



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**SPEECH BY DIRECTOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, MR. CHARM  
KALIMBIKA AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL  
WORKING GROUP AND LEADERS AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO  
ADVOCATE AND INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE  
ECDE LEGISLATION, POLICIES, STRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS MEETING  
HELD AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL**

**27TH DECEMBER, 2024**

## **SALUTATIONS**

- HONOURABLE SYDNEY MUCHANGA MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- DIRECTOR BEATRICE MUYAMBAGO – CHILD DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE
- LUSAKA DISTRICT EDUCATION BOARD SECRETARY (DEBS)
- EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (ECDAN) ZAMBIA BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS PRESENT
- ZANEC BOARD AND MEMBER ORGANISATIONS PRESENT
- MEMBER OF THE PRESS
- DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS,
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIATE AT THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP AND LEADERS AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO ADVOCATE AND INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION (ECDE) LEGISLATION, POLICIES, STRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS. MY MINISTRY PARTICULARLY THE DIRECTORATE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS PLEASED TO BE PART OF SUCH A MEETING AIMED AT MAKING ECDE LEGISLATION AND PROVISION OF

SERVICES BETTER. CONGRATULATIONS TO ZANEC AND ECDAN- ZAMBIA FOR THIS INITIATIVE.

ECDE IS VERY IMPORTANT IN OUR COUNTRY AS IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF ANY HUMAN BEING. THE FOUNDATION IS VERY CRITICAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH REPRODUCTIVE ADULTS THAT ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. HENCE ECDE SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED. INDEED, MY MINISTRY IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHING ECE HUBS CENTRES IN ALL PROVINCES UNDER THE ZAMBIA ENHANCING EARLY LEARNING (ZEEL) PROJECT WHICH IS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS REACHING THE GOAL OF HAVING 300, 000 CHILDREN ACCESSING ECE BY DECEMBER 2025.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

IT IS GOOD TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE COUNTRY TO HAVE COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN LINE WITH NURTURING CARE FRAMEWORK. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HAND IN HAND WITH ALL RELEVANT GOVERNMENT LINE MINISTRIES THAT HAVE THE CHILD COMPONENT SUCH AS THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH, OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RUEAL DEVELOPMENT AMONG OTHERS. AM ALSO PLEASED THAT

SOME OF THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENT THAT HOLD THE ECDE ARE REPRESENT AT THIS MEETING. THIS IS THE REASON THAT IN THIS MEETING WILL HAVE THREE PRESENTATIONS FROM THREE GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AS THE COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE TO ECDE SERVICES.

**DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

I ALSO TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPRECIATE ZANEC'S FUNDING PARTNER THE EDUCATION OUT LOUD – GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION THROUGH THE CONSORTIUM OF THE TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS ADVOCACY CAPACITY BUILDING (TRANAC) PROJECT BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SUBREGION WHO HAVE MADE THIS MEETING POSSIBLE.

I URGE US ALL TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS MEETING AS THIS WILL HELP YOU TO OWN THE PROCESS AND ENSURE ECDE PROGRAMMES ARE SUSTIANED IN A COLLOBORATIVE MANNER.

WITH THESE FEW REMARKS, I NOW DECLARE THIS MEETING OFFICIALLY OPENED.

**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**