



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Date: 9/09/21**

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS - OPENING OF PARLIAMENT**

As His Excellency the President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema officially opens the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> National Assembly, the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) hereby provides the following as our expectations to inform the address to the National Assembly and the country at large.

**Key Expectations from the President's Speech to the National Assembly.**

**Mining** - Zambia's government should work to improve on its copper and other mineral production to sustain its position as one of Africa's top mining nations. The President should convey a clear message to current and potential investors in the sector that the government would establish a stable tax framework based on fairness and mutual respect.

Government should encourage the extension of the mining value chain as well as resource diversification, both of which have been neglected in the past. In this area, we anticipate value addition to raw minerals. It is apparent that this industry continues to be vital to the country in terms of exports, GDP contribution, and foreign exchange earnings.

The campaign to formalize artisanal and small-scale miners to move away from copper mining is also an important component of promoting diversification in the mining sector. Unfortunately, good, and progressive leadership has been lacking in these excellent intentions. As a result, the President should concentrate on promoting the production and processing of gemstones, gold, nickel, manganese, iron, and other industrial minerals. Measures to support local ownership, a sector-specific tax framework, and increasing Zambian engagement in the sector are all needed.

**Energy** - We expect the president to address the issue of transforming Zambia into an energy surplus country by adopting an ambitious energy investment plan to expand power generation and broaden the energy mix. In addition, we anticipate the next administration working to create a favorable policy climate to encourage private investment in the sector's generation, transmission, distribution, and retail. We also anticipate the president committing to reshaping the fuel supply paradigm to assure fuel security and eliminate intermediaries from the supply chain.

**Manufacturing** – Build significant synergies in the value chain by establishing multi-sectoral linkages and promoting value adds to agricultural output, minerals, and other products. We want the President to reconsider the industrial revolution and seek to revitalize enterprises like Livingstone Car Assembly, Mansa Car Batteries, Mulungushi Textiles, Zambian Nitrogen Chemicals, Kafue Textiles, and Kapiri Glass Factory, to name a few. Going by the announcement of the three (3) newly suggested ministries that have the potential to revolutionize manufacturing in Zambia, we are very enthusiastic.

**Education** - In terms of education, we anticipate the President to talk about policies that address the fundamental impediments to education. The government should ensure that specified educational standards are met and enforced. We also want stronger ties between learning institutions and industry to guarantee that graduates have skills that are relevant and marketable. Furthermore, the government should actively support innovation and entrepreneurship to create jobs and income.

**Agriculture** - In terms of agriculture, we anticipate the President discussing how his administration will seek to improve productivity, agricultural extension services, market access, value addition, and input cost reduction. We anticipate the President's support for the e-Voucher system's revolution of agricultural input distribution. The new government should also devise a strategy for implementing the Farmer Input Support Program (FISP) in such a way that it provides long-term benefits to recipients and ensures that they graduate from the FISP program.

**Health** – We expect the President to send a clear message to the personnel in health that corruption will not be entertained, and that government will ensure that allowances for health workers especially front liners are priority. Medical facilities should not only boast of buildings, but the quality-of-service delivery, adequate and qualified medical personnel, availability of unexpired drugs and medical equipment. We expect the President to assure the nation that no Zambian should die because of lack of access to medical facilities, or drugs etc.

**Tourism** - Zambia and its many tourism endowments should be promoted as the destination of choice to realize the tourism sector's potential. Reviewing visa restrictions, constructing support infrastructure, and changing tax rates are all priorities. To expand the domestic market, local tourism should be heavily pushed.

**Research, Innovation and Development** - The three (3) newly proposed ministries like the Science and Technology, Small and Medium Enterprises and Green Economy and Environment will be key in driving Research, Innovation, and Development in the country.

We expect the President to drive his developmental agenda through research, innovation, and advance local solutions to address our prevalent problems. The President should promote openness to new

ideas and be available to listen and support citizens. The government should focus on ensuring environmental sustainability and inclusiveness in our development agenda. We expect the new government to take a more proactive approach in mitigating against the effect of climate change and strive to build a green economy.

**Public Debt Management** - We expect the President to unveil a robust plan in addressing the issue of the high public debt, which should spell out how government will dismantle both domestic and external debt. There should be a high-level technical committee on debt management with specific key performance indicators (KPIs).

We expect the President to inform the nation that it will not be automatic to close a deal with the IMF and further indicate the efficacy of the Economic Recovery Plan, left by the previous regime. Before the IMF and government clinches a deal in the long awaited Extended Credit Facility, the Zambian government will need to address the following: ensuring fiscal reforms to correct the current large fiscal imbalances, increasing fiscal revenues to facilitate for the much-needed fiscal space to achieve development objectives; bolstering governance and efficient use of public resources, through debt and expenditure transparency; halting the incurrence of domestic arrears (including on fuel and in the electricity sector) and ensuring that the social protection scheme is fully funded with timely disbursements. We would like to hear from the President how this will be feasible to increase fiscal revenues and lifting subsidies on fuel and electricity will not negatively affect the Zambian people.

**Public Service Leakages** - We anticipate that the President will address the problem of closing loopholes and drastically reduce spending. Acquisition of vehicles, pre-arranged GRZ vehicle auctions, workshops, conferences, and seminars; subscriptions; receptions and refreshments; and entertainment; travels, promotions, number of vehicles for ministers, entourage for government programs, duplicative programs; programs with no proper government role; ending improper payments; and conducting spending oversight.

**Rule of Law and Corruption** - Institutions tasked with investigating and prosecuting crimes should be granted complete authority to carry out their responsibilities properly and efficiently without fear of political prejudice. We expect the President to have zero tolerance for corruption, and he should allow the investigative wings to use all legal tools at their disposal to reclaim what Zambians have been robbed of.

**Civil Society Organization** - As civil society organisations, we expect more meaningful and mutually beneficial relationship with the government and government agencies, where we will be accorded the requisite freedom and platform to provide our checks and balances without being sidelined or threatened. Government should tap into the work we do especially that which focuses on addressing

inequality and poverty in rural areas. We expect the President to tap into our work especially in research to be informed of the prevalent challenges that Zambians face at grassroot level where we operate from and utilize the currently available research works by various CSOs.

**Investments** – Finally, we anticipate that the President's investment plans would prioritize economic transformation, entrepreneurial growth, and the digital revolution, as well as job and business prospects. We also anticipate the President highlighting some of the most important local private sector led investment proposals that will immediately turnaround the country's fortunes and give wealth to majority Zambians.

**Issued by:**

**Mr Boyd Muleya**

**Head of Research**

**Centre for Trade Policy and Development**

Editor's Note

The Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) is a not- for –profit, membership based trade policy and development think tank. The organization was established in 1999 and existed as the civil society trade network (CSTNZ), until 2009 when it was rebranded as the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD).

The mandate of CTPD is to influence pro-poor trade and investment reforms at national, regional and multilateral levels as well as facilitate the participation of various stakeholders including member organizations in ensuring that trade is used as a tool for poverty eradication.

For more information you can Email: [info@ctpd.org.zm](mailto:info@ctpd.org.zm). or Visit our web site [[www.ctpd.org.zm](http://www.ctpd.org.zm)] You can also follow our TWITTER Account - @CTPDZambia Address: office Plot 123, Kudu Road Kabulonga

Contact: Mwaka Nyimbili  
Centre for Trade Policy and Development  
Phone: +260 211 264409 | +260975876038  
Fax: +260 211266234  
Plot 123, Kudu Road Kabulonga  
[www.ctpd.org.zm](http://www.ctpd.org.zm)