



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**  
**MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT HON. MOSES MAWERE, MP. ON THE HOSTING OF  
THE UNDER-20 AFCON, 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

**FEBRUARY, 2017**

**MR. SPEAKER,**

I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE, AND THROUGH THIS HOUSE, UPDATE THE NATION ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTING THE 2017 UNDER 20 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS. *Tournament,*

**MR. SPEAKER,**

ZAMBIA WILL BE HOSTING THE 20<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS (AFCON) UNDER 20 (U-20) TOURNAMENT FROM 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017. THE UNDER 20 AFCON TOURNAMENT IS A YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WHICH IS RANKED 4<sup>TH</sup> HIGHEST IN AFRICA AND IS ORGANIZED BY THE CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL (CAF). EIGHT (8) COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT WHICH IS HELD BI-ANNUALLY IN COUNTRIES THAT WIN THE BID TO HOST THE TOURNAMENT.

THIRTEEN (13) COUNTRIES NAMELY, NIGERIA-FIVE (5) TIMES, EGYPT-TWICE (2) AND RWANDA, SENEGAL, CONGO DR, ETHIOPIA, MOROCCO, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, ALGERIA, MAURITIUS, BENIN AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE HOSTED PREVIOUS TOURNAMENTS.

ZAMBIA HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE UNDER 20 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS EIGHT (8) TIMES SINCE 1985 AND THE HIGHEST LEVEL REACHED WAS THE SEMIFINAL STAGE IN 1991, 1997 AND 2007.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

IN 2013, ZAMBIA APPLIED TO CAF TO HOST THE 2017 UNDER 20 EDITION OF THE TOURNAMENT TO WHICH APPROVAL WAS PROVISIONALLY GRANTED PENDING GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL. IN SEPTEMBER 2015, CABINET APPROVED THE HOSTING OF THE 2017 U20 AFCON TOURNAMENT. CAF HAS SINCE VISITED THE COUNTRY TWICE TO CHECK ON THE FACILITIES SUCH AS STADIA, TRAINING FACILITIES, HOTELS AND HOSPITALS. THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (FAZ) WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD

DEVELOPMENT STARTED PREPARATIONS TO HOST THE AFRICA YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP IN NOVEMBER 2016.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

MY MINISTRY HAS BEEN PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FAZ IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE TOURNAMENT. FAZ HAS ESTABLISHED LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE PREPARATIONS FOR THE TOURNAMENT. IT COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOOTBALL FRATERNITY, GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE SECTORS. THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE HAS NINE (9) SUB-COMMITTEES REPRESENTING DIFFERENT FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF THE PREPARATIONS. THE NINE (9) SUB-COMMITTEES ARE FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE & VENUE MANAGEMENT, FOOTBALL DELEGATION AND PROTOCOL, ACCREDITATION, SECURITY AND SAFETY, ENTERTAINMENT, TRANSPORT, MEDICAL AND HEALTH AND MARKETING AND PUBLICITY.

A LOC SECRETARIAT HAS ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE PREPARATIONS.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE PREPARATIONS AND HOSTING OF THE UNDER 20 AFCON IS **K60, 906,500**. THE FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED MAINLY TO UNDERTAKE REHABILITATION WORKS AT LEVY MWANAWASA STADIUM AND THE NATIONAL HEROES STADIUM, PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE FOR THE NATIONAL HEROES STADIUM, CAMPING OF TEAM ZAMBIA LOCALLY AND IN SPAIN, PREPARATIONS OF THE TRAINING GROUNDS, HOTEL RESERVATIONS, PREPARATIONS FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES AND PUBLICITY OF THE TOURNAMENT.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

THE GAMES WILL BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL HEROES STADIUM IN LUSAKA AND LEVY MWANAWASA STADIUM IN NDOLA. THE TRAINING VENUES IN LUSAKA

WILL BE NKOLOMA STADIUM, SUNSET STADIUM, BARCLAYS BANK SPORT COMPLEX GROUND, WOODLANDS STADIUM, QUEENSMEAD GROUND AND EDWIN EMBOELA STADIUM.

THE TRAINING VENUES ON THE COPPERBELT WILL BE LEVY MWANAWASA STADIUM ANNEX, MUSA KASONKA STADIUM, TRADE FAIR GROUNDS, KANINI SPORTS GROUND AND NDOLA TRUST SCHOOL.

**SIR,**

THE MATCH FIXTURES HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND ARE CONTAINED IN THE BROCHURES THAT HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MEMBERS <sup>of</sup> PARLIAMENT. THE CHARGES FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF THE TOURNAMENT ARE VIP-K200, LOWER DECK-K20 AND OPEN WING-K10. THE CHARGES FOR THE SEMI-FINALS WILL BE VIP-K300, LOWER DECK-K40 AND OPEN WING K20. THE CHARGES FOR THE FINAL GAME WILL BE VIP-K400, LOWER DECK-K40 AND OPEN WING-K20.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN LUSAKA AT THE NATIONAL HEROES STADIUM ON 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017 AND 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017, RESPECTIVELY. THE EIGHT (8) TEAMS THAT WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 2017 U20 AFCON ARE CAMEROON, EGYPT, GUINEA, SENEGAL, SUDAN, SOUTH AFRICA, MALI AND ZAMBIA. ZAMBIA IS IN GROUP A TOGETHER WITH EGYPT, GUINEA AND MALI.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

DELEGATES AND PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE ACCOMMODATED AT RADISSON BLU, INTERCONTINENTAL, SOUTHERN SUN, PROTEA TOWER AND PROTEA HOTELS IN LUSAKA, WHILE IN NDOLA, PROTEA, MICHELANGELO, MUKUBA AND KABELENGA ~~WILL BE USED~~.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

IN TERMS OF PREPAREDNESS, INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS AT ALL MATCH VENUES AND TRAINING GROUNDS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. IN ADDITION, REQUIRED

EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE AT ALL MATCH VENUES HAVE BEEN PROCURED. FURTHER, HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS AND DELEGATES HAS BEEN SECURED. HEALTH AND RELATED RESPONSE SYSTEMS ARE ALSO IN PLACE. TRANSPORT HAS BEEN MOBILISED FROM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHILE PUBLICITY OF THE TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN WIDELY DONE AND IS ONGOING. VARIOUS MEDIA PLATFORMS WHICH INCLUDE RADIO, TELEVISION AND THE PRINT MEDIA HAVE BEEN USED TO PUBLICISE THE TOURNAMENT. IN ADDITION, BROCHURES AND POSTERS HAVE <sup>Been</sup> SENT TO ALL THE PROVINCES THROUGH PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION. FURTHER, BILLBOARDS HAVE BEEN MOUNTED IN STRATEGIC LOCATION BOTH IN LUSAKA AND NDOLA. IT IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT WITH PUBLICITY THAT HAS BEEN DONE THE STADIA WILL BE FILLED TO CAPACITY.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

TEAM ZAMBIA HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR THE EVENT SINCE EARLY 2016. THEY PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNIOR COSAFA TOURNAMENT IN DECEMBER 2016 IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH THEY WON. THE TEAM RECENTLY RETURNED FROM CAMPING IN SPAIN WHERE THEY PLAYED FRIENDLY MATCHES WITH TENERIFE, BARCELONA AND FC BASEL. THE TEAM WILL CONTINUE CAMPING UNTIL COMMENCMENT OF THE TOURNAMENT.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

THE TOURNAMENT IS IMPORTANT AS IT WILL GIVE ZAMBIA AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOST HIGH PROFILE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS SUCH AS THE AFRICA CUP, WORLD CUP, THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES, AND OLYMPICS. FURTHER, IT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND IT WILL EXPOSE THE TEAM TO HIGHER INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS. IN ADDITION, THE HOSTING OF THE COMPETITION WILL BRING FOREX TO THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS PROMOTE TOURISM. THE EVENT WILL ALSO PROVIDE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANY ZAMBIANS. IT WILL <sup>Further</sup> ~~ALSO~~ SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE YOUTH IN THE COUNTRY TO ENGAGE IN SPORT AND ASSIST ELIMINATE IDLE TIME. THIS <sup>Mr Speaker</sup> WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE

REDUCTION IN ILLICIT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE, ESPECIALLY AMONG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

**MR. SPEAKER,**

I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN REITERATE THAT THIS EVENT IS VERY IMPORTANT NATIONAL EVENT WHICH REQUIRES CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL ZAMBIANS. WE SHOULD ALL PARTICIPATE IN PUBLICISING THE TOURNAMENT IN THE SPIRIT OF "ONE ZAMBIA ONE NATION". I URGE ALL HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE TO PUBLICISE THE TOURNAMENT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES AND CONSTITUENCIES. I ALSO URGE ALL ZAMBIANS TO TURN UP IN LARGE NUMBERS TO WATCH AND CHEER OUR NATIONAL TEAM.

**MR. SPEAKER**

I THANK YOU.