

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE DISSOLUTION OF KASENENGWA
CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE (CDF) BY HON.
EMERINE KABANSHI, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
HOUSING**

Mr. Speaker,

Following the point of order raised by Member of Parliament for Kasenengwa Constituency, Hon. Victoria Kalima on the dissolution of Kasenengwa Constituency Development Fund Committee, I wish to inform this August House that before the decision was made to dissolve the Constituency Development Fund Committee, my ministry carried out its' own investigations. The findings of the investigations on the concerns raised by their Royal Highnesses Inkhosi Chief Madzimawe and Inkhosi Mishoro, both from Chipata that members of the Kasenengwa CDF Committee were either Ward or Constituency officials from the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) were correct.

Mr. Speaker,

Government recognizes that chiefs are key stakeholders in national development and whenever they express concern on matters relating to development at a local level, my Ministry will undertake to investigate such matters so that it is brought to its logical conclusion. It is therefore important that the area Member of Parliament for Kasenengwa must even thank their Royal Highnesses

for bringing to light any short comings in the composition of the Constituency Development Fund Committee.

Mr. Speaker,

It is against this background that following the appeal by the Royal Highnesses for immediate call for dissolution of the Kasenengwa Constituency Development Fund Committee, my Ministry on 21st October, 2013 dissolved the committee in order to put in place a new Committee after conducting investigations.

Mr. Speaker,

The irregular appointment of party officials holding political office on the Kasenengwa Constituency Development Fund Committee was contrary to the CDF Guidelines of 2006. This was not right in view of transparency and accountability of public funds as the irregular appointment of political office bearers can have serious implications in the management and utilization of CDF. The CDF guidelines provides that only councillors including the Members of Parliament among others to sit on the Constituency Development Fund Committee not those holding political leadership positions in various political parties.

Mr. Speaker,

In view of this, I wish to take this opportunity through this August House to direct all Councils to isolate any party officials holding

political office who may have been nominated to sit on the Constituency Development fund Committee and submit fresh nominees for appropriate replacement to the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker,

The Ministry has given directives to all Councils that no political party office bearers should sit on the Constituency Development Fund Committee through **Circular letter MLGH/71/6/1 dated 23rd March, 2012.**

I thank you.