

# PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

## PROGRESS MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

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### INTRODUCTION

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, H.E. the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, addressed the National Assembly in accordance with article 9(2) of the Zambian Constitution, which demands that the President addresses the nation on the progress made towards application of national values found in article 8.

The national values and principles, as enshrined in article 8 of the constitution, are:



**Morality and Ethics**



**Human Dignity, Equity, Social Justice, Equality & Non-discrimination**



**Patriotism and National Unity**



**Good Governance and Integrity**



**Democracy and Constitutionalism**



**Sustainable Development**

### MORALITY AND ETHICS



- The Government intends to provide leadership in promoting morality on vices like **alcohol and substance abuse, child marriages, teenage pregnancies, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), corruption and abuse of information and communication technology and social media.**



- Government continues to implement the National Alcohol Policy in an effort to curtail alcohol abuse.
- Government is conducting sensitization programs for citizens on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse, and providing rehabilitation services in provincial hospitals and selected public and private hospitals..



- To regulate substance abuse, Government, in 2021, enacted the Cannabis Act No. 33 of 2021 and the Narcotic and Psychotropic Substance Act No.35 of 2021.



- Government intends to harmonize all child related legislation to **enhance children's rights and welfare.** Laws will be enforced to arrest all parents and guardians who marry off young girls.



- To curb child marriages and teenage pregnancies, Government has partnered with various stakeholders to ensure that girls remain in school to protect them from these vices. **Free education is one of the measures that will encourage the girls to remain in school.**



- A total of **20,540 cases of GBV were reported in 2021** dropping by 22% from the **26,370 cases reported in 2020.** Government intends to continue working with relevant authorities and stakeholders using the mechanism in place to curb GBV and all citizens should report acts of that nature to relevant authorities.

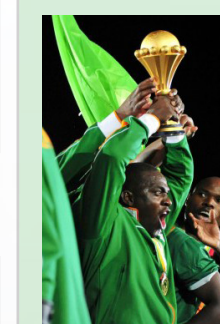


**20,540**  
cases of GBV in 2021  
compared to 26,370 in 2020



- It is the duty of the **civic leaders, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the church, traditional leaders, the community and all citizens** to support Government to push the country forward for the much needed prosperity and development.

### PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY



- It is our duty, as Zambians, to nurture a strong sense of **patriotism, which entails putting the interests of the nation first.**

- Many citizens continue to **carry the Zambian flag** high with a sense of national pride in areas such as **sport, entertainment and science.**



- There have been increased acts of care from citizens and organisations, who have been rendering support to the needy on a voluntary basis.



- Government is determined to continue promoting the consumption of **locally produced goods and services.**



- There are currently **47 local companies** certified to use the official Proudly Zambian logo, covering **565 local products** registered with a mark of quality under the **Buy Zambia Campaign.**



**565**  
local products registered  
with Buy Zambia Campaign



- Government will promote and strengthen initiatives aimed at increasing the use of local inputs in various processes and production value chains.



- We are Zambians first before **affiliation to a political, religious, ethnic, or social groupings.**

- Government will uphold the **rule of law** and accord everyone equal treatment in line with the law and our **national values and principles.**

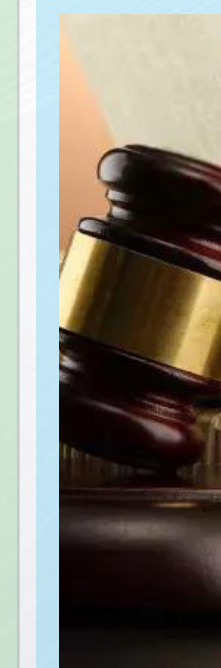


### DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM



- Zambia's thriving democracy continues to be a shining example in the region and on the continent.

- Government is committed to creating a level playing field where **democracy can thrive and an environment in which political actors freely compete on ideas, conviction and service.**



- Respect for principles of **Separation of Powers** among the **three arms of Government** is important.

- Coordination and autonomy of the **three arms** will be necessary to carry out their respective constitutional mandate.

- Rule of law shall be upheld and persons, institutions and entities, public and private shall operate within the confines of the law.

- The Law shall be enforced equally, regardless of status.



- Constitutional reforms are an integral part of the **transformation agenda.**

- The process will be consultative so that the resultant Constitution reflects the shared aspirations of the people.



- One key action is to **legislate against costly time consuming and disruptive by-elections as a means of releasing resources to improving livelihoods.**

- Alignment of the **Public Order Act** with democratic tenets remains a priority.

