

**STATEMENT ON THE DEFERMENT OF NET
RECRUITMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE TO 2015**

ISSUED BY THE

**HON. ALEXANDER B. CHIKWANDA, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

ON

17 OCTOBER, 2013

MR. SPEAKER, I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR ACCORDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A STATEMENT IN RELATION TO THE COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE ON THE FLOOR OF THIS HOUSE BY MY COLLEAGUE, THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH, WHICH SOME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TOOK OUT OF CONTEXT. MY STATEMENT IS TO PUT THIS MATTER IN THE CORRECT CONTEXT AND PERSPECTIVE.

MR. SPEAKER, I WISH TO REITERATE THAT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT FISCAL SPACE FOR THE PROVISION OF BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES AND INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, AND REDUCE THE PROPORTION OF GOVERNMENT REVENUES SPENT ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE WAGE BILL, WHICH IS CURRENTLY PROJECTED AT OVER 52 PERCENT IN 2014, GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED A DEFERMENT OF NET RECRUITMENTS TO 2015.

BY NET RECRUITMENTS, SIR, I MEAN THE CREATION AND FILLING UP OF NEW POSTS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE. THIS EXCLUDES THE REPLACEMENT OF POSTS THAT FALL

VACANT DUE TO RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATH AND DISMISSAL, AMONG OTHER FACTORS. MR. SPEAKER, THIS POLICY MEANS THAT ALL THOSE INSTITUTIONS WHICH WILL EMBARK ON THE REPLACEMENT OF STAFF FOR THE REASONS I HAVE HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE, WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH RECRUITMENTS BECAUSE THESE POSITIONS ARE ALREADY PROVIDED FOR IN THE 2014 BUDGET.

SIR, WITH REGARD TO RECRUITMENTS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH, I WISH TO INFORM THIS AUGUST HOUSE THAT TREASURY AUTHORITY WAS GRANTED IN MAY 2013 TO RECRUIT 952 HEALTH PERSONNEL. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MINISTRY WILL FILL ALL THESE POSTS BY THE END OF 2013. SHOULD THE MINISTRY NOT COMPLETE THE RECRUITMENT TO FILL ALL THE POSTS THIS YEAR, THE MINISTRY WILL STILL BE ALLOWED TO FILL THE BALANCE OF THE POSTS IN 2014, SINCE THESE POSTS WERE CREATED IN 2013 AND RESOURCES ARE ALREADY PROVIDED IN THE 2014 BUDGET.

MR. SPEAKER, I THANK YOU.