



## YOUTH DAY - TRANSFORMING MINDS FOR ACCELERATED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

This year, Zambia celebrates youth day under the theme **“Transforming Minds for Accelerated Youth Development”**. This year’s theme is especially relevant, considering the critical importance of mindset.

It has generally been observed that certain **negative traits are detrimental to achieving rapid progress in development. These traits include; poor time management, low productivity, poor entrepreneurship culture, poor working culture, poor reading culture and a low level of innovation. These traits have the ability to hinder Zambian youth from fulfilling their true potential.** Therefore, such traits need to be confronted and remedied whilst building on more positive traits. This calls for a change in mindset amongst the Country’s youth or, in keeping with the 2023 Youth Day theme, it calls for transformed minds.

The theme of transformed minds for accelerated youth development highlights the importance of education. Education is a critical tool in shaping individuals to contribute to the development of society. Additionally, education broadens the mind and provides

alternative perspectives that can change our young people's outlook and approach to the world. With this in mind, we must continue to celebrate the free provision of education from early childhood to the secondary school level. This will play a key role in transforming young minds for accelerated youth development.

Furthermore, the **Government must be commended for increasing its Constituency Development Fund (CDF) budgetary allocation from K25.7 million to K28.3 million in 2023. This indicates Government's commitment to further decentralising functions to local authorities and providing the required financial resources to enable constituency-led projects to drive development.** CDF can be used as a vehicle to transform the minds of the youths by encouraging them to be entrepreneurial and innovative. So far, 29,916 youths from vulnerable families in 145 constituencies have accessed skills development bursaries. CDF has put these and many other young people in a position to shape the development of their communities and the nation at large.

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) urges young people to stay away from vices that could derail their full participation in the national development agenda, such as drug and alcohol abuse, theft and graft and the abuse of social media. Instead, we encourage young people to fulfil their roles and responsibilities diligently and wholeheartedly, knowing that the growth of Zambia's economy will only be possible with their full participation.

PMRC wishes all of Zambia's youth a fruitful Youth Day Commemoration.



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Acting PMRC Executive Director

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