

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

PROGRESS MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES _ PART 1

PREPARED BY

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INTRODUCTION

On Friday the 12th of February, 2021, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu addressed the National Assembly as provided in Article 8 and 9 of the Constitution of Zambia, which demands that the President reports on the **progress made in the application on the national values and principles**. The State of the Nation Address was made against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and its attendant challenges which have had a negative impact on implementation of Government programmes.

Values and Principles enshrined in the Constitution (Amendment) Act No.2 of 2016 are:



MORALITY AND ETHICS



PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY



DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM



HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION



GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MORALITY AND ETHICS

- Government notes the declining morals and ethics evidenced by **high prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV), child marriage, teenage pregnancies, alcohol and substance abuse as well as social media abuse.**



GBV



CHILD MARRIAGE



TEENAGE PREGNANCIES



ALCOHOL SUBSTANCE

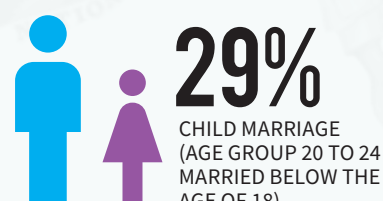


SOCIAL MEDIA ABUSE

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2020 on Zambia states that **violence against women stands at 45.9%. Child marriage stands at 29% (age group 20 to 24 married below the age of 18).**

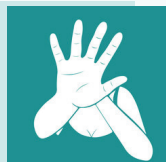


45.9%
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

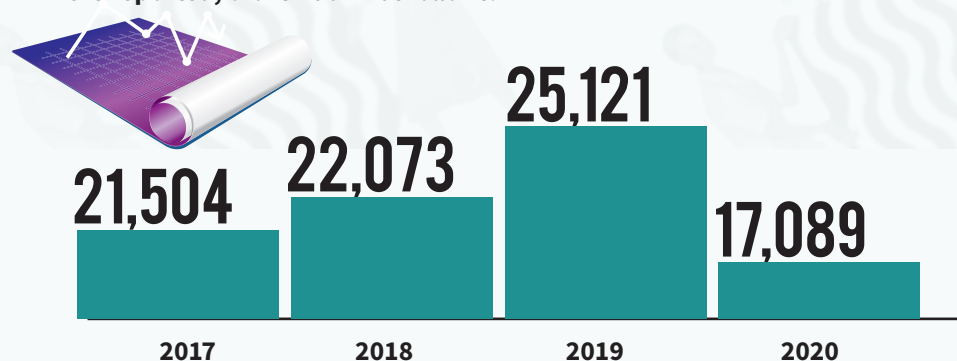


29%
CHILD MARRIAGE
(AGE GROUP 20 TO 24
MARRIED BELOW THE
AGE OF 18).

- GBV, rape and defilement** (violence against women and girls) are crimes, punishable by law and undermine the **health of women and girls, affect dignity and self esteem of victims** and in some instances **end in death.**



- Country wide awareness and sensitization campaigns have led to increased reporting to the relevant authorities. Between 2017 and 2020, **85,000 cases of GBV were reported**, broken down as follows:



- 8,000 cases** of defilement were reported between 2017 and 2020.

8,000

CASES OF DEFILEMENT



- Partnership with **traditional leaders, the church, civil society and the media** has been instrumental in the fight against these vices. **Reporting should be encouraged to expose and deter perpetrators.**



- Establishment of **GBV Fast Track Courts** in **Lusaka, Central, Eastern, Copperbelt, Southern and Western provinces** are key milestones in ensuring the **speedy disposal of cases as evidenced by the volume of cases:**

199
IN 2017

1,262
IN 2020

- Government is providing social, medical and legal support for survivors. In **2017 alone, 27,528 females and 16,445 males** accessed assistance from the established institutions.

27,528
FEMALES

16,445
MALES

CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- Constitute a violation of the rights of children and are a danger to health. **Government has a National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage through a multi sectoral approach.** Traditional systems have been a key change agent. Guidelines have been formulated in **10 chiefdoms**, children have been withdrawn from marriage and sent back to school.
- The **school Re-entry Policy** has seen many girls who fell pregnant go back to school. **Between 2017 and 2020, 27,647 girls benefited under the policy.**



ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

This leads to dysfunctional homes and society as well as low productivity. Government and its partners have developed **sensitization, training and rehabilitation** programmes with the following outcomes:



- Since 2017, **1.7 million individuals** and **1,075 organisations** have been **sensitised on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse.**
- Government has **trained 171 teachers under the peer education training programme in drug abuse.**
- 2,802 addicts** benefited from the **rehabilitation programmes set up by teachers.**
- The church and civil society have been key in delivering rehabilitation services.



SUICIDE RATES

- Statistics indicate **17.5 per 100,000 males** and **6.2 per 100,000 females** suffer from this.



PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY

- More **Zambian products** are being sold in shops.
- More Zambians are consuming local produce. An indication that the **Proudly Zambian** campaign is bearing fruit.
- So far, **33 companies** have been **permitted to use the Proudly Zambian logo**, covering more than **500 product lines.**



33
COMPANIES
PERMITTED

PROUDLY
COVERING 500 PRODUCT LINES

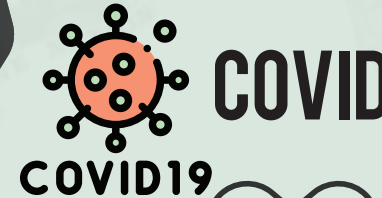


- '**Think Local First**' must therefore be the mantra of every Zambian when seeking to buy produce.



LOCAL FIRST

- The COVID-19 pandemic has taught Zambia that a heavy reliance on imports can be costly to the country.



COVID19

- Unity is paramount to the **peace and stability in the country.**



- The **One Zambia, One Nation** motto has been actively promoted.



PEACE

- Despite these efforts, pockets of **politically incited violence** have occasionally flared up in the country.
- This can be attributed to the regional and ethnic polarization of our society, for which politicians are largely responsible.

- To address this plight, the **President is engaging various stake-holders** to encourage both **intra and inter party dialogue.**



DIALOGUE

DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

- Government believes in upholding the Constitution as the supreme law of the land.
- As such, **elections are held every five years.** Furthermore, significant progress has been made in preparation for the 12th of August, 2021 elections.
- In 2020, the Electoral Commission of Zambia developed a new voter register. This was necessitated by the concerns raised by various stakeholders after the 2016 general elections.
- This register has enhanced security features designed to increase credibility of the elections.
- Just over **7 million people** were **registered** against the targeted of **8.4 million eligible voters** with an **83% success rate.**
- The **new voter register** by far **outnumbers the previous one.**
- Government commits to ensuring that law and order are enforced **prior to, during and after the elections.**

HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

To improve the general citizenry's quality of life, Government is implementing programmes in:



EDUCATION



HEALTH



WATER & SANITATION



IMPROVEMENT IN ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY



IMPROVEMENT IN INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

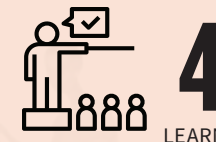


IMPROVEMENT IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- 69 secondary schools** have been constructed countrywide, bringing the total number to **1,114** and creating **41,400 learning spaces** for pupils.



69
SECONDARY SCHOOL



41,400
LEARNING SPACES FOR PUPILS

- Government is supporting **73,365 disabled persons** under the **Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCT)**

73,365
DISABLED PERSONS UNDER SCT



- At the end of 2020, Government had taken **22,799 students** under its wing as opposed to **17,221 in 2017.** 30% of these loans are specifically reserved for female learners.

- In order to encourage pupil attendance, Government is currently **feeding 1,127,000 learners** as opposed to **1,052,760 in 2017.**



PUPIL
ATTENDANCE
1,127,000

- In relation to children living on the streets, Government has removed **1,935** children from the there.

1,935



REMOVING CHILDREN FROM THE STREET

- 500 health facilities** have been **constructed since 2017.** Government has recruited **23,000 health workers.**

500
HEALTH FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED

23,000
HEALTH WORKERS RECRUITED



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



- Government has been providing **legal aid services to the poor and vulnerable.**

- In **2020, 8,756** clients were assisted with legal services compared to **5,177 clients in 2017.** The total number of **clients assisted in the last four years stands at 32,276.**



- On Monday, 1st February, 2021, Cabinet approved for publication a Bill entitled **'the Legal Aid Bill 2021'** which seeks to create a comprehensive legal aid system in Zambia that is accessible, effective, credible and sustainable to persons whose means are insufficient in civil or criminal matters.



- Justice demands that, **the rich or poor, must have access to legal representation.**



- Government has also partnered with public and private universities as well as civil society organisations to provide **paralegal training and services countrywide.** So far, **280 students** have been trained.

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GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

- To improve service delivery and accountability, Government will increase the number of services that can be accessed online using its Service Bus and Payment Gateway.



- Access to online services has led to reduction in the cost of doing business.



- Online provision of services is promoting efficiency



- The online payment system is enhancing revenue collection



- Further, the roll-out of e-services is reducing opportunities for corruption, theft and pilferage of public resources.



- As of December, 2020, over **30 Government services** were accessible at the touch of a button.



- Central Government has devolved some of its functions to local authorities. In 2020, motor vehicle licensing, road-worthiness certification and physical inspection services were being provided by six local authorities, namely Kabompo, Mwinilunga, Kafue, Mumbwa, Nyimba and Lundazi.

- The National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020 was enacted to enhance accountability and citizen participation in the national planning and budgeting processes



- The Public Procurement Act No. 8 of 2020 was enacted to enhance transparency, value for money, competition and accountability in the use of public resources.



- Government launched the first-ever Media Development Policy in November 2020. The policy aims to promote freedom of expression by guaranteeing press freedom.



- Cabinet is introducing a bill in parliament entitled the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Bill, 2021. This Bill aimed at protecting persons from cybercrime online.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- To stem the negative tide of deforestation, Government has stepped-up afforestation and reforestation activities to improve forest cover. Over **13,272.45 hectares of land across the country** have been planted with trees in the last four years.



- Government is also working with communities in the sustainable management of forests. So far, **1.2 million hectares** are being managed as community forests under **34 forest management agreements** that have been signed since 2018. Government is also promoting natural regeneration of forests.

