at addressing hunger and malnutrition, will be exempted from the aid freeze.
