



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

SPEECH BY

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
VOCATIONAL TRAINING EARLY
EDUCATION**

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**AT THE LAUNCH OF THE TEACHER
DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE,
SUPPORT AND PROTECTION**

ON THURSDAY, 22nd AUGUST, 2013

- THE PERMANENT SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
- THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR REGIONAL PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE (REPSSI)
- THE PRINCIPAL CHALIMBANA UNIVERSITY
- THE PRINCIPAL CHIPATA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
- THE PRINCIPAL MONGU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
- THE REPSSI TECHNICAL STAFF – ZAMBIA COUNTRY OFFICE
- REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS PRESENT
- DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I AM VERY PROUD TO DAY AND FEEL VERY HONOURED TO BE ABLE TO LAUNCH THE FIRST EVER DIPLOMA COURSE IN PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION FOR OUR TEACHERS.

THIS IS THE FIRST NOT JUST IN ZAMBIA BUT THE REGION IF NOT THE WORLD, THUS MY SINCERE HAPPINESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ALLOW ME TO GIVE A BRIEF BACKGROUND TO WHY THE MINISTRY DECIDED TO DEVELOP AND INTRODUCE THIS COURSE. OUR LEARNERS ARE FACED WITH A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES WHICH RANGE FROM:

- i. BEING ORPHANED

- ii. HEADING HOUSEHOLDS
- iii. CARINING FOR AILING PARENTS
- iv. FACINING ALL SORTS OF ABUSE
- v. NEGLECT

THE TEACHERS HAVE EQUALLY NOT BEEN SPARED, THEY TOO ARE FACING A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES AMONG THEM;

- i. THE DISEASE BURDEN- HIV, AIDS AND OTHERS
- ii. LOSSES OF MANY KINDS TO WHICH SUPPORT IS REQUIRED
- iii. GENDER BASED ABUSE HAS EQUALLY NOT SPARED SOME OF OUR TEACHERS

ALL THESE THINGS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE WELLBEING OF BOTH TEACHERS AND THEIR LEARNERS. IN TURN, THESE AFFECT THE ULTIMATE OUTPUT WHICH IS PERFORMANCE OF THE TEACHER, THE RETENTION, PROGRESSION AND PASS RATES OF THE LEARNERS.

WE HAVE IN RECENT PAST SEEN THAT THE PASS RATES IN MOST OF OUR SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN GOING DOWN. THESE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN CAN NOT BE BLAMED ON THE QUALITY OF TEACHING ALONE, BUT OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY BE INVISIBLE TO THE EYE OF EVERYONE. THESE FACTORS INCLUDE LEARNERS LEVELS OF WORRY, ANXIETY, FEAR, AND UNCERTAINTY OF THE FUTURE. ALL THESE THINGS REQUIRE TO BE ADDRESSED IF THE KNOWLEDGE BEING GIVEN TO SUCH CHILDREN IS TO YIELD POSITIVE RESULTS.

GOVERNMENT AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS WHO INCLUDE NGOS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING MANY VULNERABLE AND ORPHANED

CHILDREN WITH MATERIAL SCHOOL REQUISITS SUCH AS UNIFORMS, BOOKS AND FEES TO ENSURE THAT THE CHILDREN GET BACK TO SCHOOL. WHILE ALL THESE INTERVENTIONS ARE PUT IN PLACE, THE PERFORMANCE OF MANY OF THESE VULNERABLE AND ORPHANED CHILDREN CONTINUE TO BE POOR MAINLY BECAUSE THE CHILDREN HAVE MANY UNRESOLVED ISSUES WHICH OUR TEACHERS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ADDRESS FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING TO TAKE PLACE

MY MINISTRY HAS EMBARKED ON REVIEWING POLICIES SO THAT THEY ARE STRENGTHENED TO MAKE SCHOOLS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT SUITABLE FOR NOT JUST TEACHING BUT NURTURING THEM INTO BETTER CITIZENS. WE HAVE PRIOTISED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES THAT ADDRESS HIV AND AIDS, LIFE SKILLS, CARE AND SUPPORT THROUGH SCHOOL GUIDNACE SERVICES AND PROTECTION. IF YOU LOOK CRITICALLY, ALL THESE POLICIES MAINLY FACILITATE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION TO LEARNERS AND ALSO TO THEIR TEACHERS SO AS TO COMPLEMENT THE OTHER ACCADEMIC DELIVERABLES OF EVERY SCHOOL.

IN ADDITION TO THE POLICIES, THERE ARE VERY GOOD REASONS WHY PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION SHOULD BE MAINSTREAMED INTO THE SCHOOL SETTING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE,

SUPPORT AND PROTECTION, IS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR BECAUSE CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL FOR A LONG TIME OF THEIR INITIAL LIFE. CHILDREN ARE AT SCHOOL:

- i. FOR 5 OR MORE HOURS A DAY
- ii. 196 DAYS OF THE YEAR
- iii. FOR UP TO 13 YEARS

YOU THUS MAY AGREE WITH ME THAT THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE BETTER PLACED TO ADDRESS MOST OF THESE CHALLENGES THAT CHILDREN ARE FACED WITH THAN THE SCHOOL. SCHOOLS CAN FORM A PART OF THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DISTRESS.

WE KNOW THAT GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION PROVIDES CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS WITH HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE. HOWEVER, CRITICAL TO THIS PROCESS IS THE RECOGNITION THAT SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING IS A KEY COMPONENT OF CHILDREN'S WELLBEING THAT TOGETHER WITH TEACHING HELPS BUILD THE WHOLE CHILD. THIS PROCESS IS BEST ACHIEVED AS A HOLISTIC PROCESS. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD EMERGE NATURALLY WITHIN A CLASSROOM BY TEACHERS WITH REINFORCEMENT FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND THE WIDE COMMUNITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TEACHERS REQUIRE APPROPRIATE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS MOST OF

THE CHALLENGES THAT FACE OUR LEARNERS TODAY. OUR LEARNERS ARE ENGAGED IN NUMBER OF VICES AMONG THEM, UNDERAGE DRINKING, RIOTOUS BEHAVIOUR, EARLY SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS, CHILD LABOUR ACTIVITIES TO MENTION JUST A FEW ALL OF WHICH REQUIRE A TEACHER TO ADDRESS WITHIN HIS OR HER LIMITED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE SET.

WE REALISED THAT TEACHERS NEED SUPPORT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN AND SO A PARTNERSHIP WITH REPSSI WAS HATCHED TO DEVELOP AND INTRODUCE THIS COURSE.

THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EARLY EDUCATION AND REGIONAL PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE HAS PRODUCED THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAMME AIMED AT FACILITATING MAINSTREAMING PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY INITIATIVES MY MINISTRY IS EMBARKING ON TO ACHIEVE THE COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE TO OUR PEOPLE ESPECIALLY OUR LEARNERS. MY MINISTRY IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING ALL THE COMMITMENTS- THE EDUCATION FOR ALL, MILLENNIUM

DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON EDUCATION, THE SADC PROTOCOL ON EDUCATION THAT ESTABLISHED THE CARE AND SUPPORT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING. ULTIMATELY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 29, MY MINISTRY COMMITS TO:

“EDUCATION AIMED AT DEVELOPING THE CHILD’S PERSONALITY, TALENTS AND MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES TO THE FULLEST EXTENT. EDUCATION THAT PREPARES THE CHILD FOR AN ACTIVE ADULT LIFE IN A FREE SOCIETY AND THAT SHALL FOSTER IN THE CHILD RESPECT FOR HIS OR HER PARENTS, FOR HIS OR HER OWN CULTURAL IDENTITY, LANGUAGE AND VALUES, AND FOR THE CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND VALUES OF OTHERS”

THIS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IS THE ESSENCE OF THE COURSE. IT WAS DEVELOED TO HELP EACH SCHOOL LOOK FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

THE SIX MODULE COURSE IS DEVELOPED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT FIRST HELPS TEACHERS DEAL WITH THEIR OWN ISSUES THAT KNOWS THEIR AREAS OF STRENGTH, WEAKNESS, AND SUPPPORT NETWORKS BEFORE THEY CAN DEAL WITH LEARNERS.

IT ALSO LOOKS AT THE LEARNER AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL, WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES, CHALLENGES THAT SHOULD BE APPRECIATED, REINFORCED APPROPRIATELY, IT THEN LOOKS AT LEARNERS AS A GROUP- A CLASS; AS A COLLECTIVE FORCE OF TALENT, SKILLS, ABILITIES THAT CAN BE TAPPED AND NURTURED. A CLASS IS VIEWED AS A COLLECTIVE FORCE THAT EVERY TEACHER CAN USE TO BUILD A FORMIDABLE LEARNING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE. THE COURSE CHALLENGES TEACHERS TO KNOW THIS VALUE AND ARRANGE THEIR CLASS IN A WAY THAT BRINGS THAT ENERGY TO LIFE FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING ON THEIR PART BUT ALSO EFFECTIVE LEARNING ON THE PART OF THE LEARNERS.

THE COURSE ALSO ADDRESSES THE NEED TO BUILD AN ENBALING SCHOOL WIDE ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES SAFETY, PROTECTION, CARE AND SUPPORT. THIS IS BY LOOKING AT THE SCHOOL BOTH AS A PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL SPACE. THE COURSE HAS A COMPONENT THAT HELP BUILD SCHOOL MANAGEMENT STYLES, DEVELOPMENT AND

ADAPTATION POLICIES THAT GOVERN THE OPERATION OF SCHOOLS.

FINALLY THE COURSE LOOKS AT BRIDGING THE GAP THAT EXIST BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES BY WAY OF EQUIPING TEACHERS WITH TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS ON HOW TO ENHANCE SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

AS WE CONSTRUCT NEW SCHOOLS AND REHABILITATE THE EXISTING ONES, WE ARE DETERMINED TO PROVIDE FOR COUNSELLING ROOMS SO AS TO ENHANCE THE DELIVERY OF COUNSELLING TO LEARNERS. WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMING THE POSITION OF GUIDANCE TEACHER TO THAT OF A SCHOOL COUNSELOR SO THAT THE LEARNERS ARE BETTER SUPPORTED. THIS COURSE THEREFORE COMES AT THE RIGHT TIME WHEN WE ARE MAKING THIS TRANSFORMATION.

I HAVE EVERY HOPE THEREFORE THAT OUR SCHOOLS WILL CHANGE THE WAY THEY CONDUCT BUSINESS AS WELL AS CHANGE THE WAY THEY INTERACT WITH OTHER COMMUNITY

STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS CARE GIVERS, THE CHURCH, POLICE, SOCIAL WELFARE, TRADITIONAL LEADERS, CIVIC LEADERS, LOCAL BUSINESS PEOPLE AND MANY OTHERS.

REPSSI HAVE INVESTED OVER 25 MILLION KWACHA REBURSED (25 BILLION UNREBURSED) TO PILOT THIS COURSE IN 11 DISTRICTS:

- i. IN EASTERN PROVINCE - LUNDAZI, KATETE, SINDA
- ii. LUSAKA PROVINCE - CHILANGA, LUANGWA, KAFUE; AND
- iii. WESTERN PROVINCE - KAOMA, LUAMPA, NKEYEMA, MONGU, LIMULUNGA.

THE PILOT INVOLVES THE TRAINING OF 1000 TEACHERS IN OVER 300 SCHOOLS. THE COURSE HAVE A VERY STRONG EVALUATION COMPONENT TO FACILIAE LEARNING THAT WILL INFORM FURTHER SCALING UP OF THE COURSE THROUGH OUT THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS INTEGRATING IT INTO PRE-SERVICE. THE EVALUATION STUDY WILL HELP US EXPORT THE TRAINING TO OTHER SADC COUNTRIES.

I THEREFORE, CALL UPON ALL OF YOU OUR STAKEHOLDERS-COOPERATING PARTNERS, NGOS WORKING IN SCHOOLS, BUSINESS COMMUNITIES TO TAKE INTEREST AND SUPPORT THE ROLLING OUT OF THIS COURSE TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

I FURTHER IMPORE ALL ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ZAMBIA TO REDUCE ON DUPLICATING EFFORTS. INSTEAD OF EACH ORGANISATION TAKING ONE PROGRAMME AFTER ANOTHER, IT IS HIGH TIME WE BEGAN CONSOLIDATING WHAT IS GOING TO THE SCHOOLS SO THAT WE CAN STANDARDISE PRACTICES.

I FURTHER URGE ALL THE OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EARLY EDUCATION TO EMBRACE AND SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMMES. I AM EQUALLY URGING ALL THE DIRECTORATES TO COORDINATE THESE PROGRAMMES WELL SO THAT WE HAVE A WELL PACKAGED WAY OF RESPONDING.

THEREFORE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS WITH GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE THAT I LAUNCH THE TEACHER DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION. THIS COURSE IS BEING DELIVERED BY CHALIMBANA UNIVERSITY (FORMERLY NATIONAL IN-SERVICE TEACHER'S COLLEGE) IN COLLABORATIONS WITH CHIPATA AND MONGU COLLEGES OF EDUCATION. AS THE PROGRAMME GROWS, IT SHALL BE INTRODUCED IN ALL THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND WILL LATER BE UP GRADED TO A DEGREE

PROGRAMME. I WISH OUR FIRST STUDENTS WELL AS THEY
EMBARK ON THE COURSE.

I THANK YOU.