



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**TALKING NOTES FOR THE HON. DEPUTY MINISTER OF
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 2ND AFRICAN DECENT WORK SYMPOSIUM: "BUILDING
A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR WITH THE GLOBAL JOBS
PACT", YAOUNDÉ, 6 –8 OCTOBER 2010.**

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDING COMPLEX

LUSAKA

OCTOBER, 2010

PROTOCOLS

CHAIRPERSON

MADAM CONVENER

EXCELLENCIES

FELLOW PANELISTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

FIRSTLY I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ILO FOR INVITING ME TO THIS SYMPOSIUM AND GIVING ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATING ON THIS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION.

LET ME SHARE THE ZAMBIAN EXPERIENCE AS IT RELATES TO THE THEME OF THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION – “THE UN SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR INITIATIVE”

I WILL BEGIN BY TALKING ABOUT THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER SCHEMES

THERE ARE CURRENTLY FIVE CASH TRANSFER SCHEMES IN ZAMBIA IN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS; KAZUNGULA, KALOMO, CHIPATA, MONZE AND KATETE.

THE FIRST FOUR TARGET THE POOREST 10% FAMILIES IN EACH DISTRICT THROUGH A COMMUNITY BASED TARGETTING WHILE THE KATETE SCHEME PROVIDES AN OLD AGE GRANT TO ALL RESIDENTS AGED SIXTY YEARS AND ABOVE.

THESE SCHEMES COVER APPROXIMATELY 47,000 HOUSEHOLDS COMPRISING ABOUT 235,000 PEOPLE AND PROVIDE REGULAR GRANTS OF ZMK50,000 OR US\$10 PER MONTH ON AVERAGE.

EVALUATION SHOWS THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE SCHEMES ON SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS SUCH AS:-

1. CONSUMPTION (ESPECIALLY NON-FOOD ITEMS),
2. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES WHERE ABSENTEEISM HAS MORE THAN HALVED,
3. NUTRITION WHERE THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SURVIVING ON ONE MEAL A DAY HAS BEEN REDUCED BY ONE THIRD
4. HEALTH WHERE THERE IS A LOWER RATE OF ILLNESS

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT IS POSITIVE, MAINLY THROUGH LOCAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS

RESULTS SHOW THAT 81% OF THE CASH TRANSFERS ARE SPENT IN LOCAL SHOPS AND ON HIRING LOCAL LABOUR. THERE ARE ALSO EVIDENT LOCAL INVESTMENTS IN LIVESTOCK AND FARM LAND UPGRADING INITIATIVES AMONG OTHERS.

OTHER SOCIAL TRANSFER SCHEMES IN ZAMBIA INCLUDE

- THE PUBLIC WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH PROVIDES A RANGE OF BENEFITS FOR BETTER NUTRITION AND HEALTH, INCOME SECURITY, CHILD PROTECTION, EDUCATION AND OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING. IT OPERATES ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNITY-BASED TARGETING AND CURRENTLY REACHES OVER 100,000 BENEFICIARIES.
- THE FOOD SECURITY PACK WHICH PROVIDES BASIC AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND TRAINING TO SMALL-SCALE FARMERS. IT REACHES 70,000 VULNERABLE BUT VIABLE HOUSEHOLDS PER YEAR.
- THE SCHOOL-FEEDING PROGRAMME WHICH REACHES OVER 170,00 CHILDREN PER YEAR.
- THE FERTILIZER SUPPORT PROGRAMME WHICH PROVIDES AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO VULNERABLE FARMERS.

THERE IS ALSO THE PERI URBAN SELF HELP (PUSH) PROGRAMME WHICH AIMS AT ENSURING THAT UNEMPLOYED POOR

HOUSEHOLDS ARE KEPT IN EMPLOYMENT WHILE THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT ARE BEING ADDRESSED. THIS PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOOD AND SKILLS TRAINING TO THIS GROUP AND CURRENTLY OPERATES IN 18 DISTRICTS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LET ME NOW TALK ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE FORMAL ECONOMY WORKERS WHICH MAINLY PROVIDES OLD-AGE/RETIREMENT, DISABILITY AND SURVIVORS' BENEFITS.

THERE ARE THREE PUBLIC PENSION SCHEMES; NAMELY NATIONAL PENSION SCHEME AUTHORITY (NAPSA), PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUPERANNUATION FUND.

DISABILITY OR DEATH DUE TO WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS ARE COVERED THROUGH MANDATORY MEMBERSHIP OF ALL EMPLOYERS WITH THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND CONTROL BOARD.

IN ADDITION, MANY EMPLOYERS OPERATE OCCUPATIONAL PENSION SCHEMES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES UNDER A TRUST FUND. OVER 250 SUCH SCHEMES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

HEALTH CARE IN ZAMBIA

ZAMBIA'S GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING ACCESS TO QUALITY *HEALTHCARE* SERVICES, MAINLY THROUGH THE BASIC HEALTH CARE PACKAGE (BHCP). THE BHCP DEFINES THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES THAT SHOULD BE DELIVERED AT ALL LEVELS OF HEALTH CARE AND SERVES AS GUIDANCE FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION. HOWEVER, SUFFICIENT SERVICE PROVISION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO ADDRESS ALL *HEALTHCARE* NEEDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY REMAINS A CHALLENGE.

PHYSICAL ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES IS GRADUALLY IMPROVING, BUT STILL SKEWED TOWARDS URBAN AREAS. RURAL

COMMUNITIES HAVE TO SPEND MORE TIME AND MONEY, ON AVERAGE, TO TRAVEL TOWARDS HEALTH CENTERS. AS A RESULT GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY PROCURED MOBILE CLINICS TO SERVICE THE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

OVERALL SPENDING ON HEALTHCARE IS APPROX. 6% OF GDP.

EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA

SINCE 2002, THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FREE BASIC *EDUCATION* IN RURAL AREAS, WHICH HAS HAD AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON ENROLMENT RATES. THE NET ENROLMENT RATE GREW FROM 83% IN 2004 TO 97% IN 2009. HOWEVER, AVERAGE COMPLETION RATE OF STUDENTS FOR BASIC EDUCATION WAS 43.1 PER CENT IN 2006 AND INCREASED TO 52% IN 2009. EDUCATION SPENDING IS APPROX. 5% OF GDP.

TOWARDS A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR IN ZAMBIA

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA HAS REALIZED THE NEED FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE COUNTRY. THE UPCOMING SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN INCLUDES A COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISH A "HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATED APPROACH" TO SOCIAL PROTECTION AND TO PURSUE THE NECESSARY REFORMS OF POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE ILO TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR. THIS WILL BE COMPLEMENTED BY THE APPROVAL OF A NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY, WHICH IS HOPEFULLY EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

GOVERNMENT IS COLLABORATING WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (INCLUDING ILO) TO EXTEND COVERAGE OF THE *SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER SCHEMES* TO NINE MORE DISTRICTS AND A TOTAL OF 69,000 HOUSEHOLDS (354,000 PEOPLE) BY 2013. THE SCHEMES WILL INCLUDE CHILD GRANTS

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS AND FAMILY GRANTS FOR THE POOREST 10% OF HOUSEHOLDS.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY IS CURRENTLY DESIGNING A *NATIONAL SOCIAL PENSION SCHEME* ON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING OLD AGE GRANT SCHEME IN KATETE DISTRICT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ILO WHICH IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

IN *HEALTH*, THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A STRONG COMMITMENT IN THE UPCOMING SIXTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SNDP) TO ESTABLISH A SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME.

IN *EDUCATION*, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO FURTHER IMPROVE ENROLMENT AND COMPLETION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLING. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS ALSO PURSUING SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN SECONDARY AND OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLING. THE SNDP DRAFT INCLUDES THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM AS AN IMPORTANT STRATEGY FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO AND EQUITY IN EDUCATION.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO FURTHER EXPAND AND INTEGRATE SOCIAL PROTECTION IN ZAMBIA. THE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR PROVIDES A CONCEPT FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS VISION. MANY ASPECTS OF A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR (E.G. SUCCESSFUL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES, FORMAL SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES, COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE, ETC.) ARE ALREADY IN PLACE AND WILL BE INTEGRATED IN A "HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATED APPROACH". THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (IN PARTICULAR ILO, UNICEF, DFID AND IRISH AID) ARE SUPPORTING THIS GOAL.

THANK YOU