

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

PROGRESS MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

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INTRODUCTION

On the 24th February 2023, 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 the application of national values found in Article 8.**

The national values and principles, as enshrined in Article 8 of the Constitution, are:

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| ■ 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



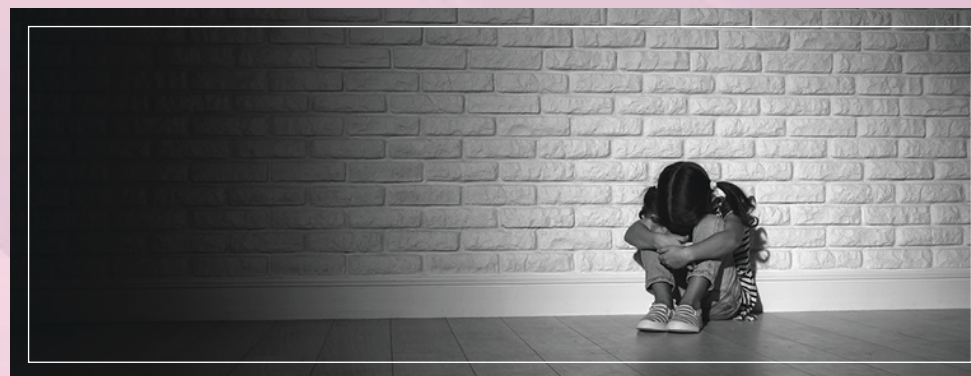
- Government intensified the implementation of the National Alcohol Policy, as a way of addressing alcohol and substance abuse. Under the sensitization programs, **523,973** citizens in 2022 have been sensitized on the dangers of substance abuse compared to **217,234** in 2021.



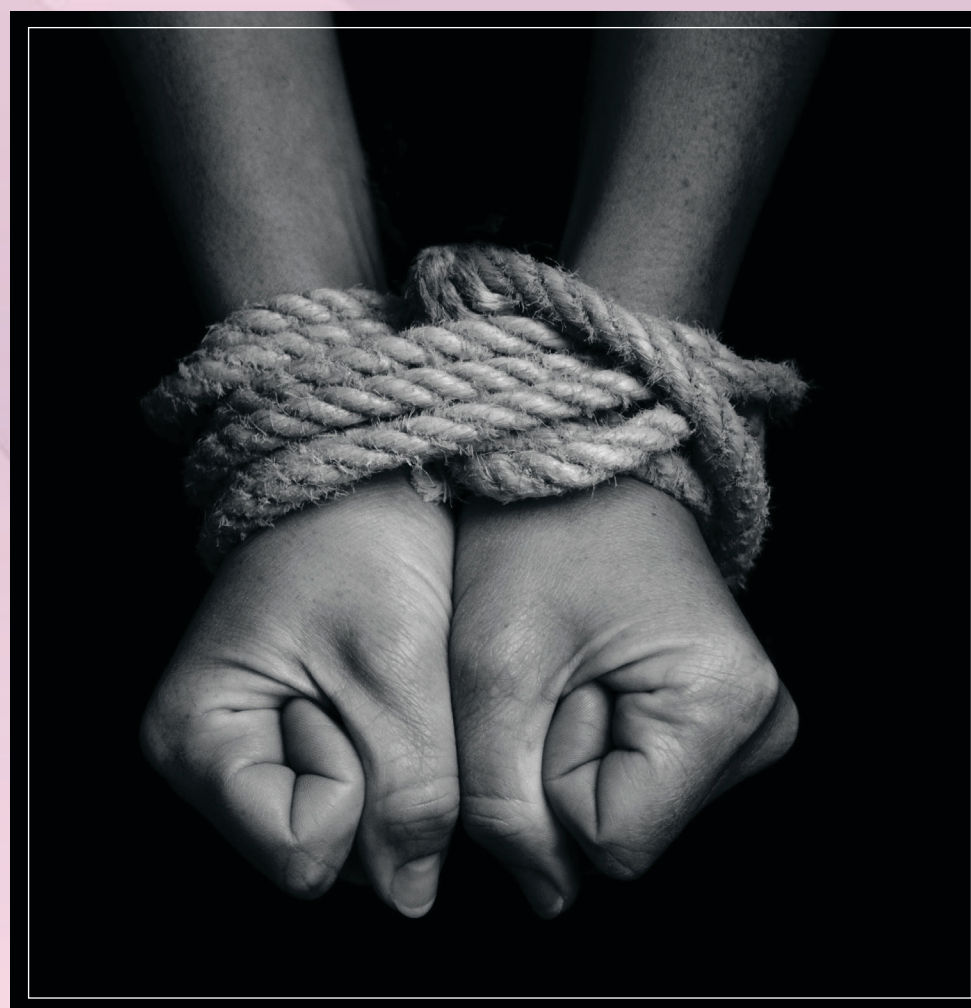
- Under the rehabilitation services for alcohol and other drug abuse, the **Government provided rehabilitation services to 1212 citizens in 2022 compared to 810 citizens in 2021.**



- To prevent child marriages and teenage pregnancy, the Government has introduced free education as a way of keeping children longer in school.



- Government has enacted the **Children's Code to protect children from abuse and promotion of their rights.**



- To prevent human trafficking and smuggling Government has passed the **Anti- Human Trafficking (Amendment) Act 2022** and is currently employing border guards for effective border management and security.

PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY



- Patriotism and national unity are key in the quest to attain socio-economic development and national security.



- The coat of arms, the national flag, the public seal, as well as the **"One Zambia, One Nation"** motto must always invoke a sense of pride, national identity and unity.



- Patriotism also entails taking care of both public and private assets, which add to the national balance sheet. **Citizens should protect buildings, roads, railway lines and power installations, among others.**



- Zambians have **continued to exhibit patriotism through the consumption of locally produced goods and services.**



- The number of companies registered to use the **Proudly Zambian campaign logo has increased to 69 from 47 in 2021.**



- Paying taxes is a demonstration of patriotism to the country.



- Government has been implementing several measures, such as **digitizing tax management systems to provide an efficient, reliable and simplified process that will enhance tax compliance.**



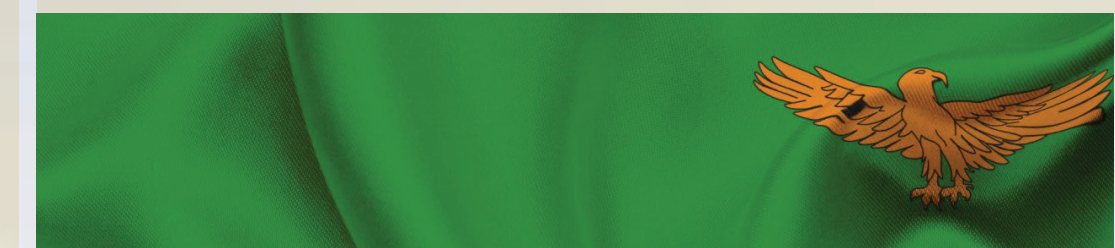
- Zambia does not and will never condone tribalism. It is retrogressive and denies people equal opportunities to reach their full potential. It also denies the Nation the opportunity to optimize available human capital.



- Caderism and political violence have been brought under control. Zambians are now able to go about their business without fear of being harassed.



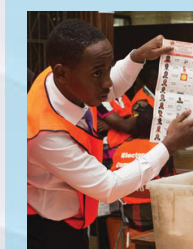
- Government is working on a **National Security Strategy** that will be consultative and inclusive. This will be aimed at addressing the Nation's fundamental security needs and challenges against all threats.



DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM



- The new dawn administration firmly believes in democratic governance because it accords the Zambian people the opportunity to actively participate in decision-making for the betterment of the country.



- People are freely participating in the governance of the country, as evidenced by the recently held peaceful by-elections at local government and parliamentary levels.



- Freedom of speech is a critical aspect of democracy; to this effect, the New Dawn Government has removed from its statutes the provisions that criminalise the defamation of the President.



- To further strengthen the country's democracy, considerable progress has been made to repeal and replace the Public Order Act. Stakeholder consultations have since been completed, and a draft bill has been developed. The President urges Members of Parliament to support the bill when presented.