

THE POSITION OF ZAMBIA – APRM BY HON. MOSES MNTELEKA – MP

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to brief you Zambia acceded to the APRM in January 2006 during the 4th Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Forum.

However, note that during this time, the process could not start because Zambia as a Nation was undergoing or was overwhelmed with the 2006 tripartite elections.

Soon after the Tripartite elections in 2007 the Zambian Government had spent a total of K122 million (Zambian Kwacha) on various programs and interventions aimed at preparing the Zambian National Governing Council towards the implementation of the

APRM, consequently, in August 2008, the Justice Minister informed parliamentarians on various programs among others, he pointed at APRM National Brainstorming meeting also concerning a seminar for Members of Parliament which was held thereafter, during the year particularly to equip the various stakeholders with skills prior to the implementation of the APRM. The Minister noted that a total of K10 billion kwacha had been earmarked for activities related to the APRM during this year 2008.

Further, I wish to report to this workshop that in line with the APRMK requirement; my country Zambia, inaugurated the National Governing Council (NGC) on 8th September 2008 to spearhead the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Clearly, my fellow participants, the setting up of the National Governing Council shows that

the Zambian Government is really ready to start the full implementation of the APRM.

Let me, highlight, some details concerning the (NGC), it comprises of 46 members of a consultative process that was undertaken by Government and also epitomizes the essence of APRM. These 46 members have been drawn from the Government, Civil Society, Parliament, Judiciary, Professional bodies and other stakeholders.

The role of NGC is very important at National level because it will provide oversight and leadership in the implementation of APRM, in consultation with Government. Further, the role of NGC members is to ensure that the integrity of the Peer Review Process is kept transparent, inclusive and accountable.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This NGC is at liberty to constitute committees and retain consultants and experts and fuse them within the existing structures of the APRM.

Also I want to report that this NGC is expected to complete its work within one year because Zambia is in a hurry to implement APRM activities, during which our Government will follow the guidelines prescribed by the African Union (AU).

If planned and executed transparently, APRM presents a real opportunity to build a better Zambia.

In conclusion, let me mention that a tripartite arrangement of Civil Society, the corporate sector and the Government is preferred since it takes care of the four (4) Thematic Areas to

be Peer reviewed which are Democracy and Political Governance, Economic Governance, Corporate Governance and Socio-Economic Development.

This workshop, I have high hope and trust that it has demonstrated that mechanisms for intra-regional scrutiny do exist in Africa and if used consistently can assist not only African countries but developed countries in ensuring that Africa steps out of the Quagmire of poverty and poor governance. Because, my fellow participants it is commonly argued that one of the Africa's greatest problems since independence is simply governance and it is my prayer that the APRM aims to address the governance deficit in African countries.

Distinguished great sons and daughters of Africa I thank you for paying attention to Zambia's position as we deliberate.