

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**PRESS STATEMENT**  
*For immediate release*

**DISBURSE ALLOCATED FUNDS ON TIME AND PROVIDE BUDGET INFORMATION**

The Eastern Province Program Management Team (EPPMT) of the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) has challenged Government to disburse the allocated funds to the sectors on time and provide information (Yellow Book) to sub provincial Government implementing structures such as District, Block and Camp. We stand ready to assist Government in disseminating the budget information (Yellow Book) to these structures.

Timely disbursement of the allocated funds and provision of budget information to the implementers (Government Departments) and beneficiaries (Society) would allow them to embrace the budget and give it the support it deserves. Until this is done, this year's budget will not stand to show Government's commitment in addressing Poverty amongst its citizens.

The success of the K15.2 trillion budget by the Finance and National Planning Minister lies entirely on how the allocated funds will be disbursed to the sectors.

The late and/or untimely disbursement of the allocated funds has resulted in the failure of the 2008 budget to live to its expectation. It is highly likely that the same will be the case of this year's budget if the allocated funds are not disbursed on time and according to the allocations.

The EPPMT has over the past five years been conducting budget tracking exercises for five strategic sectors namely, Education, Health, Social Protection, Agriculture and Water and Sanitation and last year's budget tracking exercise conducted in Mambwe and Chipata revealed that the allocated funds are either disbursed late or not disbursed at all. The exercise also revealed that information in the Yellow Book is not adequately disseminated to Government employees in sub provincial structures such as the District, Block and Camp where the budget is supposed to be implemented.

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