

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



**OPENING REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL
WELFARE**

DR. DAVY CHIKAMATA

**FOR THE NATIONAL CHILD CARE CONSULTATIVE
FORUM**

WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2016

AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL - LUSAKA

THE HONOURABLE CABINET MINISTER - MCDSW
REPRESENTATIVES FROM GHR FOUNDATION,
THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE- USAID,
THE UNICEF COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE,
THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE SAVE THE CHILDREN,
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BETTER CARE NETWORK,
REPRESENTATIVES FOR GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE
ALLIANCE,
REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DISPLACED CHILDREN AND
ORPHANS FUND (DCOF),
THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR CMMB,
THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR BETHANY CHRISTIAN GLOBAL
SERVICES,
THE CHIEF OF PARTY – ZAMBIA RISING,
COOPERATING PARTNERS,
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT,
REPRESENTATIVES OF CHILDCARE INSTITUTIONS,
INVITED GUESTS,
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,
MAY I SIMPLY SAY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I WISH TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT FORUM – THE **NATIONAL CHILD CARE CONSULTATIVE FORUM** UNDER THE THEME “**ACCELERATING THE NATIONAL CARE REFORM PROCESS**”.

AS A STATE PARTY TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, ZAMBIA REMAINS COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATIVE, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR BEST INTEREST.

ZAMBIA, WITH THE HELP OF CO-OPERATING PARTNERS, CONTINUES TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS MEASURES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELLBEING OF THE CHILD THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES AND SCHEMES SUCH AS THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER SCHEME, PUBLIC WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME, SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME, EDUCATION BURSARIES AND SKILLS TRAINING. THESE SCHEMES ARE INTENDED TO INCREASE THE RESILIENCE FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO OR LIMITED SELF-HELP POTENTIAL AND TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL LIVING STANDARDS OF THE CHILD.

MY MINISTRY REALISES THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO HAVE COMPLETE SERVICE PROVISION TO VULNERABLE FAMILIES BY WORKING IN ISOLATION AND THEREFORE LAUNCHED THE

NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY TO HELP COORDINATE THE VARIOUS PLAYERS.

POVERTY IN OUR NATION HAS LED TO INCREASED VULNERABILITY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHICH IN TURN HAS LED TO INCREASED NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE. MUCH AS SOME OF THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE PROVIDING GOOD CARE OF THE CHILDREN, MOST OF THEM ARE NOT.

THIS NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM WILL HELP GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER ACCELERATE CARE REFORM IN ZAMBIA IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY EVIDENCE, AWARENESS AND TECHNICAL GAPS THAT MAY BE HINDERING THE CARE REFORM PROCESS AND ALSO IDENTIFY PRIORITY ACTIONS SUCH AS:

- EVIDENCE BUILDING AND SHARING,
- CAPACITY STRENGTHENING, AND
- ADVOCACY RELATED TO FAMILY STRENGTHENING AND ALTERNATIVE CARE.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN ENSURING THAT WE PUSH FORWARD THE AGENDA OF CHILDREN'S CARE REFORM IN OUR COUNTRY.

I ALSO WISH TO WELCOME EACH ONE OF YOU TO THIS IMPORTANT FORUM AND REITERATE THAT EVERYONE HERE

PRESENT HAS A KEY ROLE TO PLAY AND YOU ARE THEREFORE NOT HERE BY ACCIDENT. PLEASE FEEL FREE AND FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF THE ZAMBIAN CHILD.

I THANK YOU!