



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS HONOUR THE VICE
PRESIDENT DR GUY SCOTT AT THE LAUNCH OF POLICY
MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON THE 19TH
OCTOBER 2012 AT THE RADISSON BLU HOTEL, LUSAKA**

October 2012

I am pleased to join all of you tonight for the launch of The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC).

Never, in the history of Zambia has a political party recognized the need for establishing an autonomous think tank dedicated to the collection and use of researched data to determine a better way to achieve a national development agenda. It is only through research and fact-based policy decision making that we as a nation can progress.

The role of research cannot be understated. Research is, therefore, the pillar that supports serving governments. It is the heart, which fuels our nation with ideas and innovation. It inspires the thought process and originates concepts while setting goals and measuring the achievement of a nation's development programme.

The reality of our situation is that in the past, the link between research and decision making systems has been weak. Our experience is that the valuable work done in the halls of our universities stays within these halls that encompass those great theories. The space that the Policy Monitoring Research Centre occupies is a niche space. It will play the role of the hub of research which will be pulling data from multiple

reliable sources, collaborating with other think tanks both local and international and most importantly engaging in extensive communication outreach programmes and working with government to make research data meaningful to government and other stakeholders.

Further, the Policy Monitoring and Research Centre, as its name implies is not only to make policy recommendations and to be a resource for government, but also to evaluate existing policies and determine if they are achieving their stated goals and objectives.

It is our hope that, relevant research shall become not the basis but also serve as a source for evidence based data driven policies by the government.

During the run up to last year's elections many commitments were made by the Patriotic Front to the Zambian people. The government will use and depend on the Policy Monitoring and Research Centre as a resource to government for providing feedback and insight into progress and areas for improvement in policy implementation by the government.

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre is in the process of gathering the information on what achievements have been made and

how government is delivering on its commitments to the Zambian people, since 20th September 2011.

The Patriotic Front manifesto guides our government. It is our vision and reference document for our social and economic programmes. Research formulates how to go about delivering and driving our vision for a better tomorrow.

I would like to thank you all for coming tonight and may God bless Zambia and our party, the Patriotic Front.