

**SPEECH BY THE ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS PRESIDENT MR. ALFRED MASUPHA AT THE IMF ILO AND GOVERNMENT MEETING HELD FROM 21 TO 22 MAY 2012 AT THE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX ON ECONOMIC POLICIES AND OPTIONS NECESSARY TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH.**

YOUR HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT, HON GUY SCOT

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE , HON ALEXANDER CHIKWANDA

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND LABOUR  
HON FACKSON SHAMENDA

HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTERS THAT MAY BE PRESENT HERE,

PERMANENT SECRETARIES PRESENT AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ZAMBIA CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS, MR. LEONARD  
HIKAUMBA

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS OF ZAMBIA MRS.  
JOYCE NONDE SIMUKOKO

THE DIRECTOR ILO PRETORIA OFFICE MR. VICK VAN VUARE

THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION FOR ZAMBIA,  
MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE , MR. MARTIN CLEMESSON

THE ILO DELEGATION FROM GENEVA

THE IMF COUNTRY MANAGER MR

THE IMF DELEGATION FROM WASHINGTON

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT GIVES ME GREAT HONOUR TO HAVE THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME REMARKS AT THIS IMPORTANT MEETING WHICH HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND LABOUR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

WE ARE GREATFUL THAT THE IMF HAS JOINED THE ILO WHICH IS A TRIPARTITE ORGANISATION ,IN ITS TRIPARTITE ENGAGEMENT TO HAVE THIS IMPORTANT MEETING TAKE PLACE .

GUEST OF HONOUR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS , LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS WORKSHOP IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT , BUT UNIQUE IN THAT IT TAKES THE COMITMENT OF THE ILO AND IMF TO BRING STAKEHOLDERS FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC POLICIES AND OPTIONS NECESSARY TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH HAS GREATLY AFFECTED THE ZAMBIAN YOUTH IS AN OBVIOUS REASON FOR STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION MEETINGS SUCH AS THIS ONE. OPINIONS MAY DIFFER ON THE PRECISE CAUSES OF THE PRESENT HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS , BUT IAM SURE , AND AM NOT STANDING ALONE

IN THIS, THAT THIS SITUATION IS INVITING US TO LEARN AND DEVISE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS THAT BRING ABOUT STRUCTURAL WEALTH AND PROSPERITY.

GUEST OF HONOUR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS JUSTIFIABLE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN NOT AFFORD TO DO IT WITHOUT A FREE MARKET AND MAXIMUM ENGAGEMENT OF ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS. IT IS ALSO JUSTIFIABLE THAT A FREE MARKET CAN NOT DO IT WITHOUT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THROUGH MEANINGFUL POLICY DIRECTION. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER THAT DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WORLD OVER, NOT ONLY NEED GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO NEED WELL POSITIONED AND INDEPENDENT EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS ORGANISATIONS.

WE IN THE ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS BELIEVE THAT ZAMBIA IS ON THE RIGHT PATH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS CONCERTED EFFORTS FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. IT IS NO LONGER TIME FOR THEORIES THAT CAN NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BUT TIME FOR SERIOUS STRATEGIC THINKING WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD SUPPORT CREATION OF DECENT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT.

GUEST OF HONOUR , LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS WILL THEREFORE, PROPOSE A MODEL WHICH WE HAVE REFERED TO AS

ZAMBIA NEW ERA IN ITC SECTOR 1212 TO 2017 WHICH IS A SIMPLE AND YET A MODEL WITH GREAT POTENTIAL TO CREATE BETWEEN 200,000 AND 300,000 OVER A PERIOD OF TWO TO THREE YEARS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SHOULD AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT THROUGH POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BE PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT.

IT IS OUR HOPE AS ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS THAT SOON AFTER THIS MEETING , A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THE MAJOR PROPOSALS AND AGREEMENTS OF THIS MEETING .

IT IS ALSO , OUR HOPE THAT THREE TO FIVE YEARS TIME, WE WILL NOT LOOK BACKWARD ONLY TO RECALL THAT WE HAD A STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND YET NOTHING TO LOOK AT AS A TANGIBLE PRODUCT OF THIS MEETING.

WITH THESE FEW REMARKS, I, ON BEHALF OF THE ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS WISH THIS MEETING FRUITFUL DELIBERATIONS AND GOD'S GUIDANCE DURING OUR TWO DAYS INTERACTIONS.

THANK YOU.