



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AND COMESA

**Speech by H. E. Jacek Jankowski
Ambassador of the European Union to Zambia & COMESA**

**Launch event of the NATWAMPANE programme “together to
STOP sexual and gender based violence**

09 December 2019 in MANSA, Luapula Province

Her Excellency Minister for Gender, Hon. Elizabeth Phiri

His Excellency Provincial Minister for Luapula, Hon. Nickson Chilangwa

Traditional Leaders

Religious leaders

Representatives from government

Service providers

Civil Society Organisations

Community members, children and young people

Representatives of the Media

Dear Friends

Good morning -

- Today we are together to launch the European Union funded NATWAMPANE programme – “**together** to **stop** sexual and gender-based violence” in Zambia.
- To understand why such a programme is needed, I want to bring you back to this morning’s radio recording, where we heard the story of Mulenga, a young woman. Her boy-friend was beating her. She did not dare to tell

anybody about the beatings. She was – and is – too afraid for the reaction of her family and her community: what they will say about her and how they will judge her – **blame her**..... She says – and I quote: “People will say that girl is naughty and not cultured” – end of quote.

- She believes that she has no rights to report this case to the police, and that reporting even will harm the good name of her family. In her words – and I quote: “If you report it, people will say you are acting against the cultural norms, because if you are cultured, you will have to **keep it a secret**, which is bad” – end of quote.
- Mulenga’s story made me very sad. Too much shame and stigma on the shoulders of the victim. Too much victim blaming. A community who instead of standing by the victim is letting her down – closing their eyes, looking away.
- Sadly Mulenga’s story is not unique to Zambia. In fact sexual and gender-based violence is one of the greatest injustices of our time, which touches all countries.

What can we learn from Mulenga’s story? Let us look at the data:

- In 2018 the police reported more than 22,000 Gender-Based Violence cases countrywide. As most victims do not report to the police, this is only the tip of the iceberg.
- The majority of victims are women and girls, although men and boys can also be victims. More than 50% of women in this province have suffered physical violence.
- Most perpetrators are NOT strangers, but people known to the victim – most often their spouse.
- Close to 80% of women in this province find it acceptable for a man to beat his wife. This is much higher than the national average of just above 40%

and it has everything to do with social and cultural norms, the roles of women and men in society.

- In this province more than 40% of victims never sought help and never told anyone about what happened. Blaming and shaming of the victim plays a key role

What can we do?

- It is all about “WE” – WE need to stand up and break the silence. We need to stand up to protect the victims and to hold the perpetrators to account. WE need to stand up and open our eyes and speak out against sexual and gender-based violence. But who is this “WE”?
- **That is you**, the chief, the religious leader, the politician, the government official, the policeman, the court official, the nurse, the teacher, the psycho-social counsellor, the social worker, the community volunteer....
- **That is also you**, the neighbour, the father, the mother, the aunt or the uncle, the friend....
- “WE” means all of us. Together we are strong, and together we can make a difference. Together – NATWAMPANE – we can change the minds of the people in this province about what is acceptable and what is unacceptable behaviour. We can address negative cultural and social norms.
- Together – NATWAMPANE – under the leadership of the Zambian Government - we will improve access to quality services for survivors of violence – making sure that many more victims will receive the support they need, and that they will change from victims into survivors
- The European Union is extremely pleased with today’s launch of the NATWAMPANE programme to **STOP** sexual and gender-based violence **together**. We believe that this programme will make a difference in the lives of individuals, their families and their communities, when we will form a

strong and wide partnership to stop sexual and gender-based violence. It is therefore that we have committed to a large investment of 25 Million Euro – which is more than 402 million Kwacha – most of that funding will be implemented in Luapula and Northern Province. We count on Zambian Government in close partnership with the people in this province to make this programme into a success.

In closure, let me say

- It is now time to act, time to stand-up to protect the victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, to no longer look away and close our eyes. Let's get together and speak out – or as people say here: **Natwampane tulande bonse tulipamo!!!!**

Thank you

Speech delivered by H.E. Jacek Jankowski on 9 December 2019 at the launch of the Natwampane programme in Mansa, Luapula Province. The same speech was delivered by H.E Jacek Jankowski on 10 December 2019 at the second day of the launch of the Natwampane programme in Kasama, Northern Province. The speech is prepared by Esther Bouma. Attaché – Manager Health and Social Sector for the EU Delegation to Zambia and COMESA.