Bank *of* Zambia

SPEECH BY

Mr. CHRISTOPHER MVUNGA GOVERNOR

PRESENTED AT THE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH PRESS BRIEFING DURING THE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BANK'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE FIGHT
AGAINST THE COVID – 19 PANDEMIC

TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021   LUSAKA

- Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Health

- Distinguished invited guests

- Members of the Press

- Ladies and gentlemen

We, at Bank of Zambia are fully aware of the spike in the COVID-19 cases and the adverse effects the pandemic has had on the lives and livelihoods of our people as well as the economy in general. It is for these reasons that the Board, Management and staff of the Bank of Zambia is contributing K3, million towards the COVID-19 response. This contribution will be channeled through the Ministry of Finance. The contribution is meant to help in addressing immediate COVID-19 pressing needs that the Ministry is facing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, consistent with our vision of being a dynamic and credible central bank that contributes to the economic development of Zambia, the Bank
recognizes that health is one of the key pillars of economic development.
The Bank has found it prudent to collaborate with the Ministry of Health in preserving human life at a critical time such as this one, when the third wave has ravaged the country. We have noted that Zambia has continued to record increasing numbers of new COVID - 19 cases and the death toll has also been on the rise.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is worth noting that economic activities in the country have declined largely due to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as evidenced by reduced production, trade disruptions, business closures and decimation of the tourism industry.

We commend the Ministry of Health for the efforts and measures being implemented in addressing the COVID – 19 pandemic. Containment of this disease requires a collective response from all stakeholders including private citizens. We all have a role to play in this fight and we must play it effectively in order to flatten the curve.

I THANK YOU