**Statement by Mr. Fredson K. Yamba**

**Secretary to the Treasury**

**Ministry of Finance**

**On the Release of the 2015-17 “Green Paper” detailing the proposed policies underlying the 2015-17 Medium Term Expenditure Framework**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government is committed to enhancing participation and consultation with all Zambians in designing and executing its development agenda for our great nation. In this regard, I have great pleasure to announce the release of the **2015-17 Medium Term Expenditure Framework**, Green Paper.

The Green Paper provides details of Government’s current thinking as it prepares the 2015 Budget, which is to be presented to the National Assembly on **Friday the 10th of October, 2014**.

It is a consultative document and I sincerely hope that all stakeholders will take the time to study it and to relay to the Ministry of Finance their thoughts and reflections on its contents so that these can be considered as the 2015 Budget is finalized.

The proposed 2015-17 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and our draft policies for 2015 drawn from it, is premised on the Government’s unwavering commitment to enhance inclusive growth and advance social justice, so that all Zambians can benefit from the impressive economic growth we have been experiencing. The MTEF projects that growth will exceed 7 percent per annum from 2015 onwards and that inflation will fall to under 6 percent by 2017.

By continuing implementation of our enhanced levels of investment in major socioeconomic infrastructure; by continuing with structural reforms to diversify the economy and reduce the cost of doing business; and by adequately financing the provision of core social and economic programmes in the health, education, agriculture and social protection sectors, it is Government’s objective to ensure that all Zambians benefit from the fruits of our nation’s economic development by facilitating further broad-based economic growth; by creating employment opportunities especially for our youth; and by improving access to basic socio-economic services.

2015 is likely to see the initiation of financing arrangements to put local authorities on a more secure financial footing through the establishment of a Local Authority Equalisation Fund - thereby enhancing the provision of local services like waste management, street lighting and local markets which can have a positive effect on the quality of life in the communities where we live.

Once again I reiterate my pleasure in announcing the release of the 2015-17 MTEF Green Paper and I invite all stakeholders to partner with Government in its efforts to deliver inclusive growth with social justice by forwarding their comments and reflections on it as my Ministry works to prepare the 2015 Budget.

I thank you.