



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
MINISTRY OF GENDER**

## **SPEECH**

**BY**

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER**

**DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SIXTEEN DAYS OF  
ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE UNDER THE  
THEME: *'ORANGE THE WORLD: FUND, RESPOND, PREVENT,  
COLLECT!'*.**

**25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT PARTY MR. DAVIES  
MWILA

MEMBERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

THE CHIEF JUSTICE, HER LADYSHIP, JUSTICE IRENE MAMBILIMA

THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, RIGHT HON. DR.  
PATRICK MATIBINI

LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

SECRETARY TO THE CABINET

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LUSAKA

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

HIGH COURT JUDGES

PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF GENDER

PERMANENT SECRETARIES PRESENT

THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND OTHER  
COMMISSIONS

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GENDER COORDINATING  
COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF PARASTATAL BODIES

REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND FAITH  
BASED ORGANISATIONS

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS MY RARE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU ALL AT THIS OCCASION OF COMMEMORATING THE SIXTEEN DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE FOR 2020. THIS YEAR'S COMMEMORATION IS UNDER THE THEME: '**ORANGE THE WORLD: FUND, RESPOND, PREVENT, COLLECT.**'

### **DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

OUR GATHERING TODAY, CLEARLY SHOWS OUR PROFOUND RESOLVE AS A NATION TO CONQUER THE VICE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

IT IS NO LONGER IN DEBATE THAT FIGHTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IS CRITICAL FOR REALISING GENDER EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS AND IT IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY PARTICULARLY IN THE FACE OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE HAS CONTINUED TO BE A CHALLENGE TO OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN WHICH WE DESIRE TO FREE OUR PEOPLE FROM POVERTY, ILL HEALTH, LACK OF EDUCATION, AND MANY OTHER THINGS.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE STEMS FROM A SOCIETY THAT IS DOMINATED BY MEN IN WHICH WOMEN CONTINUE TO BE SUBORDINATE TO MEN AS OPPOSED TO BEING EQUAL PARTNERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

IT IS NO WONDER THAT THE MAIN PERPETRATORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES ARE MEN. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 2019, TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE (25121) CITIZENS WERE VICTIMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. AND OF THESE, NINETEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY (19,720) WERE FEMALES AND FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND ONE (5,401) WERE MALES CLEARLY DISPLAYING A HIGHER GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IMPACT ON THE FEMALE GENDER.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

THE THEME '**ORANGE THE WORLD: FUND, RESPOND, PREVENT, COLLECT**' IS APPROPRIATE CONSIDERING THAT THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 HAS BROUGHT A NEW DIMENSION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.

THE WORLD HAS EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID 19. IN THE CASE OF ZAMBIA HOWEVER, THERE IS A REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CASES REPORTED DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER OF 2020 COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2019.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM GLAD TO ALSO NOTE THAT, IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND AWARENESS CREATION ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ENHANCED, AND COVID 19 PREVENTION GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN MAINSTREAMED INTO ANTI GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I WISH TO ENCOURAGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO COMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS, BY COMING UP WITH NOVEL INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AS THE WAR AGAINST COVID 19 RAGES ON.

IN DOING SO, IT CALLS ON ALL OF US TO PAY ATTENTION TO AREAS SUCH AS RESOURCE MOBILISATION, PREVENTION STRATEGIES, RESPONSE STRATEGIES AND COLLECTION OF CONCISE AND ACCURATE DATA ON THE MANAGEMENT OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.

I WISH TO REAFFIRM GOVERNMENT WORKING WITH COOPERATING PARTNERS IN LEVERAGING ON RESOURCES ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE ONGOING INITIATIVES TO ENSURE CONTINUED SERVICE PROVISION TO THE SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.

IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT IS STRENGTHENING EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES BY PROVIDING GRANTS TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE GROUPS SUCH AS GIRLS AND WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

AS WE MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE VISION 2030, LET US ALL COME TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT GROSS INJUSTICES SUCH AS GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD MARRIAGE ARE STOPPED. I BELIEVE THAT ZAMBIA WILL BE FREE FROM THE VICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

THERE ARE CHALLENGES IN THIS FIGHT. ONE OF THE CHALLENGES IS THE FAILURE TO REPORT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CASES AND THE HIGH RATE OF WITHDRAW OF THE CASES BEFORE THEY ARE PROSECUTED IN THE COURTS OF LAW.

I WISH TO APPEAL TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN THE SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR THE SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. THIS WILL ENABLE THE SURVIVORS TO SEE THE CASES THROUGH TO THEIR LOGICAL CONCLUSION.

MAY I COMMEND THE WOMEN AND MEN ON THE BENCH FOR IMPOSING VERY STIFF PUNISHMENT ON THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF THE OFFENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I ALSO WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS AND ALL THE SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO THE SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. MAY I THANK THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, EUROPEAN UNION, IRISH AID, SWEDISH EMBASSY, USAID AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA, BRAZIL AND SOUTH AFRICA FOR

SUPPORTING ZAMBIA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD MARRIAGE.

I EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO USE THEIR POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY TO STOP GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND EARLY CHILD MARRIAGE IN THEIR CHIEFDOMS.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

AS I CONCLUDE, I SAY TO ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS, MEN AND BOYS THAT, "IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO LIVE A LIFE FREE FROM VIOLENCE IN WHATEVER FORM. THEREFORE, *"SPEAK OUT AND TELL YOUR STORY AND YOU WILL RECEIVE JUSTICE,* AND TO THE PERPETRATORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, I SAY, "STOP THIS CRIME NOW!"'

**I THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS ZAMBIA**

