



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE  
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
HON. GARY NKOMBO  
UPDATE ON THE RELEASES AND UTILISATION OF THE CONSTITUENCY  
DEVELOPMENT FUND**

## **Madam Speaker**

I am most grateful to you for according me yet another opportunity to present this Ministerial Statement on the releases and utilisation of the Constituency Development Fund by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

Having been entrusted with the mandate to actualise the New Dawn Government's vision to empower communities to determine their development agenda through the CDF, my Ministry is cognisant of the need for constant updates on progress made in implementing this programme. My Ministry has, therefore, put in place a deliberate policy to provide regular updates to stakeholders through mainstream media and to the honourable members of this House as and when the Honourable Speaker permits.

## **Madam Speaker**

Through the CDF, local communities are now being empowered to determine their development path by identifying and prioritising projects according to their needs. We believe that this is a key factor in ensuring inclusive development.

## **Madam Speaker**

Since January, 2022 **K2, 205,369,577.16** has been released to the Ministry for CDF by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning. This translates **to 50%** of the total annual allocation of CDF. Of this amount, a total of **K1,003,656,525.00** has been disbursed to respective constituencies for all the CDF components. The disbursed

funds represent **25%** of the total allocation for the CDF for the **156 constituencies** in the country. This entails that each constituency has so far received **K6,433,695.67** which includes administrative costs.

**Madam Speaker**

Members of the House may recall that in June 2022, I presented a statement outlining CDF utilization in various constituencies. In that statement, I highlighted that the Ministry had approved a total amount of **K189,975,112.86 of CDF** for various categories

**Madam Speaker,**

My Ministry has made more progress in approving proposals for all the components except for the empowerment loans. Between **4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022**, the total approvals amounted to **K312,206,113.44** categorised as follows:

- ✓ **532 community projects** in 34 Constituencies valued at **K234,455,990.29**
- ✓ **4,081** recommendations for **secondary school bursaries** in 47 constituencies at a value of **K10,577,959.00**
- ✓ **7,802** recommendations for **skills development bursaries** in 48 Constituencies valued at **K42,377,857.32**
- ✓ **1,107** proposals for **empowerment grants** in 24 Constituencies valued at **K24,794,306.83**.

This means that from January to date, the total approvals have amounted to **K486,812,073.90** for various categories. **This is liquidity that is being injected into the economy.**

**Madam Speaker,**

These statistics show that there is steady progress being made in the utilisation of the CDF. The progress is attributable to a number of measures undertaken to increase awareness and improve the administration of the CDF. My Ministry has continued to enhance the capacity of Local Authorities, Constituency Development Committees, and Ward Development Committees to effectively undertake their roles in the implementation cycle through ongoing capacity-building programmes.

**Madam Speaker,**

Another measure to improve CDF implementation has been the continued sensitisation of stakeholders to upsurge public awareness and knowledge of CDF opportunities and processes. This is being done through various platforms, including radio and television programmes, brochures, jingles, PowerPoint presentations, and social media. These materials have also been translated into multiple local languages to enhance coverage in dissemination.

**Madam Speaker,**

Members may wish to know that the Ministry is partnering with various stakeholders in providing information to communities. Recently, youth enterprise **Pascom Innovations Limited** partnered with My Ministry and the Member of Parliament for Lusaka Central in printing and distributing CDF brochures to members of the Constituency. This is the way it should be.

**Madam Speaker,**

Another key measure effected is the streamlining of administrative procedures for approval of CDF projects and programme proposals. This includes the development of standard templates and checklists for use by the Local Authorities in submitting the requests for approval, and the constitution of a multi-department CDF Committee within the Ministry to consider the submissions for effective and efficient processing of applications.

**Madam Speaker,**

In further streamlining administrative processes, My Ministry has effected a **10-working-day** turnaround policy. This demands that all administrative procedures for approval of projects, programmes, and beneficiaries for the various components will be undertaken within ten working days following the receipt of the proposals. It is expected that this will result in an increased uptake of funds by respective constituencies.

**Madam Speaker,**

Having put in place the said measures to improve the implementation process of the CDF, my Ministry has seen an increase in the number of CDF approvals for implementation. For example, the Ministry processed approvals for **70 constituencies** within two weeks between the **4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022**. With this in mind, my Ministry envisages that approvals from all the **156 Constituencies** will be concluded soon, subject to submission by respective constituencies.

In this regard, **Madam Speaker**, allow me to appeal to my honourable counterparts in the House to ensure that all applications submitted are in line with the set guidelines. Significant issues that Constituencies, through their Local Authorities, should adhere to are:

- Submission of annual proposals of projects and programs, whose implementation is phased accordingly. These plans and requests for approval must be submitted early and comprehensively to avoid delays in implementation.
- Provision of adequate information on the proposed projects and programs per the available templates. This is key to ensuring that the Ministry processes proposals for projects and programmes within the specified time.
- All constituencies should publish approved names of projects and beneficiaries of empowerment, and bursaries on respective Local Authority notice boards and websites were available to promote transparency and accountability of the CDF.

- Submission of quarterly CDF reports and retirement of expenditure reports to the Ministry to allow for further disbursements to the Local Authorities.
- In addition, Local Authorities should submit quarterly reports to the Members of Parliament on the progress made and the challenges faced for oversight and informed policy direction.

### **Madam Speaker**

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Members of Parliament for their continued oversight and support regarding the implementation of the CDF. In the same vein, I wish to urge all the members to continue their efforts by ensuring that the policy directives I have outlined in this statement are adhered to in their respective constituencies. And for those constituencies that have not yet submitted their requests, I urge the Honourable members to ensure that we expedite the process so that we do not deny the communities the benefits of CDF.

The implementation of the CDF is a collective effort of all stakeholders, with my Honourable counterparts playing a pivotal role. When we all put our hands together, we shall achieve what we have envisioned for our communities through the CDF.

I thank you.