

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

2011

POLICY STATEMENT

BY

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

HONOURABLE DORA SILIYA MP

NOVEMBER 2010

MR. SPEAKER,

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A POLICY STATEMENT ON THE 2011 BUDGET FOR MY MINISTRY.

IN THE FIRST INSTANCE,

ALLOW ME TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN OUR LIVES. EDUCATION IS NOT ONLY A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BUT

A POWERFUL TOOL TO ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL AND A NATION.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IS AIMED AT PRODUCING CIVIC AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS THAT ARE ABLE TO INTERACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY HAVE SIMILAR OR DIVERGENT VIEWS AND ALSO OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS TO ENGAGE WITH THE NATIONAL ECONOMY POSITIVELY.

MR SPEAKER

WE GET CONCERNED WHEN WE WITNESS THE KIND OF INTOLERANCE; LACK OF RESPECT EXHIBITED BY INDIVIDUALS AND CERTAIN QUARTERS WHEN DISCUSSING MATTERS OF NATIONAL INTEREST EITHER THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC OR PRINT MEDIA AND INDEED IN MANY OTHER SOCIAL GATHERINGS. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IS THIS CULTURE OF INSULTING WHEN ARTICULATING ISSUES OF NATIONAL CONCERN AND EVEN INDEED PRETENDING TO BE AN EXPERT ON ALL ISSUES AND NEVER HESITANT TO OFFER AN OPINION EVEN WHEN IT IS IGNORANT.

TO BE EDUCATED GOES BEYOND BEING SCHOOLED. IT CALLS FOR PEOPLE BEING ABLE TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN A CIVIL MANNER. IN FACT ONE DOES NOT NEED TO HAVE FORMAL EDUCATION TO REALISE THAT IT IS ONLY THOSE WHO ARE INADEQUATE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WHO JUMP TO INSULTS OR DEMEANING OF OTHERS IN ANY DEBATE.

MR SPEAKER

I WISH TO REPEAT THAT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM GOES BEYOND WHAT GOES ON IN THE CLASSROOM, IT INCLUDES WHAT GOES ON IN SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL HOMES IN PARTICULAR. FOR INSTANCE, HOW MANY PARENTS TAKE TIME TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN WELL FOUNDED FAMILY VALUES SUCH AS; SELF RESPECT, DISCIPLINE, HARD WORK, TOLERANCE AND CHRISTIANITY. THERE IS ALSO NEED IN A LIBERAL ECONOMY TO RESPECT BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY. HOW MANY PARENTS TAKE TIME TO FIND OUT WHO THEIR CHILDREN ARE MIXING WITH, WHAT PROGRAMS ARE THEY WATCHING ON TV, THE KIND OF BOOKS THEY ARE READING, WHAT THEY ARE SURFING ON THE INTERNET? HOW MANY OF US GO TO INTERACT WITH TEACHERS TO OUR CHILDREN TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE CHILDREN ARE PERFORMING IN SCHOOL AND WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT THEY REQUIRE FROM THE PARENTS? WE HAVE NOTED WITH CONCERN A NEW TREND BY PARENTS OF USING THE SHOPPING MALLS AS BABY SITTERS FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN ESPECIALLY OVER THE WEEKEND.

MR SPEAKER,

IT IS THE ABSENCE OF GUIDANCE FROM PARENTS AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE THAT HAS FAILED OUR CHILDREN AND THIS IS MANIFESTATED IN EARLY MARRIAGES, CHILDREN DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND GENERALLY YOUNG PEOPLE COMING INTO CONFLICT WITH THE LAW.

MR. SPEAKER,

MY MINISTRY HAS PROVIDED VARIOUS PLATFORMS SUCH AS PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION MEETINGS, SCHOOL OPEN DAYS AND SECTOR JOINT ANNUAL REVIEWS FOR PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES. YOU ARE AWARE THAT IN THE PAST, COMMUNITIES WERE MUCH MORE INVOLVED IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND NOT IN WHAT GOES ON IN THE CLASSROOM. IT IS THE INTENTION OF MY MINISTRY TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTUAL LEARNING OF THEIR CHILDREN BY FOCUSING ON THE ACTUAL TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESSES. PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES WILL NEED TO COMMIT MORE RESOURCES AND TIME TO THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN IF WE ARE TO SUSTAIN THE GAINS THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED. I AM REMINDED OF THE WORDS OF NELSON MANDELA WHO SAID “CHILDREN WILL GET THE KIND OF EDUCATION THAT THEIR PARENTS WANT.”

MR SPEAKER,

MY MINISTRY IS RESOLVED TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY BY ADDRESSING THE VICES THAT I HAVE HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE THROUGH CURRICULUM REFORM AND CAREFUL SELECTION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO OPT TO TRAIN AS TEACHERS. TEACHING IS NOT LIKE ANY OTHER PROFESSION. IT IS A CALLING THAT DEMANDS FOR TOTAL COMMITMENT SINCE THE TEACHER, LIKE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS HAS TO DEAL WITH CHILDREN AND MOULD THEM INTO FUTURE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.

MR. SPEAKER,

THE YEAR 2011 IS VERY SIGNIFICANT TO THE REALIZATION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF MY MINISTRY. THIS IS BECAUSE IT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2011-2015), WHICH COINCIDES WITH THE ATTAINMENT OF GLOBAL COMMITMENTS SUCH AS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) AND EDUCATION FOR ALL (EFA) GOALS. IN PARTICULAR, THIS BUDGET WILL GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP UP OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT ALL LEARNERS, BOYS AND GIRLS, COMPLETE A FULL COURSE OF BASIC EDUCATION. WE ARE ALSO RESOLVED TO ELIMINATE GENDER DISPARITY IN BASIC, HIGH SCHOOL AND AT TERTIARY EDUCATION LEVELS BY 2015.

IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT GOVERNMENT HAS MADE BOLD DECISIONS IN THE 2011 BUDGET TO RE-ALIGN THE BUDGET PROVISIONS FROM NON CORE PROGRAMMES TO PRIORITY AREAS

WITH THE MAIN EMPHASIS ON INCREASED ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION. MY MINISTRY IS DRIVEN BY THE PASSION TO AVAIL QUALITY EDUCATION TO EVERY CITIZEN IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS, BELIEF AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND.

MR. SPEAKER,

ALLOW ME TO REFLECT ON A NUMBER OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SCORED BY MY MINISTRY DURING THE PERIOD 2008 TO 2010 DURING WHICH WE HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTING THE MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF).

IN THE AREA OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AT BASIC SCHOOL LEVEL, MY MINISTRY, THROUGH THE YEARLY INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATION PLANS (IOPS), HAS ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING SINCE 2008:

- CONSTRUCTED A TOTAL OF 4,050 CLASSROOMS USING COMMUNITY MODE OF CONSTRUCTION WHERE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY POOL RESOURCES TOWARDS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT. THIS INITIATIVE HAS CREATED SCHOOL PLACES FOR 161,080 LEARNERS USING SINGLE SHIFT OF CLASSROOM UTILISATION.
- AS AT SEPTEMBER 2010, AN ADDITIONAL 51 BASIC SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED EACH WITH AN AVERAGE OF 5 CLASSROOMS AND 5 TEACHERS' HOUSES PER SCHOOL USING

THE CONTRACTOR MODE OF CONSTRUCTION. THESE BASIC SCHOOLS CREATED A CLASSROOM CAPACITY FOR 2, 040 PUPILS.

- MY MINISTRY HAS CONTINUED WITH THE EXPANSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE ATTAINMENT OF ITS GOAL OF PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN IN UNDER SERVED AND HARD TO REACH AREAS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE END OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN , THE MINISTRY WOULD HAVE CONSTRUCTED A TOTAL OF 16,014 CLASSROOMS USING THE COMMUNITY MODE OF CONSTRUCTION THEREBY CREATING CLASSROOM SPACE FOR 440,000 PUPILS AT BASIC SCHOOL LEVEL.
- ADDITIONALLY, REHABILITATION WORKS WERE CARRIED OUT AT THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN (347) SCHOOL SITES COMPRISING BOTH TEACHERS HOUSES AND CLASSROOM BLOCKS.

MR. SPEAKER,

THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH MY MINISTRY IS COMMITTED TO CONSTRUCTING 100 HIGH SCHOOLS USING BOTH COMMUNITY AND CONTRACTOR MODE OF CONSTRUCTION. THE MINISTRY COMMENCED THE CONSTRUCTION OF 47 HIGH SCHOOLS UNDER CONTRACTOR MODE IN THE YEAR 2008 OUT OF THESE, 32 HIGH SCHOOLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 2011. THESE WILL CREATE 32,250 ADDITIONAL LEARNING SPACES. THIS YEAR (2010) WE HAVE EMBARKED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF 22 SCHOOLS BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 69 HIGH SCHOOLS. THESE HIGH

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY 2014 AND THIS WILL CREATE ADDITIONAL LEARNING SPACES FOR 100,000 PUPILS.

MR. SPEAKER,

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT A NATION THAT PAYS LIP SERVICE TO TERTIARY EDUCATION CAN NOT EXPECT TO ATTAIN HIGHER PROSPERITY FOR ITS CITIZENS. WE ARE ALIVE TO THE MANY STATEMENTS THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS CONCENTRATING ON BASIC EDUCATION; THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. WHILE IT WAS CRITICAL FOR US TO ADDRESS THE BASIC NEEDS IN EDUCATION ESPECIALLY FROM 2007 SINCE WE HAD A DEFICIT OF OVER 2 MILLION SCHOOL PLACES FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND HAVE SINCE CREATED SCHOOL PLACES FOR 1.6 MILLION CHILDREN, WE HAVE HOWEVER, ALSO BEEN ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. TO REVAMP THIS SUB-SECTOR,

1. GOVERNMENT LIBERALISED THE PROVISION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND THIS HAS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND REGISTRATION OF 12 PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES;
2. GOVERNMENT HAS CLASSIFIED EDUCATION AS AN ECONOMIC SECTOR AND HAS CREATED VARIOUS INCENTIVES UNDER THE ZAMBIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

IN THIS REGARD, GOVERNMENT IS OFFERING TO ALLOCATE LAND ON A 99 YEAR LEASE TO LOCAL AND FOREIGN

INVESTORS TO BUILD SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AS PRIVATE CONCERNS. OTHER SPECIFIC INCENTIVES ARE OUTLINED IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE OF THE ZDA AND I URGE MEMBERS PARLIAMENT AND THE PUBLIC TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE SAME.

3. WE HAVE FOSTERED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES. CLASSIC EXAMPLES IN THIS AREA ARE THE LAUNCH OF THE XVD TECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA AND THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY AT A COST OF JUST UNDER 500 THOUSAND US DOLLARS. THE XVD TECHNOLOGY IS AN INTERACTIVE LEARNING SOLUTION WHICH IS DELIVERED THROUGH THE OPTICAL FIBRE NETWORK INVOLVING THE USE OF CAMERAS AND HIGH DEFINITION VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM. THE PROJECT HAS FACILITATED TRANSMISSION OF LECTURES BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND A UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN.

MULUNGUSHI UNIVERSITY WAS CONNECTED TO THE PAN-AFRICAN E-NETWORK PROJECT. THE NETWORK IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE E-SERVICES WITH PRIORITY ON TELE-EDUCATION AND TELE-MEDICINE THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING, BY LINKING AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES TO THE BEST INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

4. UPGRADING THE ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION INTO A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRAINING TEACHERS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS.

5. THE MINISTRY IS EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA WHERE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR STUDENTS HOSTELS AT A COST OF 13 BILLION AT THE GREAT EAST ROAD CAMPUS AND AT A COST OF 3.8 BILLION FOR ONE HOSTEL AT RIDGEWAY CAMPUS, ARE ALMOST COMPLETE. THE EXTRA HOSTELS AT THE UNIVERSITY WILL CREATE 640 BED SPACES; TOGETHER WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, WE ARE PURSUING THE PPP AVENUE TO COMPLETE THE UNFINISHED HOSTELS BEGAN DURING THE COJO PREPARATIONS.

6. AT BOTH MULUNGUSHI AND COPPERBELT UNIVERSITIES INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IS ALMOST COMPLETE WITH THE LIBRARY, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, A LECTURE THEATRE, LECTURE ROOMS, AND RENOVATION OF STUDENTS HOSTELS UNDERTAKEN;

7. CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT TWO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION NAMELY NKRUMAH AND COPPERBELT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HAS REACHED ADVANCED STAGE. CURRENTLY THEY ARE USING THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA AFFILIATION STATUS UNTIL A STATUTORY INSTRUMENT IS FINALISED.

8. THE MINISTRY IS ALSO CONSTRUCTING A UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE IN CHINSALI, NORTHERN PROVINCE CALLED MULAKUPIKWA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT A TOTAL COST OF K107,562,504,242.

MR SPEAKER

IN LINE WITH THE MANDATE TO REDUCE ADULT LITERACY BY HALF BY 2015 WHICH IS CURRENTLY STANDING AT AN AVERAGE OF 33.5%, MY MINISTRY HAS DEVELOPED 12 SUITABLE ADULT LITERACY TEACHING AND LEARNING BOOKS FOR BOTH TEACHERS AND LEARNERS IN ENGLISH AND THE SEVEN OFFICIAL LOCAL LANGUAGES.

MR SPEAKER,

IN A BID TO ACCORD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE NO ACCESS TO FORMAL EDUCATION, MY MINISTRY HAS ESTABLISHED 277 OPEN LEARNING CENTRES WHERE MORE THAN 160,500 LEARNERS ARE ABLE TO ACCESS EDUCATION AT BASIC, HIGH AND GCE LEVELS.

MY MINISTRY ALSO USES ELECTRONIC MEDIA SUCH AS RADIO, AND TELEVISIONS FOR LEARNERS IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND INTERACTIVE RADIO INSTRUCTIONS (IRI) CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE MOST POPULAR EDUCATIONAL RADIO PROGRAMME IS LEARNING AT TAONGA MARKET.

MR. SPEAKER,

IN ORDER TO ADDRESS EQUITY ISSUES, MY MINISTRY HAS DONE THE FOLLOWING:

1. INCREASED ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS FROM 167,581 IN 2006 TO 207,437 IN 2009 AT BOTH BASIC AND HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS THROUGH MASSIVE SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS ON RADIO AND THE USE

- OF CHILD FIND COMMITTEES ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO SCHOOL.
2. PROVIDED SEFULA SCHOOL OF THE BLIND IN WESTERN PROVINCE AND MAGWERO SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL IN EASTERN PROVINCE WITH A VEHICLE EACH TO IMPROVE MOBILITY;
 3. INCREASED BUDGET ALLOCATION TO SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS FROM 3.56 BILLION IN 2010 TO 5.73 BILLION IN 2011.

MR. SPEAKER,

THE MINISTRY IN 2004, SET UP A BURSARY SCHEME FOR ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE LEARNERS IN BASIC AND HIGH SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS AND PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATION. CURRENTLY, THERE ARE OVER 101,106 LEARNERS IN BASIC SCHOOL AND 25,178 LEARNERS AT HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVING BURSARIES. MY MINISTRY SPENT A TOTAL OF K7.4 BILLION ON THE BURSARY SCHEME IN 2010.

MR. SPEAKER

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO ATTEND SCHOOL ESPECIALLY GIRLS WHO MAY NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO WALK LONG DISTANCES FROM THEIR HOMES, MY MINISTRY WITH THE SUPPORT OF COOPERATING PARTNERS HAS PROVIDED WEEKLY BOARDING FACILITIES IN SOME AREAS. THIS INITIATIVE HAS ALSO HELPED TO PROTECT THE GIRLS FROM BEING ABUSED. HOWEVER, I DO CONCEDE THAT WE MUST DO MORE TO PROVIDE MORE DAY SCHOOLS AND REDUCE WALKING DISTANCES FOR CHILDREN

EVERYWHERE IN ZAMBIA SO THAT AFTER SCHOOL CHILDREN SHOULD GO BACK TO THE SAFETY OF THEIR HOMES.

MR SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY HAS WORKED TOWARDS THE REDUCTION OF THE ATTRITION RATE THROUGH THE HIV WORKPLACE POLICY. WE HAVE DONE THIS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF VOLUNTARY TESTING AND COUNSELLING SERVICES, FORMATION OF CARE GIVER SUPPORT GROUPS AND HOSTING OF TEACHER HEALTH DAYS WHICH ARE AIMED AT ENCOURAGING TEACHERS TO LIVE POSITIVELY. IN ADDITION, HIV/AIDS CLUBS IN SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO HELPED TO SENSITISE PUPILS ON THE DANGERS OF THE PANDEMIC. MY MINISTRY HAS ALSO INTEGRATED HIV AND AIDS AND LIFE SKILLS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM WITH EMPHASIS ON ABSTENENCE AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE.

MR. SPEAKER

I AM DELIGHTED TO REPORT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE THAT FROM 2008 TO DATE, MY MINISTRY HAS FOCUSED ON THE RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS TO MEET THE EDUCATION FOR ALL (EFA) AND MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS). YES WE DO KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO RECRUIT MORE TEACHERS BY 2015 TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE THE PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO CONSIDERING THAT SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO BE BUILT. OUR PLAN IS TO RECRUIT AN EXTRA 30 THOUSAND MORE TEACHERS FROM 2011 TO 2015 THEREBY CREATING REAL JOBS FOR ZAMBIANS.

MR SPEAKER

SO FAR, MY MINISTRY HAS RECRUITED AND DEPLOYED A TOTAL OF 13,537 TEACHERS FROM 2008 TO-DATE. THIS EXERCISE IS ON-GOING AND IN 2011, MY MINISTRY INTENDS TO RECRUIT 5000 TEACHERS BY APRIL 2011.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS INCREASED CONTACT TIME BETWEEN TEACHERS AND LEARNERS, MY MINISTRY WILL OVERHAUL AND STREAM LINE THE PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES FOR RESOLVING HUMAN RESOURCE RELATED CASES SO THAT A TEACHER DOES NOT HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR CLASSROOM TO ATTEND TO PERSONAL RELATED ADMINISTRATION MATTERS. THE AREA OF FOCUS IN 2010 HAS BEEN ON IMPROVING THE PROCESSES SUCH AS APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS. AS A RESULT, MORE THAN 23,000 CASES OF CONFIRMATIONS HAVE SINCE BEEN PROCESSED AND CONCLUDED, SINCE 2008.

MR SPEAKER

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MINISTRY MORE USER FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT IN RESPONDING TO TEACHER'S NEEDS, MY MINISTRY IS WORKING WITH MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION(MDD) UNDER CABINET OFFICE TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY. FURTHER, MY MINISTRY HAS INTRODUCED AN AUTOMATED HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AIMED AT REDUCING DELAYS IN PROCESSING HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS. THIS IS BEING PILOTED IN LUSAKA PROVINCE. ONCE THE PROGRAMME IS IMPLEMENTED THERE WILL BE

EFFICIENCY IN PROCESSING OF HUMAN RESOURCE CASES AND LATE CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST.

MR SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY HAS BEEN FACING CHALLENGES OF RETAINING TEACHERS IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS. TO THIS EFFECT, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FACILITATING THE PAYMENT OF RURAL AND REMOTE HARDSHIP ALLOWANCES, AND SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 36,712 ELIGIBLE TEACHERS HAVE BENEFITED AT A COST OF IN ADDITION, THE PAYMENT OF HOUSE RENTALS BY TEACHERS OCCUPYING INSTITUTIONAL HOUSES HAS BEEN SUSPENDED TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT DIVISION (PSMD) WORK OUT BETTER MODALITIES.

LET ME STATE HERE THAT I AM AWARE THAT, WE ARE STILL EXPERIENCING CHALLENGES REGARDING RURAL AND REMOTE ALLOWANCES IN MWENSE, KAWAMBWA , NCHELENGE, NAMWALA ITEZHI TEZHI AND SIAVONGA. I DIRECT PERMANENT SECRETARY HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THIS PROBLEM ENDS IMMEDIATELY SO THAT TEACHERS ARE NOT UNNECESSARILY AGITATED.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS ONLY ONE MAJOR INPUT – THE TEACHER - FOR US TO GET THE DESIRED OUTPUT, AN EDUCATED CITIZEN. AS SUCH, ALL WILL BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT MANAGEMENT PROCESSES RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE TEACHER AND THE LEARNER.

MR. SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HAVING APPROPRIATE TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS DIRECTLY IMPACTS ON PERFORMANCE OF LEARNERS. THROUGH PROVISION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS, MY MINISTRY HAS MANAGED TO REDUCE THE PUPIL/BOOK RATIO FROM AS HIGH AS 1 TO 6 AT UPPER BASIC (GRADE 8 & 9) AND 1 TO 10 AT HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 10 TO 12) TO LEVELS OF 1 TO 4. AT LOWER AND MIDDLE BASIC (GRADE 1 TO 7) LEVEL, THE PUPIL/BOOK RATIO HAS REDUCED FROM 1 BOOK TO 4 PUPILS TO A RATIO OF 1 TO 2.

I WISH TO STATE THAT THIS ACHIEVEMENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY IMPLEMENTING THE DECENTRALISATION POLICY IN PROCUREMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS TO HIGH SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND DISTRICT EDUCATION BOARDS AS WELL AS INCREASED BUDGETARY SUPPORT BY GOVERNMENT OVER THE YEARS.

MR. SPEAKER,

ANOTHER ASPECT THAT CONTRIBUTES TO QUALITY EDUCATION IS HAVING A CONDUCIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE CONDUCIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, MY MINISTRY HAS MADE SCHOOLS BECOME CHILD FRIENDLY BY EMPLOYING THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

1. WATER AND SANITATION.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS AWARE OF THE MANY SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES. TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, 151 BOREHOLES WERE SUNK AT VARIOUS SCHOOL SITES NATIONWIDE. IN 2011, MY MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT TO ACCELERATE WATER ACCESS ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS WHERE MOST OF OUR SCHOOLS ARE CHALLENGED.

2. PROVISION OF DESKS.

IN 2007, THE MINISTRY CARRIED OUT A DESK AUDIT WHICH REVEALED THAT THE IDEAL NUMBER OF DESKS REQUIRED IN OUR SCHOOLS WAS 803,436, AND THE ESTIMATED SHORTFALL OF WAS 436,321. IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE SHORTFALL, THE MINISTRY BEGAN PROCURING DESKS, AND SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 216, 110 DESKS HAVE BEEN PROCURED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS COUNTRYWIDE. WE ARE MAKING FRANTIC EFFORTS TO PROCURE AN EXTRA 250,000 DESKS BY JANUARY 2011 SO THAT DESKS SHORTFALL IS A THING OF THE PAST.

3. SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME.

A TOTAL OF 2.1 MILLION LEARNERS IN BASIC SCHOOLS BENEFITTED FROM HEALTH AND NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS INCLUDING TREATMENT FOR WORMS THROUGH THE SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION (SHN) PROGRAMME. A FURTHER

320,000 LEARNERS IN 870 SCHOOLS RECEIVED MEALS UNDER THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME.

IN 2009 THE SCHOOL HEALTH MONTH WAS INTRODUCED AND IS CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR IN JULY SO AS TO ENSURE THAT LEARNERS ARE HEALTHY AND IN A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION THAT THE SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION (SHN) PROGRAMME IS COLLABORATING WITH UNICEF AND OTHER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPROVE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN 500 SCHOOLS IN SELECTED DISTRICTS IN SIX PROVINCES NAMELY COPPERBELT, EASTERN, LUSAKA, LUAPULA, SOUTHERN AND NORTH WESTERN.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS BY ENSURING THAT ALL SCHOOLS IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES UNDERTAKE THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF LEARNERS.

MR. SPEAKER,

MY MINISTRY HAS MADE TREMENDOUS STRIDES IN INCORPORATING INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR. AS AT 2010, MY MINISTRY HAD INSTALLED A WIDE AREA NETWORK INTERCONNECTING ALL OFFICES AT THE

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HEADQUARTERS. ALL THE NINE PROVINCIAL EDUCATION OFFICES AND THE 14 COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ARE CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET. THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MY MINISTRY'S IMPROVED EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY IN EDUCATION MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY. OUR VISION IS TO HAVE ALL THE 72 DISTRICTS CONNECTED TO THE MINISTRY'S SERVER BY 2012.

MR. SPEAKER

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HOSTED THE ELEARNING CONFERENCE IN MAY 2010. THE SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF THE ELEARNING AFRICA CONFERENCE WAS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS MAINSTREAMING AND USING ICT IN VARIOUS SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECTORS SUCH AS EDUCATION, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE.

MR SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY HAS PROCURED AN ELEARNING MOBILE LABORATORY BUS WHICH IS MEANT TO BE USED AS A TEACHING AND LEARNING TOOL FOR ICT AND PROVISION OF INTERNET FACILITIES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE. SINCE THE MOBILE LABORATORY WAS PURCHASED, MY MINISTRY HAS CONDUCTED HANDS ON ORIENTATION ON THE USE OF ICT TO 1,200 TEACHERS AND 2,300 LEARNERS IN LUSAKA PROVINCE. I URGE MPS TO CO-ORDINATE WITH MY MINISTRY TO ENSURE THAT THE MOBILE ELEARNING BUS VISITS YOUR CONSTITUENCY.

MR. SPEAKER

IN RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION BY LEARNERS, INSTITUTIONS, ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, MY MINISTRY INTRODUCED EDUCATIONAL AWARDS IN MAY 2010 AND THIS WILL BE AN ANNUAL EVENT. IN MAY THIS YEAR 98 AWARDS WERE GIVEN OUT FOR BEST MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS AT GRADE 7, 9, 12 AND IN VARIOUS FACULTIES AT UNIVERSITIES INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, BUSINESS ETC.

MR. SPEAKER

ALLOW ME NOW TO PRESENT TO THE HOUSE THE PRIORITIES FOR MY MINISTRY FOR THE YEAR 2011.

1. IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH LEARNER CENTRED TEACHING METHODOLOGIES; PROVISION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS; AND EFFECTIVE TEACHER MANAGEMENT;
2. INCREASE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION DELIVERY AT BASIC, HIGH SCHOOL AND TERTIARY LEVEL;
3. REDUCE THE INDEBTEDNESS OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING LASTING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS FACING THE ZAMBIA EDUCATION PUBLISHING HOUSE AND ZAMNET.
4. INTRODUCE MORE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE ADULT ILLITERACY.

MR. SPEAKER,

MY MINISTRY HAS ALLOCATED **K131 BILLION** FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF **5,000** TEACHERS WHICH WILL NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO LOWERING OF THE TEACHER PUPIL RATIO BUT ALSO INCREASE CONTACT TIME. THESE ARE REAL JOBS FOR ZAMBIANS.

MR SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY REMAINS COMMITTED TO DISMANTLING SALARY RELATED ARREARS OWED TO TEACHERS AND THE INDEBTEDNESS OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES. TO THIS EFFECT, MY MINISTRY HAS ALLOCATED K81 BILLION FOR PAYMENT OF SALARY AND PERSONAL EMOLUMENT RELATED ARREARS OWED TO TEACHERS COUNTRYWIDE. I WISH TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT, MY MINISTRY HAS ALLOCATED **K78 BILLION** TO REDUCE PERSONNEL RELATED ARREARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA AND THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY.

MR. SPEAKER

THE EDUCATION POLICY DEMANDS THAT THE CURRICULUM BE REVIEWED EVERY FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT CURRENTLY, MY MINISTRY IS UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM TO MAKE IT RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS AND SOCIETY. A TOTAL OF **K33.6 BILLION** HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO THIS PROGRAMME.

MR. SPEAKER,

THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS IN THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS IS CRITICAL TO THE ATTAINMENT OF QUALITY EDUCATION. TO THIS EFFECT, MY MINISTRY HAS ALLOCATED **K 25 BILLION** FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF EDUCATION MATERIALS AND **K 12.3 BILLION** FOR THE PURCHASE OF FREE BASIC EDUCATION REQUISITES.

IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRY HAS ALLOCATED **K 1.0 BILLION** TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF 230 MOBILE SCIENCE LABORATORIES WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO 150 BASIC SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE NO PERMANENT SCIENCE LABORATORIES AT THE MOMENT.

MR. SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY HAS ALLOCATED **K38.5 BILLION** FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF 86,096 DESKS TO ENHANCE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS.

MR. SPEAKER

IN ORDER TO SUPPORT QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS, MY MINISTRY HAS INCREASED BASIC SCHOOL GRANTS BY 24 PERCENT FROM **K78 BILLION** IN 2010 TO **K96.9 BILLION** IN 2011. HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS HAVE INCREASED BY 30 PERCENT FROM **56.6 BILLION** TO **K72.8 BILLION**. THIS IS A REFLECTION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CORE BUSINESS OF THE MOE THAT IS TEACHING AND LEARNING.

MR. SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOMS AT BASIC SCHOOL LEVEL USING COMMUNITY MODE. IN 2011, A TOTAL OF 2000 CLASSROOMS, 200 STAFF HOUSES AND 500 VIP LATRINES WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF **K177.4 BILLION**.

IN ADDITION 5.5 BILLION HAS BEEN SET ASIDE TO ADDRESS THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF BLOWN OFF ROOFS DUE TO HEAVY AND WINDY RAINS.

MR. SPEAKER

IN THE AREA OF INCREASED ACCESS TO HIGH SCHOOL AND TERTIARY SECTORS, MY MINISTRY WILL FOCUS ON THE ON-GOING CONSTRUCTION WORK SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY 2012. IT IS EXPECTED THAT 32 HIGH SCHOOLS WILL BE COMPLETED IN 2011.

MR. SPEAKER

MY MINISTRY WILL BE TRANSFORMING COLLEGES OF EDUCATION SO THAT THEY CAN OFFER DIPLOMA AND DEGREE PROGRAMS. A TOTAL OF **K500 MILLION** HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE PROVISION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, MY MINISTRY PLANS TO BUILD ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITIES IN ALL THE PROVINCES. IN 2011, THE MINISTRY WILL COMMENCE PLANNING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE UNIVERSITIES IN NORTH WESTERN, SOUTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES. AT THE

SAME TIME, THE MINISTRY WILL COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF THE THREE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF EDUCATION THAT IS NKRUMAH, COSECO AND MULAKUPIKWA.

MR SPEAKER

FINANCIAL ACCOUTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ARE CRITICAL PILLARS IN THE DELIVERY OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THIS BUDGET. MY MINISTRY HAS THEREFORE, INCREASED THE ALLOCATION TO FINANCIAL SYSTEM MANAGEMENT FROM K1.49 BILLION IN 2010 TO 3.7 BILLIOB IN 2011 TO FACILITATE THE SETTING UP OF PROCUREMENT UNITS AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF ACCOUNTS UNITS AT DISTRICT LEVEL. THIS COMMITMENT SHOULD RESULT IN MORE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF TAX PAYERS MONEY AS WELL AS ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE MOE.

MR SPEAKER

IN 2011, MY MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE EDUCATION POLICIES TO BRING THEM IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT REGIONAL AND GLOBAL TRENDS. APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE EDUCATION BILL AND THE ZAMBIA QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK WILL ALSO BE BROUGHT TO PARLIAMENT SOON TO ENHANCE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR.

MR. SPEAKER,

ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE BY STATING THAT EDUCATION IS A PREREQUISITE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION. MY

MINISTRY WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE EDUCATION NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR TEACHERS, EDUCATION BOARDS AND PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE EDUCATION SECTOR. I ALSO WISH TO COMMEND COOPERATING PARTNERS, CIVIL SOCIETY, THE CHURCH, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE EDUCATION SECTOR.

BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, THIS GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO INVESTMENT IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE TRAINING OF OUR TEACHERS. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE POLICY OF FREE BASIC EDUCATION. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, THE RETURN TO SCHOOL POLICY OF PREGNANT GIRLS WILL CONTINUE. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, THE NON MANDATORY REQUIREMENT OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS WILL CONTINUE. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, WE WILL CONTINUE WITH BURSARIES FOR THE ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE SCOURGES OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXAM MALPRACTICES IN OUR SCHOOLS.

BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND

CREATIVITY THROUGH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES SUCH AS ARREARS FOR TEACHERS AND LECTURERS. BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, WE ASK EVERYONE TO WALK WITH US ON THE ROAD TO ATTAINING THE 2015 EFA GOALS AND THE 2030 VISION.

MR SPEAKER

BECAUSE EDUCATION MATTERS, I CALL UPON THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT MY BUDGET.

I THANK YOU.