



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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*Media Statement*

*For Immediate Release*

Government to provide funds for youth entrepreneurship in 2013 budget

**NEW YORK, Monday, July 2, 2012** – Government says it is keen to set up financing for youths entrepreneurship projects in the 2013 National Budget in a bid to create more jobs.

Finance and National Planning Deputy Minister Miles Sampa said this on Monday after attending the opening session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 2012 Annual Ministerial Review meeting focusing on “*promoting productive capacity and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*”.

Mr Sampa, who led the Zambian delegation to the High-Level meeting at the UN Headquarters, said youth unemployment was a global problem.

He noted that all countries were grappling with unemployment especially among the youths.

“What we observed from the meeting today is that the solutions are not only in providing jobs to the youths from Government and companies. The youths should become innovative and come up with bankable ideas that can be financed either by the Government or the private sector,” the Deputy Minister said.

He urged the youths to start thinking of becoming employers and not depending on being employed.

“I am happy to say that this Government is keen to set up, in the 2013 national budget, financing that will particularly target innovations coming from the youths,” said Mr Sampa, who is also Member of Parliament for Matero Constituency in the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

The Deputy Minister called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders including opposition leaders and chiefs to address unemployment.

“Everybody needs to come on board and assist in getting the youths to be innovative to resolve the issue of unemployment,” Mr Sampa said. “Waiting for job offers is a slow and unreliable approach while innovative entrepreneurship ideas will render the youth instant employers.”

The Deputy Minister advised that “youths should also think more of providing jobs than being given jobs”.

Delegates from across the world – developed and developing nations – bemoaned the high levels of unemployment, especially among the youths, mainly in the aftermath of the global economic crisis.

At the meeting, ECOSOC’s president and Slovakia Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Milos Koterec said ECOSOC was scaling up its efforts to tackle youth unemployment and the creation of jobs.

“For today’s 205 million unemployed, work is worryingly difficult to find – and finding decent, meaningful work, harder still,” said Ambassador Koterec.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon told the gathering that “only by generating decent and decently paid employment can we help the poor and vulnerable to escape poverty”.

ECOSOC, a founding UN charter body, deliberates and makes policy recommendations on world economic, social and environmental issues.

Zambia is the immediate past-president of ECOSOC.

Mr Sampa will speak at two sessions of the UN Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on Thursday.

***Issued by:***

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**Note: Photos and audio sent**