

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH INFOGRAPHIC

OPENING OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 13TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (PART TWO)

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INTRODUCTION

On the 10th of September 2021, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Hakainde Hichilema officially opened the 1st session of the 13th National Assembly.



VISION

To have a united and prosperous Zambia that provides equal opportunities for all.



THEME

“Creating a united, prosperous and equitable Zambia: restoring economic growth and safeguarding livelihoods”

ENERGY SECTOR



- An important driving force for development and a key enabler for productivity and industrial growth in the economy.
- Government will ensure development of an **appropriate energy policy framework** that will deliver affordable and clean energy through alternative renewable green economy sources.
- The framework will galvanize sufficient capacity to power the economy and cushion the country from the **negative effects of climate change on hydro-electricity generation.**

ELECTRICITY

- To attract more investment in the electricity sub-sector, Government will put in place **cost-reflective tariffs.**
- To transform Zambia into an **electricity hub** for the region by continuing **investments in the expansion of electricity generation, minimize transmission and distribution losses to create excess power needed to end load shedding and cater for export as well as develop power interconnectors** with other countries.
- To improve **operations, efficiency and financial sustainability** of ZESCO, Government will implement structural and financial reforms.

FUEL PROCUREMENT

- The Government will guarantee security of supply of petroleum products and undertake reforms in the fuel supply chain to reduce the landing cost of petroleum products.
- The Government will allow for more Private sector participation in the procurement and supply of petroleum products.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

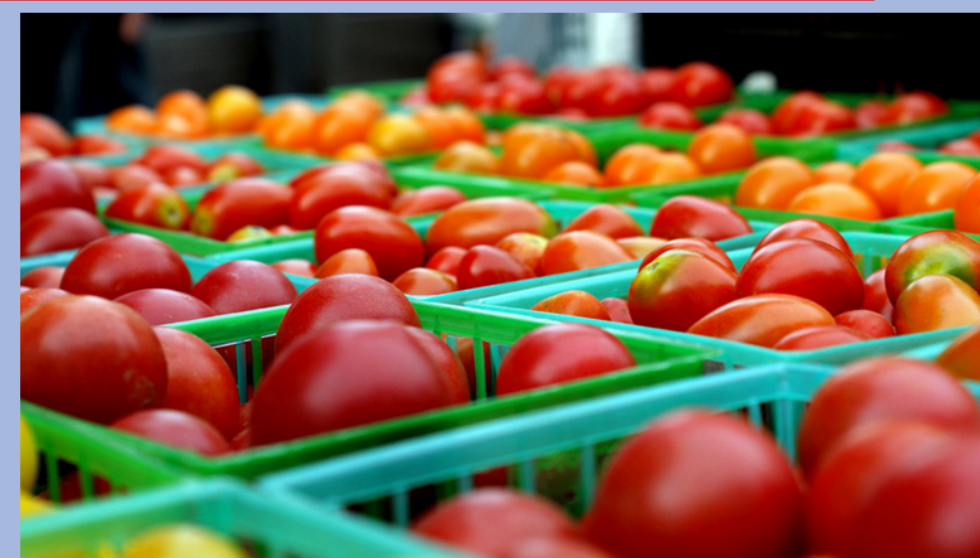


Plays a key role in economic development **bridging producers of goods and services to the consumers.** The sector has a huge potential for job and **wealth creation, poverty reduction and revenue generation** for our country.

Government will:

- Pursue an export-led trade strategy focussing on continuous improvement in the competitiveness and quality of exports.
- Place the private sector at the **centre of production and trade as an engine of growth.**
- Improve the relationships with the private sector and foster more participation of **Zambian businesses in regional and global value chains.**
- Harmonize the **trade policy** with other relevant policies to effectively facilitate the flow of trade and investment and create export financing support mechanisms to support Zambian businesses in their export agenda.
- Work closely with the private sector in **exploiting the opportunities available in the regional and international markets.**
- Strengthen the operations of the **Zambia Bureau of Standards and related bodies** to enable them **appropriately certify products** to meet global quality acceptance of Zambian products.
- Promote **industrial innovation and creativity** as well as support generation of intellectual property assets.
- **To enhance the competitiveness of our local enterprises,** Government will reduce **transaction costs for doing business** by streamlining the number of licenses and permits required to operate a business, as well as the time it takes to obtain them by promoting the use of electronic registration and payment systems.
- In addition, Government will facilitate for Zambian-owned businesses to have **access to affordable credit and finance** as well **e-Commerce,** which will facilitate a **productive and efficient economy.**
- With these in place, Government will be able to fully exploit the various trade opportunities available in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community, the African Continental Free Trade Area, the European Union and China, among others.
- This will not only create job opportunities for our people but also increase the revenue base for individuals, businesses and the nation as a whole.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs)



- The Government will focus on the **micro, small, medium enterprises (SMEs).**
- The Government believes that this category of entrepreneurship is the main engine for **job and wealth creation.**
- This will be supported by **broad-based education and skills development.**

TRANSPORT



- Recognised as a **backbone for facilitating economic activities, trade and development as well as a catalyst for economic development.**
- Investments in transport infrastructure have been lopsided, focusing on road transport at the expense of other options such as rail.
- Government will, therefore, focus on **balanced and integrated transport infrastructure development** by leveraging public private partnership investment.
- The Government recognizes the importance of the **railway sub-sector to economic development;** Government is committed to developing the sub-sector to provide for a **cost-effective and efficient** means of transportation of bulk cargo.
- This is particularly important in view of our **country's position as a land-linked country.**

DIGITAL AND KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY



- Plays critical role in **enhancing productivity** across all sectors of the economy.
- Digital transformation affects every aspect of **human, social, political and economic activities** and presents huge opportunities for developing countries like Zambia.
- To harness this potential, the Government will mainstream digital revolution in national programmes in order to **tap into the talents and creativity** of Zambians, especially **the youth in finance, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, information, wholesale and retail trade.**

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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Human and social development is essential to maintaining a healthy and skilled population and this calls for improved wellbeing of citizens. Government will prioritize the following in the next five years **in the Education Sector:**

- Improve **access to education, health, social protection** as well as **water and sanitation services.**
 - Investments in the social sector will be towards skills development and health so as to empower citizens to participate in the socio-economic transformation agenda for Zambia.
 - Restore education system to international standards and best practice in order for the sector to foster socio-economic development through education, science and skills development by aligning the sector to the demands of the labour market.
 - Provide **quality and equitable access to education** for all by addressing challenges **faced by female learners in accessing education.**
 - Review education curriculum in line with artisan skills and the country's development aspirations and goals by incorporating Entrepreneurship in line with current socio-economic requirements to prepare graduates for **industry and job creation.**
 - Reform the **higher education loan and bursary scheme** in order to sponsor learners with potential to excel, especially the girl-child with assessed vulnerability status.
 - Deploy teachers **equitably to all schools across the country to improve quality of education.**
 - Facilitate investment in research and development in order to develop new technologies relevant to the country's needs and place a premium on science and technology to promote innovation and contribute to sustainable development.
 - Increase investment in science, research and technology. Encourage investments from the private sector in science, research and technology.
 - Continue encouraging scientists, engineers, research institutions and universities to explore possibilities of developing vaccines, medicines and appropriate technologies to respond to current and emerging issues.
- In the Health Sector the Government will:**
- Enhance financing to improve health service delivery in order to attain a healthy and productive population.
 - In order to **reduce inequalities** in health service delivery between rural and urban areas, the Government will strengthen institutions and systems to ensure health security for the nation.
 - Ensure **full participation of rural and urban communities** in planning and delivery of health services through the adoption of a balanced approach between preventive community public health and primary health care on one hand, and secondary level health care on the other.
 - Secure the **supply chain for medicines and medical supplies.**
 - **Recruit and deploy skilled human resources for all health facilities across the country** and provide health facilities with modern equipment and adopt a systematic approach to health infrastructure maintenance.
 - Pay attention in addressing non-communicable diseases through health promotion and the adoption of healthier lifestyles among our population. This is particularly important in view of our country's position as a land-linked country.