

# PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

## INFOGRAPHIC



On 17th March 2017, H.E President Edgar C Lungu addressed the National Assembly as provided for in articles 8,9 and 86 subtitle (1) of the national constitution on values and principles. These values and principles as provided in the constitution include:



Morality



Patriotism and National Unity



Democracy and Constitutionalism



Human Dignity, Equity, Social Justice, Equality and Non-discrimination



Good Governance and Integrity



Sustainable Development

The constitution demands that these values and principles be applied in interpretation of the republican constitution, enactment and interpretation of laws and development of state policies. The address was meant to give Zambians and the National Assembly an understanding of the national values and a guide on how Government will implement them.

### MORALITY AND ETHICS

- As a Christian Nation, Zambia encompasses morality and ethics as values that deal with what is collectively believed to be right and wrong.
- In the recent past Zambia has experienced symptoms of moral decay such as, examination malpractice, absenteeism at places of work, child defilement and early marriages, as well as gender based violence.
- The following were suggested as a way to uphold good morals and ethics;
  - Reduction in moral decay
  - Enhanced brotherliness
  - Respect for humanity



### PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL UNITY

- Patriotism and national unity applies to every Zambian in the quest to sustain the country's Sovereignty and building a better country.
- Every Zambian should identify themselves with National Emblems that represent the country's Sovereignty and national identity. These National Emblems are:



- Furthermore, every Zambian should be able to identify and interpret National Monuments which emphasise the country's National Heritage such as:



### DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

- The constitution clearly declares Zambia as a Sovereign, Unitary Multi-party Democratic State. As a Democratic Sovereign State, Zambians are mandated to govern themselves in accordance with the firm and well founded democratic principles of:



### GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

- Good Governance encompasses respect for Human Rights, the Rule of Law, Transparency, Accountability and effective participation of all citizens in national Affairs.
- Good Governance further demands for the independence of the three Arms of Government. In Zambia there is a fairly a stable and predictable Governance system with all the different Arms of Government exercising their functions independently.
- There is an existence of well-functioning institutions offering checks and balances such as the office of the Auditor General, Office of the Public Protector, the Anti-corruption Commission and the Human Rights Commission. These institutions are still being strengthened to help them cope with the ever changing and dynamic systems of governance and accountability.
- In order to promote transparency and accountability, the Government has put in place an E-Government system as part of the SMART-Zambia agenda.
- In a commitment to good governance, the Government has put a high premium on constitutionalism, this is evident in the establishment of the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeal and Specialised Courts of the High Court to enhance citizen's access to justice and expeditious disposal of cases.
- For easy allocation of funds, the Government has embraced decentralization of functions with matching resources as an element of good governance.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The principle of sustainable development requires the country to achieve national development goals without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Poverty in Zambia has over the past been aggravated by climate change. In the face of climate change a lot of natural disasters have occurred such as droughts, floods and this has been made worse in Zambia due to wide spread of deforestation.
- In order to address the effects of climate change, the government has put in place a climate change policy aimed at increasing climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions.

### NATIONAL UNITY

- National unity is a pre-requisite for the development of the nation. Despite the diverse ethnic, social, religious and political backgrounds, Zambians share heritage and destiny as a country, which makes all citizens to co-exist in unity.
- The August 2017 General elections put the country to test, whereby people of different political persuasions were pitted one against the other.
- There is need for deliberate steps to work together now to solve all pressing issues for the sake of national unity, stability and prosperity.

### HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

- Human dignity, equality, equity, social Justice and non-discrimination are cardinal to creating an inclusive society.
- In Zambia today, human rights are being violated in multiple ways and people continue to suffer from humiliation through various acts that diminish their self-worth.
- Some of the notable forms of discrimination include; discrimination against the disabled, children being abused by their elders, early marriages, and spouse murder.
- In order to ensure human dignity for all, the Government is working with faith based organizations and traditional leaders to reverse this practice. Government has further put in place programmes to enforce human dignity through interventions such as welfare for retirees, promotion of social cash transfer programmes and FISP to mention just a few.

### ACTION ITEMS NOTED

- Zambians should endeavour to show patriotism to the country by taking actions to understand and interpret the National Symbols and Monuments, as well as maintain and defend the rights and freedoms of all Zambians.
- Ministry of lands and Natural Resources urgently needs to come up with revised Land Act and policy to ensure protection of land for the future generation.
- Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Guidance to work with Ministry of National Development Planning to create awareness and report progress on national values and principles.
- Secretary to the Cabinet to develop a framework to assist in the gathering of evidence in the application of national values at national, organizational, community and individual levels and the operationalisation of Zambia as a Christian nation.