

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

HEALTH WORKERS TO BE PLACED ON THE GOVERNMENT PAYROLL

BY THE HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR CHILUFYA

Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to update the House and nation at large on the recruitment and placement of health workers on the Government payroll. For us in the Patriotic Front (PF) Government, under the stewardship of His Excellency the President of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, universal health coverage is a must attain target. In doing so, we are building resilient health systems with human resource for health as a fundamental pillar amongst others.

Mr Speaker, inadequate numbers of health workers threatens this aspiration for universal health coverage. The cholera outbreak of 2017/2018 placed a further strain on human resource for health. In addressing the human resource for health deficit, both for the escalated response to the cholera outbreak and for primary healthcare services, the Government commenced the recruitment of health workers in December, 2017.

Mr Speaker, various hospitals and district administrations used various local conditions of service to look after these health workers before they were placed on the government payroll. I want to take this opportunity to thank the health workers for serving diligently the people of Zambia during the cholera outbreak and in various parts of Zambia during the time that they were not placed on the payroll. I wish to update the House and nation that the Government has provided treasury authority to place all the health workers that were recruited in December, 2017 and January, 2018 on the payroll. All the health workers that were recruited will now be on the payroll effective June, 2018. All the arrears have been uploaded on the payroll.

Mr Speaker, I conclude by reiterating the Government's appreciation to the health workers for the patience they exhibited serving Zambians diligently during the cholera outbreak and in other parts of the country where there is a human resource deficit.