



Vision for Zambia

Property of:

The Citizens Democratic Party

Lusaka, ZAMBIA

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The Citizens Democratic Party [CDP] Vision for Zambia

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Introduction

Zambia has a good track record of weaving its ethnic and cultural diversity into a cohesive national fabric, which serves as a great source of strength, dynamism and creativity. Continued social and political stability will be crucial for the realization of Zambia's development objectives. Thanks to our founding fathers philosophy of One Zambia One Nation. However, we understand that after 20 years of "one-party"-MMD rule, people want change, believe that it is necessary for the country and for democracy, but require faith to make the change. It's time for politicians and other leaders to take the next step and see voters, residents or citizens as producers of this change and not mere recipients or beneficiaries. Our party is going to have a government that's more responsive to the ordinary people.

To achieve the objectives of all policies, programs and projects our government will be guided by the decentralized governance system. The active and total participation of all groups and regions are essential to ensure the success of socioeconomic development and nation building efforts. The spirit of patriotism will be harnessed to instill pride of being a Zambian and in doing things and achieving successes as Zambians.

It is important for Zambians to practice a mature consensual, community-oriented democracy without being sidetracked into parochial interests and extremism in views, whether religious, political or otherwise. It is through the spirit of greater tolerance and cooperation and avoiding politics of confrontation and character assassination that Zambia will develop political maturity, which is fundamental for continued stability.

Our government will place the interest of the nation above narrow political objectives and strive forward together in order to bring the nation to greater heights of development in the region and Africa as a whole.

The Vision

The vision for Citizens Democratic Party, therefore, is to Put People First in a **decentralized** National governance system that will be compatible with an economy that will guarantee Zambians of a life of hope, freedom, and opportunity where people in their own communities can decide what's best for them rather than being told what to do by the central government in Lusaka.

In contrast, what is being practiced in Zambia is **deconcentration**, which is sometimes called administrative or bureaucratic decentralization. This system of governance simply transfer functions from the central government to the district or provincial offices. Real decision-making is retained by the central government.

The Citizens Democratic Party will lead a small but efficient government with clear separation of power among the three arms of government; the executive, the legislature and the judiciary, by appointing cabinet ministers from outside parliament.

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The Mission

The mission of the Citizens Party is to:

1. Realign the political landscape of Zambia by decentralization of the National Governance System.
2. Embark on fiscal reforms in conformity with a decentralized governance system.

Benefits of Decentralization

- a. Decentralization, including substantial fiscal decentralization, provides a framework which facilitates and stimulates local sustainable development throughout the country.
Fiscal decentralization will reverse current practice which extracts resources from the periphery and concentrates these at the centre. Thus more resources will be retained at the local level, and will help to enhance or stimulate local economies and be available to support local development initiatives.
- b. Decentralization represents the most effective means of curbing excessive concentration of power by the central government, which is a distinctive feature of the existing governance model, and which is inimical to several basic tenets of good governance, e.g. openness, transparency, fairness and probity.
Conferring power to local jurisdictions to manage local affairs will make it more difficult for any single group, be it government or private interests, to dominate the national scene; and will increase chances that persons of differing persuasions will occupy positions of power somewhere in the system.
- c. Decentralization facilitates greater popular participation in governance. It brings government closer to the people, and thus enables citizens to be better informed and to better understand the conduct of public business. This facilitates the forging of a strong relationship between the governors and the governed and identification of the people with their government, which helps to reduce alienation from the political process.
It also serves to reduce anti-social behavior by citizens in seeking to get their concerns addressed, or taken into consideration.
- d. Decentralization increases efficiency in determining service provision.
In a decentralized, participatory system, citizens can influence decisions about service provision through mechanisms which enable them to indicate the type, level, quality and mix of services they desire, and the cost they are willing to pay for such services. This constitutes a type of market mechanism for determining service provision in a manner which responds to the wishes of citizens, and is sensitive to their willingness and ability to pay. This will not only optimize citizen satisfaction, but is also an excellent mechanism for reconciling citizens expectations to the resources available and/or the price which they are prepared to pay for the services desired.
- e. Decentralization facilitates a better division of labor in the management of public affairs.
The creation of strong local governments with the capacity to effectively manage local affairs enables central government to concentrate on higher level functions. This both improves efficiency and creates more effective checks and balances.
- f. Decentralization, manifested in a participatory style of local governance, fosters greater social cohesion and stability, and encourages reconciliation between local interest groups and a

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convergence around common interests. This process of participation helps to create the conditions for collaboration and working together.

- g. Decentralization provides the opportunity for a wider diversity of innovations, and increases flexibility of government in the context of changing circumstances. This is so because the decentralized, participatory model of governance mainstreams the many groups of citizens that were previously excluded, and creates greater scope for local and community self management. This means that the vast reservoir of talent, innovativeness, creativity, problem solving capacity and leadership qualities which have previously laid dormant in the local population is now able to find expression, and can be applied to the problems, visions and aspirations of the local community, and will also be available to contribute to nation building.
- h. Decentralization facilitates the mobilization of local resources in support of the development process, and enables value-added contributions to the provision of services and development efforts, which increases the total value of services provided, or development achieved, from the limited formal resources available. This happens because local people are able to identify and mobilize local resources which would not be available to centrally run programs, and because citizens are often willing to volunteer free labor and expertise, and other forms of in-kind contributions, in order to support local initiatives.
- i. Decentralization broadens the potential for societal capacity building. Weak capacity is one of the main constraints to national development and good governance. The existing authoritarian, over-centralized model of governance is a major inhibitor to capacity development, because it narrows the amount of people who are allowed any meaningful role in the process. A decentralized, participatory model of governance dramatically increases the opportunity for involvement, and provides space for persons to contribute at several different levels.
- j. A decentralized, participatory model of local governance fosters accountability, transparency & openness, and creates pressure for the adoption of high ethical standards in the conduct of public affairs.
In this model, citizens play an active role in decision-making in respect of service provision and other aspects of local governance, and therefore share information and have a good understanding of the issues and facts relating to such matters. This gives them the knowledge base to critically appraise the performance of local government in these areas.
- k. Decentralization allows for representatives of civil society to be appointed to carry out oversight functions on behalf of citizens, i.e. to examine transactions, enquire into use of public resources and the exercise of authority by public officials, and to report their findings to fellow citizens.

1. Governance Vision

Central government's role in the decentralized government system will essentially be that of formulating national policy, finance national public infrastructure, maintaining macroeconomic stability and strict enforcement of rules, laws and standards. Most of the implementation and regulation will be relegated to the private sector, provincial and local government.

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Our government will work towards correcting the culture of the so-called policy mistakes which actually are deliberate and purposeful programs promoted by opportunistic, but not necessarily incompetent, civil servants and politicians seeking ways to enrich them.

Red tape and bureaucracy will be reduced to a minimum and information flow maximized through the implementation of e-government at all levels. However, enforcement of laws, rules and regulations will be emphasized. Our party recognizes that without forceful enforcement, no matter how good the rules are in themselves, they are meaningless.

a. Public service

A smart and efficient public sector is important to support rapid economic growth and ensure improvements in the standard of living and quality of life of our citizens. Our government will take steps to attract and retain personnel of high caliber so that public administration, public services, economic management as well as the protection of national interest at international forums can be conducted at the highest level of proficiency. There will be selective recruitment of personnel including those with specialized skills, experience and outstanding track record.

The capability of existing workers will be upgraded to raise the quality of public service to be of international standards. A competency-based human resource management approach will be adopted. Emphasis will be given to strengthening the monitoring mechanism as well as the capacity to ensure that projects are implemented according to schedule and meet their intended objectives.

Efforts will also be taken to improve the administration of the regulatory and approving bodies at the central, provincial and local levels so as to facilitate private sector growth and wealth creation, protect public interests, and improve the wellbeing of Zambians.

Our government will commission various initiatives under the quality movement as well as the e-government project to ensure that the public service keeps abreast with service-oriented developments internationally and incorporates the best management practices.

b. Nominated Members of Parliament

The essence of democracy is to create an opportunity for all sectors of society to have a voice in the governance of the country.

Previous administrations have unfortunately used the eight reserved seats to consolidate their numbers in parliament for political gain.

In the spirit of Putting People First, the Citizens Democratic Party will use these seats to give voice to vital constituencies of our society that have previously been marginalized in the democratic process.

The CDP will instead allocate the reserved seats to the following constituencies;

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1. The youth 2
2. The House of Chiefs 1
3. The physically challenged 1
4. The business community 1
5. The civil society-NGOs 1
6. Peasant and commercial farmers 2

c. Fight against corruption

The biggest loser from corruption is society as a whole. Corruption allows inefficient producers to remain in business, encourages governments to pursue perverse economic policies, and provides opportunities to bureaucrats and politicians to enrich themselves through extorting bribes from those seeking government favors. Thus, corruption distorts economic incentives, discourages entrepreneurship, and slows economic growth.

The fight against corruption requires a greater conviction, by means of the consensus given to moral evidence, and a greater awareness that this fight will provide important social advantages.

Corruption radically distorts the role of representative institutions, because they are used as an arena for political bartering between clients' requests and governmental services. In this way political choices favor the narrow objectives of those who possess the means to influence these choices and are an obstacle to bringing about the common good of all citizens. Corruption is a cause of great concern today, in that it is also connected to drug- trafficking, to money-laundering, and to other forms of criminality. It cannot be attributed only to those who work in the economic sector or only to public officials; nor is civil society exempt. Corruption is a phenomenon that involves individuals, government institutions and private organizations.

The CDP government will do everything in our power to fight corruption not only by chasing after the perpetrators but by changing the system and environment in which the perpetrators operate. Electronic applications will be introduced in public service delivery system to minimize interaction between the service providers and the public.

d. Cost containment

Taxpayers everywhere recognize the benefits of saving money in government. The CDP government is committed to run a limited and efficient civil service. The cost containment program will be an initiative that will shut down government programs, agencies and ministries that have **outlived their usefulness or have failed to yield their intended results**. The key is to root out unnecessary administrative cost, and to spend money on the right things. All government offices and agencies will be equipped with Biometric Time and Attendance System to instill discipline and accountability in time keeping, and curb the existence of ghost workers who are a burden on government resources. Safe, comfortable and efficient buildings also can result in more productive environments and drastically reduce public spending. In order to improve on operational efficiency, reduce cost, increase comfort and security, our government will outsource facilities management services to increase productivity of our staff. Specific

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areas of need to be outsourced will be determined after a comprehensive physical assessment has been conducted by the prospective contractor and the ministry of works and supply.

e. Fiscal management

The CDP Government will pursue a prudent fiscal policy and efficient use of resources. The overall fiscal deficit will be kept at a sustainable level so that the country's external debt servicing ratio remains within a manageable level. Government expenditure will focus on infrastructure for capacity expansion and the provision of social services. The tax system will be simplified in conformity with a decentralized government system and strengthened to increase revenue generation, promote growth, savings and investment as well as achieve equity and efficiency. In addition, tax administration and compliance will be improved to expand the revenue base of the Government so as to enable it to raise the quality of social services and attract high caliber personnel into the public service.

The CDP government will take an integrated approach to reforming the current fiscal framework. The current practice of high taxes mitigated by widespread piecemeal incentives will be reviewed in favor of a lower general level of corporate taxation, as a way of encouraging local and foreign investment, improving the business environment and developing a stronger fiscal base.

f. Monetary management

The monetary policy will be directed towards promoting long-run growth with price and financial stability. In coping with the global environment characterized by uncertainty, monetary policy will be flexible and proactive in order to respond to new challenges effectively. The challenges will include managing the rapid movement of speculative and destabilizing short-term capital flows and adapting to the structural transformation of the economy and financial system, financial innovations and the emergence of new payment mechanisms such as e-money.

Accordingly, monetary policy will be increasingly conducted through market based instruments to enhance effectiveness. Steps will also be taken to improve the dissemination of information to the market to increase transparency in relation to the conduct of monetary policy. In addition, the development of the bond market will allow more effective open market operations and reduce reliance on the more direct instruments of monetary policy. The Government will continue to maintain a market driven exchange rate regime that is non-distortional and provides a stable environment for trade, investment and growth.

g. Budget Office

The budget office currently under the ministry of finance will be moved to operate under the Executive Office of the President.

The Budget Office's predominant mission will be to assist the President in overseeing the preparation of the national budget and to supervise its administration in Cabinet ministries. In helping to formulate the President's spending plans, the Budget Office will evaluate the effectiveness of ministry programs, policies, and procedures, assess competing funding demands among ministries, and set funding priorities. The Budget Office will ensure that ministry reports, rules, testimony, and proposed

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legislation are consistent with the President's Budget and with Administration policies. In addition, the Budget Office will oversee and coordinate the Administration's procurement, financial management, information, and regulatory policies. In each of these areas, Budget Office's role will be to help improve administrative management, to develop better performance measures and coordinating mechanisms that will reduce any unnecessary burdens on the public.

2. Economic Vision

To build a competitive and sustainable economy our government will work by fostering unity, inculcating the spirit of patriotism, nurturing political maturity, cultivating a more tolerant and caring society with positive values, raising the quality of life as well as increasing economic resilience. We will promote an equitable society by eradicating poverty and reducing imbalances through out Zambia and strive to sustain high economic growth by strengthening the sources of growth, the financial and corporate institutions as well as macroeconomic management. The free market system will continue to enhance competitiveness to meet the challenges of globalization and liberalization. Developing a knowledge-based economy will be treated with priority as a strategic move to raise the value added of all economic sectors and optimizing our country's human resource.

a. Agriculture

With regards to the agriculture sector, the focus will be on increasing food production to meet the growing domestic demand as well as for exports. For this purpose, the private sector will be encouraged to undertake medium- and large-scale commercial farming, facilitated by the establishment of permanent food production areas and agro-technology parks. The use of modern technology and farming methods will be intensified to enhance productivity and quality as well as reduce the cost of production.

Market research will also be intensified in order to identify customer preferences and establish new marketing channels as well as to venture into export markets.

In addition, special emphasis will be given to the restructuring and support of the smallholder sector particularly those engaged in uneconomic size holdings both in food as well as cash crops with the view of increasing their income. In order to accelerate the modernization of the agriculture sector, the provision of support services including Research and development, marketing, extension services, training, and credit facilities will be strengthened.

b. Mining

The development of the mineral sector will be guided by a National Mineral Policy. This policy will lay the foundation for the development of both the upstream and down-stream aspects of the industry. The thrust of the development of the sector is to expand and diversify the sector through competitive regulatory environment, to promote optimum exploration, extraction and utilization of resources using

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modern techniques as well as improved Research and Development. Emphasis will also be given to environmental protection, sustainable development and management of the social impact of the industry.

c. Infrastructure, land and air transport

Infrastructure development will focus on ensuring availability of supply, enhancing efficiency as well as improving the quality of services. The expansion of infrastructure facilities will take into consideration long-term demand, economic growth and competitiveness. The development strategies will also emphasize expansion of infrastructure facilities to rural areas to enhance accessibility.

The expansion, upgrading and integration of roads and highways, railway, ports, airports as well as telecommunications will be undertaken in a more coordinated and integrated approach.

The emphasis of transport services will be the provision of an efficient and cost effective multimodal transport system for both passengers and cargo. The speedy movement of passengers will entail seamless transfers between various transport modes while ensuring convenience, comfort and safety. The provision of public transport infrastructure, especially in urban areas, will focus on the need to have a more integrated, efficient, safe and comfortable public transport network. Accessibility to rural areas will be enhanced to promote economic and social activities.

Higher standards will be applied in the construction of new roads, especially those that link the industrial areas to the ports and airports. Safety aspects will be emphasized in the construction of new roads as well as the upgrading of existing roads.

Railway infrastructure development will focus on capacity expansion and upgrading of the rail network to provide integrated rail transport services as well as the enhancement of safety and maintenance standards. Railway links to the ports, airports, industrial zones and high density corridors will be enhanced to enable greater accessibility and competitive pricing for the production, transportation and distribution of goods.

In an increasingly competitive global environment, there is an urgent need for the establishment of a cost-effective and efficiently run national carrier; Zambia Airways.

With the increasing liberalization of the aviation industry and the trend towards 'open skies' especially in Europe and the United States of America, prospects are bright for the national carrier to expand its international network. With strategic alliances and other commercial arrangements, the national carrier will be able to develop and expand its market.

d. Tourism

Tourism in Zambia has been identified as one of the potential industries that would contribute to the growth of our economy. A more integrated approach to tourism planning and implementation will be adopted. To facilitate these efforts, provincial tourism and cultural authorities will be established. In addition, research and data collection will be intensified to upgrade the tourism database to support a holistic approach to policy formulation and a market-driven approach to product development,

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marketing and promotion. The focus will be to attract more tourists to stay longer, spend more as well as make repeat visits and the development of domestic tourism will be given key priority and will be actively promoted.

The major programs that will be implemented include the preservation and conservation of historical sites, provision and upgrading of tourism-related infrastructure as well as improvement in the quality of tourism products and services. Eco-tourism, rural tourism, education, health, culture and heritage, cruise, sports and recreation tourism as well as meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions will be further developed.

Developments in Information Communication Technology will enable the tourism industry to provide better quality services at competitive rates. In this regard, efforts will be undertaken to offer better destination information systems, provide more extensive links with the global travel distribution channels and enhance capacity building on electronic travel. A tourism portal will be developed to facilitate these efforts.

Human resource development will also be given top priority in order to enhance the level of competencies and professionalism to facilitate the growth of an efficient and competitive tourism industry. The provision of tourism education to the public and frontliners such as hotel employees, tourist guides as well as immigration and customs personnel will be emphasized. This is to create greater awareness on the benefits of tourism and to inculcate values of being a good host to visitors as well as stressing the importance of preserving the nation's heritage and the environment.

Regional cooperation through joint tourism programs among partners will be rigorously pursued.

e. Commerce

In the services industry, efforts will be intensified to develop the tourism, education, health, finance, and information communications technology and transportation sectors to become internationally competitive and meet international standards. The development of the knowledge-based economy is also expected to accelerate the creation of new service industries such as in software and content development as well as enable the country to develop its strength in internet-based delivery systems, such as in e-commerce, banking, brokerage, news, entertainment and courier services.

To expand the market for products manufactured around the country, The CDP government in partnership with the private sector will create a comprehensive national marketing and distribution system that will enable the movement of products across the country thereby creating a strong domestic market for goods and services, which currently is almost nonexistent.

f. Manufacturing

To compete globally, industries will need to develop a new competitive advantage by striving towards the achievement of internationally recognized quality and standards of goods and services.

The CDP government will promote the transfer of new and emerging technologies into the country through strategic alliances and technology acquisition.

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Product innovation, Research and Development will be emphasized. The focus will be on raising value added by developing indigenous design and branding, as well as expanding into downstream activities such as marketing, distribution, packaging, product customization and delivery, and the development of other manufacturing-related activities. Productivity growth will have to be higher than the increase in wage rates to sustain the growth momentum and ensure competitiveness of the manufacturing sector. The CDP government will strengthen the development of SMEs so as to increase their contribution towards the mainstream of industrial activities. In addition, SMEs will be encouraged to be export-oriented to tap market opportunities available in the regional and global markets.

g. Energy

Sustainable development of the energy sector is important in ensuring the competitiveness of the economy, particularly the industrial, transportation and commercial sectors.

The main thrust will be to ensure adequate, secure, quality and cost-effective supply of energy, promote its efficient utilization and minimize the negative impact on the environment. The electricity sub sector will continue to emphasize the adequacy of electricity supply as well as improve its productivity and efficiency. ZESCO transmission and supply sectors will be restructured to improve coverage, reliability and quality of supply.

To supplement the conventional supply of energy, new sources such as renewable energy will be encouraged. In this regard, a fuel diversification policy which will comprise oil, gas, renewable energy; particularly biomass, biogas, solar, municipal waste, and coal will be established. Of these, biomass resources such as cane sugar and wood waste as well as rice husks will be used on a wider basis mainly for electricity generation.

h. Information and Communication Technology

The emphasis on the development of ICT is central in the pursuit of productivity-driven growth and the knowledge-based economy. The extent of ICT application will emerge as a significant determinant of competitiveness for firms and countries as there will be increasing reliance on value-creation of information and knowledge. Thus, it is imperative to intensify efforts to enhance capacity building in terms of human resources, infrastructure and institutions. To supplement the pool of local skills and talents, the brain-gain program to recruit top-notch talent, skills and experts' such as retired "baby boomers" from USA and Europe will be established. The program will initially focus on recruiting highly qualified and talented Zambians in ICT as well as R&D scientists and technologists. These are knowledge workers who are highly mobile and command an international market for their talents and expertise. In addition, industries will be encouraged to sponsor outstanding Zambian students pursuing degree programs in key technologies.

In this respect, the Government and the private sector will step up efforts to leverage on ICT development to increase productivity and growth opportunities in all sectors of the economy.

In order to deploy e-Government strategies the various departmental government Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems and networks need to be integrated to allow them to

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communicate to each other and to quickly and effectively share vital information. To realize this vision of an integrated e-government, there is need to build one, National Government Control Network. A National Information Technology Agency will be established to consolidate and coordinate the Nation's information technology resources in order to achieve cost savings, increase delivery capabilities and enhance interoperability. NITA will be committed to leveraging Information Technology (IT) as a strategic resource for government, managing the IT procurement and delivery process to ensure that the Government gets value for money, and using IT to support the delivery of e-government services to all citizens.

All government agencies will be required to implement the Information Technology initiative to ensure a coordinated approach to computerization that will cover the national, provincial and district levels.

3. Developmental Vision

To foster development in our domestic industries, there is need for change in the mindset of policy makers, implementers and all other stakeholders. There is also the need to learn, unlearn and relearn as well as to do things differently including using innovative means, in order to be effective and achieve the developmental goals. The public sector will be more proactive and efficient, and undertake measures that enhance the competitiveness of the private sector. Our government will work towards strengthening domestic investment and developing indigenous capability, while continuing to attract foreign direct investment in strategic areas. Initiatives will be taken to reduce the cost of doing business so as to enhance competitiveness and productivity.

The private sector will spearhead economic growth, while the public sector will provide the supportive environment and ensure the achievement of the socioeconomic objectives. However, the commercial practices of Zambian companies should be beyond reproach whether they operate domestically or internationally. The CDP government will promote values that conform to the best traditions and encourage the pursuit of excellence and the highest standards of ethical propriety.

a. Domestic Investment

Domestic private investment will be promoted to unleash its growth potential so that a greater portion of wealth creation and profits will be retained in the country. While strengthening economic resilience, this will also set the stage for shifting to an endogenously-driven growth strategy by building indigenous capability to develop advanced technology as well as new products and services. The role of science and technology as well as research and development will be emphasized in order to increase overall productivity and develop a strong industrial base. Small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) serve as a strong foundation to anchor the nation's industrial sector and provide the necessary base upon which future industries can be developed. Small and Medium Scale Enterprises will be key suppliers and service providers to leading industries.

To support the rapid increase in private domestic investments, the CDP government will provide an environment conducive in terms of the institutional and legislative framework as well as an efficient physical infrastructure. To stimulate the growth of SMEs, the investment threshold under the ZDA Act

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will be reviewed. Also, the government will continually assess and review the various cost components, including taxes, utility rates and fuel, transportation and labor costs to ensure that Zambia remains cost competitive.

It will also ensure a stable macroeconomic environment and a more comprehensive financing infrastructure as well as provide customized incentive packages for strategic investments. In addition, domestic investors will be encouraged to collaborate and forge strategic alliances with foreign partners in order to gain expertise, market access and specialized services.

b. Foreign Direct Investment

Zambia continues to be an attractive location for foreign investment due to its substantially liberalized economic policies and political stability. However, our government will endeavor to improve in deficient but vital infrastructure such as good legal framework, excellent road and rail networks, advanced telecommunications system, efficient public administration, and training a skilled and educated workforce including in foreign languages. The country will build on these strengths and continue to attract foreign investment, not only in the mining and related sectors, but also in strategic sectors such as in information communications technology, energy, port management and the financial sector. In addition, foreign investors will be encouraged to invest in human capital and undertake technology transfer, as well as provide expertise in management to raise national competitiveness and strengthen the country's position in the international value chain.

c. Banking sector

A strong and resilient banking sector is a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth. A three-pronged approach will be adopted, which includes creating stronger domestic banking institutions, strengthening the supervisory framework and instilling market discipline by market players and consumers. The supervisory framework and prudential guidelines governing the banking system will be continually enhanced to promote prudence and minimize systemic risk.

To instill market discipline in the banking system, greater product and institutional transparency will be introduced, which will enable consumers to make informed decisions on banks and banking products.

d. Rural development

Several strategies for rural development will be adopted to mitigate poverty and reduce the urban and rural disparities. These will include strengthening rural institutions, greater use of technology; when the Information Communication Technology infrastructure is fully developed, and improving the linkages between urban and rural economies. Emphasis will be given to encourage the development of downstream activities in the agriculture sector, especially in the handling, processing, packaging and marketing of agro-products, and the development of agro-based industries.

Rural communities will be reorganized into small townships to facilitate the provision of infrastructure facilities and services. This reorganization also aims at promoting the participation of citizens at the local community level in the planning and implementation of sustainable development projects.

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Efforts will be undertaken to improve the supply of water through innovative ways and accelerate the rural electrification program to the remote areas. In addition, the development of indicators for comparing rural quality of life will facilitate the close monitoring of the quality of life of the rural population.

e. Youth development

The youth will need to be equipped with appropriate skills and knowledge as well as the right values to be competitive.

Their access to education and training will be improved with particular emphasis on achieving a high level of literacy in information technology. Apprenticeship programs will be implemented to cater for youths who are less academically inclined. In addition, programs will also be designed to develop creativity and talents among youths.

Efforts will be taken to enhance the entrepreneurial and management skills of youths to instill interest in business at an early stage and increase the number of youths involved in commerce and industry. Emphasis will also be given to nurturing a generation of young and dynamic leaders who are able to mobilize other youths to contribute positively to the nation.

While striving for self-improvement, youths will be imbued with the spirit of volunteerism and the eagerness to contribute to society and the nation. Their level of civic-consciousness will also be raised.

The pursuit of knowledge and the quest for excellence will need to be nurtured as core values. Youths will also be instilled with strong moral and ethical values that will help them abstain from activities that work against their personal well-being and the welfare of the nation. Efforts will be intensified to ensure that they do not get involved in vices such as drug abuse and criminal activities.

The family and community as well as the NGOs and youth organizations will be supported to enable them play a more active role to complement the efforts of the government.

f. Women development

A competitive economy cannot be created unless the full potential of all its citizens is utilized, and women are no exception. Opportunities in employment, business and social activities will be made available without gender bias. Greater access to training and retraining will promote employment opportunities and greater occupational mobility. Information pertaining to the labor market and opportunities for advancement in education and business will be made more accessible through relevant organizations and the use of information technology.

Entrepreneurship among women will be promoted actively by providing greater access to information on starting businesses. Banks and financial institutions will be encouraged to provide credit to assist women who want to venture into business. This will be complemented by efforts to develop women entrepreneurs through the provision of assistance to develop home-based business. The relevant government organizations at the central, provincial and local levels as well as women organizations will be supported to organize courses to promote entrepreneurship among women. All forms of gender-

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based discrimination and bias that inhibit the fullest contribution of women will be identified and progressively eased out either by legislation or education.

g. Citizens Abroad

It is common knowledge that over the years, most of our citizens that decided to leave the country did not do so out of choice but out of necessity. Those that left out of choice for the purpose of work or education seem to have decided to stay in those countries long after the end of their contracts or period of study.

Most of these citizens have acquired professional and academic experience needed to develop our country in many fields of development. It is the CDP's desire to fully engage all human resource, both locally based and those in the Diaspora, in the development of our country.

The Citizens Democratic Party have the following incentives for all our citizens abroad that have lived outside the country for a minimum period of two years or more and have decided to come back to Zambia.

1. All personal property acquired while living abroad will be allowed into the country duty free.
2. All machinery and equipment acquired for business use and not for resale will be allowed into the country duty free.
3. Application for commercial land will be processed with minimum delay possible provided proof of financial capacity and business plans to develop the land is produced.

4. Social Sector Vision

The social institutions will be strengthened by cultivating a more caring society and culture, where individuals place the needs of the social system before themselves and where the welfare of the people revolves around strong and resilient family units. Efforts will be made in molding civic and national consciousness as well as inculcating values in line with the decentralized governance system.

In building a caring society, the family unit, schools, workplace and religious and social organizations must instill and constantly reinforce values that make the individual more caring and respect the rights of his fellow citizens. Emphasis will be placed on values such as familial values, neighborliness, strong religious values, moral integrity, peace, love, cooperation, honesty, punctuality, hard work, discipline, honor, and consideration for our senior citizens and the physically challenged.

The CDP government will work with Faith-based organizations, Community-based organizations and Non-governmental organizations in the provision of social services and fighting the war against poverty. These organizations will be encouraged to pursue activities that involve Zambians of all ages and ethnic groups in activities that forge bonds transcending ethnic, religious and cultural considerations.

a. Poverty Eradication

The success of poverty eradication programs will be our prerequisite to create a united and equitable society. The poverty eradication programs will be more target-specific. Measures will be directed

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towards addressing pockets of poverty in different regions, particularly in remote areas as well as among disadvantaged groups such as the physically challenged, kids on the street and senior citizens.

To facilitate the implementation of the target-specific programs, a study on the profile of the poor and hardcore poor will be undertaken. Efforts will also be taken to address urban poverty, particularly among those residing in the periphery of urban areas.

As a long-term measure to address poverty and income inequality, education will remain as the main vehicle to promote upward mobility in the society.

Efforts will be intensified to ensure that the poor and low-income groups benefit from various measures to be implemented in the education system. Efforts will also be undertaken to reduce the incidence of dropouts among students from the poor and low-income households.

Besides education, the provision of health services and other social amenities is also an important long-term measure to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life. The CDP Government will ensure that the needs of the poor and low-income groups are met when implementing health programs. The poor and low-income households will be exposed to better nutritional practices to improve their health status. In addition, the coverage of amenities such as electricity, safe water and transportation and communications will be further widened to reach remote and outlying areas.

Emphasis will be made towards ensuring that the quality of life of the elderly and the physically challenged is further enhanced. Their welfare will be taken into account in the national development efforts. Among the facilities that will be improved for the benefit of the physically challenged include public transportation, schooling, housing and sports. All new and existing buildings, shopping complexes, hospitals, banks, offices and public amenities will be made more challenge-friendly. Greater efforts will be undertaken to provide training and education to this group and facilitate their placement and employability.

At the same time, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are expected to be more receptive towards meeting the needs of this special group.

b. Senior Citizens

The scourge of HIV/AIDS has robbed our country of a productive family sector of our society; young mothers and fathers.

Most of our children are orphaned and families are headed by either surviving senior citizens or teenagers without any form of income to support these families.

To mitigate the suffering of such families, the Citizens Democratic Party Government will establish a fund to provide these families with a monthly income to meet basic domestic needs.

c. Education

Zambia's capability and capacity in acquiring and utilizing new knowledge and technologies will be determined by the quality of its human resource. A competent, disciplined and highly skilled labor force

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with strong ethical and moral values and commitment to excellence must be developed. To face the challenges of globalization, Zambians will have to be equipped with a strong base in education and training and possess a range of generic skills, including communication and linguistic abilities. Efforts will be made to increase accessibility to education and training and reduce the performance gap between urban and rural schools. More colleges with better teaching and learning facilities will be built in rural and remote areas to provide a more conducive environment for students.

The education and training system will be reoriented to be more effective in imparting skills as well as focus on areas required by the economy.

The CDP government will give priority to improving facilities and infrastructure and intensifying the use of information communication technology in all schools and institutions. Greater emphasis will also be given to raising the standard of the teaching and learning of English, mathematics, science and foreign languages.

Universities and colleges will be encouraged to collaborate with industry in order to undertake research with commercial potential. To ensure that all tertiary institutions have international standing, a rating system based on norms comparable to reputable universities will be developed to rank these institutions.

Lifelong learning will be introduced to continuously upgrade the quality of the workforce which must keep pace with changing technology so that structural unemployment is minimized.

d. Health

The health care sector will be transformed into an autonomous healthcare system. The CDP government will work with the private sector and health professionals to develop a healthcare financing scheme to support the transformation. The system will ensure the provision of universal coverage and access to health services. Appropriate sharing of costs by the government, the private sector, health care providers and consumers will carefully be determined. Planning and building of more hospitals and health centers with input from the private sector will be emphasized. All new and existing hospitals will be incorporated with Information Communication Technology and automation services, thus creating an efficient networking of hospitals and clinics services, which will be seamless and client-friendly. The integrated health information system network will further facilitate communication and referrals through the various levels of care in the public and private health facilities.

Human resource planning, training and attracting back those that left for other countries will be given priority to overcome the shortages of health professionals and meet the needs of the expanding health services.

As part of the efforts to ensure the provision of quality health services, the public sector will strengthen its regulatory role to monitor the services provided by the private sector in accordance to relevant laws and regulations.

e. HIV/AIDS

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The Citizens Democratic Party recognizes that HIV/AIDS is a development issue with devastating social and economic consequences. Its control is complex, difficult and costly, and needs strong determination and practical interventions. Experience has shown that strong political and Government will are necessary in spearheading the fight against the epidemic. It is important that political and Government accountability in the fight against the epidemic is strengthened at all levels. The Government, therefore, has the responsibility to provide management and financial leadership in the national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Given the vicious circle between HIV/AIDS and poverty, interventions for the control of the epidemic shall be simultaneously related with poverty alleviation initiatives. There is therefore an urgent need to scale up the national plans on better coordination and management of HIV research, treatment, care and support services to increase access to all.

f. Housing

The CDP government will give housing development high priority. Emphasis will be given to the provision of adequate, affordable and quality housing to all, particularly the low-income group. In this respect, focus will be on the provision of better quality houses in suitable locations and living environment.

Housing development will closely be coordinated with industrial and overall development planning to ensure adequate and timely provision of houses including access to social services and amenities as well as an integrated and adequate public transport system. These efforts will be undertaken within the framework of the National Housing Authority. The private sector will be expected and encouraged to play an increasingly important role in meeting the overall housing needs, while the public sector will concentrate on providing houses for the low-income group and public sector employees.

Efforts will be undertaken to promote Research and Development activities related to production of cheaper building materials and better construction techniques with a view to improving the quality and safety of houses and ensuring their affordability. The housing sector will also address a more broad-based agenda such as fulfilling the needs of the elderly and the physically challenged, energy efficient design as well as implementation of the community based and garden city concept. Emphasis will also be given to building and maintenance of high-rise buildings especially low-cost and low-medium-cost apartments.

g. Sports

The promotion of high performance and mass sports will continue to be undertaken as it contributes to the building of a disciplined and competitive society. Efforts will be undertaken to ensure effective coordination and management of sports activities between the public and private sectors, including a review of the role and functions of sports associations. Priority will be given to develop Zambian sportsmen to world-class standards, particularly in high performance sports. More sports and recreation facilities, including world-class sports infrastructure will be provided to ensure greater accessibility for the public and also to enable Zambia host international events. These efforts will also contribute

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towards the growth of the tourism industry; while at the same time contribute towards the enhancement of national unity.

h. Cultural preservation

The Citizens Democratic Party attaches a lot of importance to culture. The CDP government will promote the development of the creative and performing arts and nurture talents in these areas. This is in line with efforts to preserve and promote the rich Zambian cultural heritage as well as cultivate a society that is appreciative of the arts. The development of the arts will not only provide the avenue for talented individuals to excel in their fields but also contribute to the vibrancy of the Zambian lifestyle. Outstanding Zambian artists and performers will also be given the opportunity to fully develop their talents and achieve international recognition.

5. Environmental Vision

The CDP government will strive to ensure that the environment is clean, healthy and productive as well as capable of sustaining the nation's needs and aspirations. The government will explore opportunities for multiple benefits, identify and implement measures that are prudent and cost effective, in order to move our country towards a more sustainable future. In addition, the government will continue to closely monitor developments taking place on global environmental issues as they may have a bearing on Zambia, including imposing restrictions on our development and trade policies.

Domestically, Zambia will take steps to fulfill its Conventions, Protocols and other international environmental obligations and to ensure that its programs and projects are in line with its commitments.

A critical challenge will be to reduce energy, materials, pollution and waste intensity of urban-industrial activity. Measures to influence the choice in technology and management of new urban and industrial investments will be put in place, including steps to promote the reduction, re-use and recycling of materials. The CDP government will go beyond controlling pollution at source and adopt preventive measures that include the policies that drive down energy, materials, pollution and waste intensity of urban-industrial activity in a process of continuous improvement.

The CDP government will intensify enforcement efforts to ensure that environmental laws and regulations are complied with.

6. Domestic Security Vision

For two decades, the MMD has failed to combat crime in our cities and towns. Businesses are unable to operate with a peace of mind and our citizens are unable to shop with a peace of mind for fear of being robbed. The fear of crime robs law-abiding citizens of their freedom.

The CDP government will protect Zambians at home. We believe in a strong national defense that is both tough and smart, recognizing that national security begins with a strong and well equipped

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domestic security; the police service. The police service will be re-equipped with modern equipment and trained in new techniques to march modern trends of combating crime.

7. Foreign Relations Vision

Our foreign policy will be based more on what is best for the Zambian economy and security than other principles. Our government will continue to maintain our existing bilateral and multilateral relations with the region, Africa and the world as a whole.

Your input to this Vision is most welcome. For your comments and contributions, please log onto:

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