



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION**



**STATUS ON THE OPENING OF ROBERT KAPASA MAKASA  
UNIVERSITY**

Ministerial Statement by  
Honourable Prof. Nkandu Luo, MP,  
Minister of Higher Education.

13 October 2016

**MR. SPEAKER,**

I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to update the nation on the status of our newly constructed institution –The Robert Kapasa Makasa University which was commissioned by His Excellency the Republican President, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

Sir, Robert Kapasa Makasa University has been constructed at a total sum of K 159 Million and has a bed capacity of 640 students. The institution consists of the following:

1. One double storey Library
2. Four No. four storey student hostels
3. Four No. double Storey Lecture Room Blocks
4. Two No. Lecture Theatres
5. Fifteen Staff houses
6. One No Administration block

The institution does not have all buildings as it will be constructed in phases. Phase 1 comprised of 15 staff houses. Phase 2 comprised the above named structures whilst Phase 3 included external and auxiliary works such as roads, power and water reticulation. Phase 4 will add other vital structures to the institution.

Construction works commenced in 2009 and despite some delays, the project has reached completion. The Contractor was expected to leave the site by August 2016. Due to a number of factors, including the cost of establishing a fully-fledged University Administration, and the risk of vandalism when the contractor moved out, a decision was made to best operationalize the University at the least cost. It was realized that the best option would be to place the new structure under an already existing University to

reduce on operational overheads and also to hasten the operationalization of the institution.

Consequently, The Ministry held discussions with the two oldest Public Universities: The Copperbelt University and the University of Zambia. The two Universities were requested to submit proposals on how they would run Robert Kapasa Makasa University as a faculty at the least cost to Government but in a sustainable manner. Among the proposals that were submitted, the Copper belt University submission was found to most meet Governments aspirations for enhancing development in the rural parts of the country through access to tertiary education. Upon assessment of the proposals, the Copper Belt University was accepted as the viable proposal. The Ministry then decided to open the institution as a faculty under CBU. The Robert Kapasa Makasa University will operate as a