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**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**SPEECH**

**BY**

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**DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE COMMEMORATION OF**

**WORLD STANDARDS DAY, 2020**

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**TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020**

**LUSAKA**

## **Country Men and Women,**

Good evening

Zambia is pleased to once again join the rest of the world in the annual commemoration of World Standards Day under the theme; **“Protecting the planet with Standards”**.

World Standards day has been celebrated annually in various ways throughout the world on 14<sup>th</sup> October. This event raises awareness of the importance of standardization to the world economy and promotes its role in helping to meet the needs of business, industry, Government and consumers worldwide.

Zambia through our national standards body, the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry facilitates our participation as a nation in standardization activities at national, regional and international levels. This participation enhances the country's global technical cooperation and enables the country to be well informed on standards that can contribute to increasing economic activities at all levels.

The Government under the leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia has put in place measures to improve standards and sustainable use of the country's

natural resources without compromising the environment and development.

### **Country Men and Women,**

Standardization involves cooperation and collaborative efforts of global experts representing the industry, researchers, consumers and academic institutions, who develop voluntary technical agreements that are published as standards. These standards enable innovators to build on established technologies and devise modern solutions that allow people, organizations and systems across the world to effectively connect in a dynamic way. The multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement and consensus is what is highlighted and duly celebrated during the commemoration of world standards day.

### **Country Men and Women,**

The theme for this year is anchored on "*Protecting the planet with Standards*". We are all aware of the adverse effects that climate change has had on the world and Zambia is no exception to this. It has affected agricultural production, our water resources, human health, ecosystems, energy and infrastructure. These effects call for us all to make changes to the way we manage and preserve our environment. We cannot ignore the fact that we all have to play a role in ensuring

that we use our planets resources in the most sustainable way. We need concerted efforts, concrete action and the right tools all together.

### **Country Men and Women,**

Standards cover all aspects of energy savings, industrial products, water quality, air quality to mention a few. Their sustainable use helps reduce the adverse environmental impact on industrial production and processes, facilitates the reuse of limited resources and improves economic efficiency.

Standards are a yardstick to remind us where we are breaking the rules of nature and make us realize that the effects of our industrial activities should be managed in a way as not to cause damage to the ecosystem. Once applied correctly, standards help in preserving nature and the environment against damages, and also encourage people to repair past damages caused by both human and industrial activities.

Climate change concerns and the need to reduce carbon emissions are driving increasing growth in the renewable energy industries and standards are key in enhancing such mitigation measures of protecting the earth. Standards are there to protect the planet which in turn means protecting every living being on this planet, humans included.

## **Country Men and Women,**

I am glad to note that the Zambia Bureau of Standards have played a pivotal role in helping the country find workable solutions to tackle climate change in the various sectors of our economy through the adoption of international standards and practices. Allow me to highlight some of the standards and practices that have been adopted as follows:

### **a. Standards for sustainable construction**

As you may be aware there is a demand for infrastructure development. From the rural health centers to the classroom blocks that will enable pupils have a decent learning environment to the housing units that will reduce the housing deficit in the country to the recreation facilities for wellness and health. All these must be constructed in a sustainable manner so as not to cause harm to our environment. The Zambia Bureau of Standards with the support from the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the National Council for Construction, has developed and published standards on green construction covering areas such as; thermal insulation, energy performance in buildings, environment

design, energy efficiency, and sustainability in buildings. Implementation of these methods of construction is paramount in ushering in a sector that is more environmentally friendly.

### **b. Information and Communication Sector**

Zambia Bureau of Standards in collaboration with the Zambia Information Communication and Technology Authority and other stakeholders have developed and adopted over three hundred standards in the ICT sector. Notable among these standards include various parts of the International Telecommunication Union TL series of standards that focus on environment and ICTS, climate change, e-waste, energy efficiency; construction, installation and protection of cables and other elements of outside plant.

### **c. Energy sector**

The measures put in place to promote standards in the energy sector includes use of energy so that it contributes to sustainable development. This includes the use of sustainable energy sources, encouraging energy efficiency and accelerating the use of renewable energy sources. I am glad to note that ZABS in collaboration with the Energy Regulation Board and other stakeholders have adopted various

International Electro technical Commission standards focusing on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **d. Agriculture sector**

Sustainable agriculture can only be achieved if we utilize the available resources efficiently. This must be done in a sustainable, cost effective and environmentally friendly way. In this regard, Zambia Bureau of Standards has adopted standards for the agricultural sector and continuously engage farmers and relevant stakeholders in providing training programs in Good Agricultural Practices. These are production and farm management approaches that are put together to ensure sustainable production of safe produce meant for consumption.

#### **e. Health Sector**

Country men and women, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a great threat to man's existence on planet earth and, as the world continues to face the challenge and repercussions of this pandemic, great efforts and investment around the globe are being made by dedicated men and women in the health sector and research fields in water to expeditiously find both preventive and lasting solutions to overcome the

scourge. It is elating to note that products used in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 including hand sanitizers, face mask, hand washing soap among others require conformity to standards in order to ensure performance, quality and safety. Development and implementation of Zambian standards for the aforementioned products used in the prevention of the spread of the pandemic has been a significant contribution to the fight against the pandemic. The standards have provided the yard stick for quality assurance for the products.

### **Country Men and Women,**

Standards are indeed one of the avenues that we must pursue to address the many challenges that come with climate change. As such and the identified standards have been adopted and mainstreamed into national policies and strategies in order to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

In Conclusion, I urge you country men and women to ensure that you comply with relevant national and international standards in order to protect our environment and ensure safety of our planet. In this regard, I implore you to partner with the Zambia Bureau of Standards in contributing to the National Social and Economic development of our



country through standardization. I also take this opportunity to commend the experts who continue to be committed in the development of standards at national, sub-regional, continental and international levels in the various fields of standardization and urge these to continue with this effort in making our world a better place through standards.

With these few words, let me take this moment to **officially launch the 2020 World Standards** day under the theme: “protecting the planet with standards”

***May God bless us All !***

***Thank you and good night.***