

**2015 BUDGET ADDRESS BY HON. ALEXANDER B. CHIKWANDA M.P,  
MINISTER OF FINANCE,  
DELIVERED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON  
FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2014**

---

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 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 presented to the National Assembly in October 2014.

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, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014, Zambia celebrates its Golden Jubilee that marks half a century of political independence. The nation has achieved much over the past 50 years. We have had an unbroken period of political stability and peaceful co-existence by putting into practice our motto of “*One Zambia One Nation*”. We have advanced the cause of freedom and self-determination at home and abroad by fighting for the liberation of our neighbours. We have also advanced a generation of Zambians who are contributing to the growth of our nation at home and in the diaspora. These are achievements worth celebrating.

4. Sir, one of Zambia’s many unique attributes has been its unparalleled political and social stability since independence in 1964. This includes the period up to the 1980s when Zambia was home to many liberation movements from our neighbouring countries and was, therefore, in the forefront of their independence struggles.

5. From 1991, Zambia has been a vibrant multi-party democracy having

discarded the one party system with a very un-salutary governance track record. The Patriotic Front came into power three years ago through a peaceful transition. This political stability and social harmony has been the platform upon which our strong economic growth and macroeconomic stability has been anchored.

6. Mr. Speaker, despite these significant milestones, much still remains to be done to make our independence more meaningful to the lives of our citizens. The development challenges we face as we enter the sixth decade as a nation remain daunting. Overall, poverty in Zambia remains high at about 60 percent even though it is much lower in urban areas at around 23 percent. Some of the most critical challenges that the Government faces, therefore, are to create decent jobs and wealth to ensure greater provision of social safety nets.

7. Sir, Zambia has a very young population, and a growing labour force, with over 53 percent of the population below the age of 18 years and 90 percent of the population below the age of 45 years. Being a country of predominantly young people, Zambia can yield a demographic dividend if our youth are equipped with skills and meaningfully involved and deployed in the various productive sectors of the economy.

8. Mr. Speaker, these challenges are made even more formidable in the face of threats posed by climate change, over-reliance on primary commodities, low technological advancement, low productivity