

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

ON

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

BY

THE HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR CHILUFYA, MP

Mr Speaker, I thank you more sincerely for allowing me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

Sir, on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, His Excellency the President, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, signed into law the National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018. This Act provides for the establishment of the compulsory NHIS under the management of the National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA). However, recognising the need for increased domestic mobilisation for health, this scheme forms the integral part of our healthcare financing strategy. Indeed, the Government acknowledges that the attainment of our national goal for universal health coverage relies broadly on the sustainable mobilisation of revenue, adequate pooling of resources and responsible purchase of health services and commodities. As such, the NHIS forms an integral part of the path towards the attainment of universal health coverage.

Mr Speaker, the National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018 provides for the establishment of the NHIMA which will implement the insurance scheme. The authority will manage the National Health Insurance Fund into which all the eligible citizens, based on the progressive principle of ability to pay, will contribute a monthly premium. The authority will in turn purchase, on behalf of the Zambian people, a defined package of healthcare services from accredited public and private healthcare providers.

Sir, we have not been resting on our laurels. Over the past year, the enabling legislation was passed, a number of critical milestones have been reached and the technical team has also been working hard to finalise the operational modalities.

Mr Speaker, I will go through the milestones:

### *Organisation and Governance Structures*

The board of the NHIMA was inaugurated on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, in accordance with the National Health Insurance Act.

### *Staff Recruitment*

The Director General of NHIMA has been appointed and he is in place to lead the implementation of the scheme. The staff recruitment is underway and up to date. So far, seven initial staff have been recruited.

### *Business Case*

We have concluded the feasibility and actuarial studies. We have conducted thorough research and assessments. We have also developed a sustainable business case that fits our needs. The analysis and assessment will continue as we gain actual utilisation data during the implementation phase and the system will be adjusted to iron out any kinks over time.

### *Regulations*

Working with various stakeholders and the Ministry of Justice, we are now finalising the regulations which will provide for the efficient administration of the National Health Insurance Act No. 12 of 2018. The regulations will provide the detail procedures governing the registration of employers and beneficiaries, contributions, records and various related provisions.

### *Contributions*

In line with the signed collective agreement of 2018, deductions of 1 per cent of earnings of formal employees and matched by a 1 per cent employer contribution will begin in August, 2019. These contributions will be paid into the National Health Insurance Fund. In sticking to the