

2014 BUDGET ADDRESS BY HON. ALEXANDER B. CHIKWANDA, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE,
DELIVERED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON
FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER, 2013

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 2014 to 31st December 2014, presented to the National Assembly in October 2013.

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, as we prepare to celebrate our 50th Independence Anniversary in 2014, we are reminded that our greatest strength as a country is the peace and unity that have been the hallmark of our nation.

4. The peace in unity we have enjoyed over the last half century has been by design and attests to our collective wisdom and vision, and not least the commitment of our founding fathers who gave meaning to the notion of “One Zambia, One Nation”. We have an inescapable duty to pass this legacy to posterity.

5. Sir, 2014 also marks the third year of the Patriotic Front Government. This administration is now well into its stride with concrete policies and programmes in place to accelerate broad based growth, diversify the economy and entrench social justice so that all Zambians, rural or urban, male or female, young or old and including the differently abled, benefit from the nation’s development.

6. It is in this context that the theme of the 2014 Budget is “**Moving Forward to**

Consolidate Growth and Social Justice in Peace and Unity”.

7. Mr. Speaker, my address today is in four parts. In Part I, I discuss the global and domestic economies in 2013. In the second part, I outline Government’s macroeconomic objectives, policies and strategies for 2014. In Part III, I present the 2014 Budget and I conclude my address in Part IV.

PART I
OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL AND
DOMESTIC ECONOMIES
IN 2013

8. Mr. Speaker, the global economy continues to slowly recover with growth in 2013 projected at 2.9 percent. This reflects an economic slowdown in the leading emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, weaker growth in the United States and the prolonged recession in the Eurozone. However, Sub-Saharan Africa’s economic performance has been relatively stronger, with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projected at 5.0 percent.

9. Sir, commodity prices have generally been lower in 2013 relative to 2012, due to the sluggish growth in the world economy. Copper prices fell from an average of US\$7,960 per metric tonne in 2012, to US\$7,416 between January and September 2013. Even so, copper prices still remain high by historical standards.