

2013 BUDGET ADDRESS BY HON. ALEXANDER B. CHIKWANDA, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE, DELIVERED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON
FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER, 2012

1. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now resolve into Committee of Supply on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013 presented to the National Assembly in October 2012.

2. Sir, I am the bearer of a message from His Excellency the President recommending favourable consideration of the motion that I now lay on the Table.

3. Mr. Speaker, the Patriotic Front Government is dedicated to the veritable advancement of social justice for all. This requires a complete change of our mind-sets and priorities, both as individuals and as a nation. It also requires a structural transformation of our economy by developing a healthy and well educated labour force, developing and maintaining an efficient infrastructure and exploiting our abundant natural resources and entrepreneurial opportunities to deliver a vibrant and sustainable economy that raises the quality of life for all.

4. Mr. Speaker, with this vision in mind, my task today is to propose a budget for 2013 that will set Zambia on this trajectory to sustainable and inclusive growth, with the focus on expanding opportunities for all and ensuring the equitable distribution of the tangible benefits of development. The journey will certainly not be easy or uncontested with difficult challenges requiring tough choices. These challenges are not insurmountable if we work harder to anchor prosperity and build a solid foundation for posterity.

5. Sir, when we came into office just over a year ago, we promised to transform our

country by adopting a more people-centred development agenda and, by so doing, deliver more money in people's pockets. Let me state without reservation and ambiguity that we are determined to deliver on this commitment. In this regard, the theme for next year's budget is **"Delivering Inclusive Development and Social Justice"**.

6. Sir, I wish to stress that this will not be achieved simply by promoting handouts. Our fundamental approach is to build a self-reliant people able to sustainably generate money for their own pockets. Mr. Speaker, this is the surest way of sustainably defeating poverty and delivering the inalienable rights of liberty and social justice for all our people.

7. Mr. Speaker, my address today is divided in four parts. In the first part, I discuss global and domestic economic developments in 2012 and the outlook for 2013. In Part 2, I provide this Government's policy objectives for 2013. In Part 3, I present the 2013 Budget, and conclude my Address in Part 4.

PART I

OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY

8. Mr. Speaker, global growth in 2012 has been uneven and weak. This is attributable to the turbulence in the Eurozone, lethargic growth in the United States, and a slowdown in the major emerging markets such as China, India and Brazil. Sir, sluggish growth in the world economy depressed prices for copper, our major export, while oil and food prices were generally higher.