

TALKING NOTES FOR THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY HON. FACKSON SHAMENDA, MP ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NATIONAL TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE ON MATERNITY PROTECTION HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013 AT THE NEW GOVERNMENT COMPLEX- LUSAKA

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THE FIRST LADY AND GUEST OF HONOUR, DR. CHRISTINE KASEBA- SATA;  
THE SPOUSE OF THE VICE- PRESIDENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SPECIALIST MRS. CHARLLOTE SCOT;  
THE MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT HON. INONGE WINA, MP;  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH HON. JOSEPH KASONDE, MP;  
THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH HON. JOSEPH KATEMA, MP;  
THE PERMANENT SECRETARIES PRESENT HERE;  
THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR- INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO) AND THE OFFICIALS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE OF ILO (TURIN)  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS (ZFE) MR. ALFRED MASUPHA;  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ZAMBIA CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU) MR. LEONARD HIKAUMBA;  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS OF ZAMBIA (FFTUZ);  
DIRECTORS AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM GOVERNMENT;  
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;  
MAY I SIMPLY SAY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

FIRST AND FOREMOST, IT IS MY GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE THIS MORNING TO MAKE THESE FEW REMARKS AT THIS VERY IMPORTANT NATIONAL TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE ON MATERNITY AND PATERNITY PROTECTION IN ZAMBIA. I CORDIALLY WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS DIALOGUE AND WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS PART OF THE BROADER PROCESS OF STAKHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON MATTERS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION GENERALLY AND MATERNITY AND PATERNITY PROTECTION IN PARTICULAR. IT IS MY SINCERE CONVICTION THAT OUR WORKING MOTHERS NEED TO WORK UNDER DECENT AND FRIENDLY CONDITIONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT MR. MICHEAL CHILUFYA SATA AND THE FIRST LADY DR. CHRISTINE KASEBA, WHO IS OUR GUEST OF HONOUR AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER THIS MORNING, ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MATTERS OF MATERNITY PROTECTION WITHIN THE BROADER FRAMEWORK OF SOCIAL SECURITY, GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY. I AM AWARE THAT, MUCH AS WE ATTACH SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE TO MATERNITY PROTECTION ISSUES, ZAMBIA IS YET TO RATIFY THE CURRENT CONVENTION ON MATERNITY PROTECTION (I.E. ILO CONVENTION 183 OF 2000).

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN