First Lady Esther Lungu has taken part in 2016 Multichoice Intercompany relay.

The event is taking place in the Show Grounds – Main Arena.

Others who joined the First lady in the 100 meters dash are representatives from Multi Choice, Airtel, National Assembly, and the Zambia State Insurance Corporation.

The events included the 5 kilometer Health Walk, the 10 kilometers Individual race, the 10 kilometre Individual run, and the Kids Athletics.

This years’ theme is “Run and Walk For Your Health, Towards Peace and Unity”.

The Inter Company Relay (ICR) was initiated in 1999 by the Zambia Amateur Athletic Association (ZAAA) to raise funds to develop and promote Athletics in the country, through the Talent Identification Program (TIP).

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
- MADAM ESTHER LUNGU

AT THE 18TH INTER-COMPANY RELAY  
HELD AT THE LUSAKA SHOW GROUNDS  
ON SATURDAY 25TH JUNE, 2016

UNDER THE THEME: “RUN & WALK FOR YOUR HEALTH TOWARDS PEACE & UNITY”

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY – MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORT;  
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER COMPANY RELAY (ICR) & PRESIDENT OF THE ZAMBIA AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (ZAAA) – MR. ELIAS MPONDELA;  
THE ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR – MULTICHOICE ZAMBIA;  
THE MANAGING DIRECTOR – ZAMBIA BREWERIES;  
MINISTER’S SPOUSES PRESENT;  
ALL SPONSORS AND PARTNERS;  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & DIRECTORS;  
ALL PARTICIPANTS;  
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD AFTERNOON TO YOU ALL.  
It is my honor to grace the MultiChoice 18th Inter Company Relay (ICR) under the theme “run & walk for your health towards peace & unity.” Associations such as the Zambia Amateur Athletic Association (ZAAA) who have come up with initiatives such as the Inter Company Relay to raise funds for the development of athletics in the country while providing a platform for testing and screening of various medical conditions, should indeed be commended.

I am informed that the Inter Company Relay was initiated in 1999 to raise funds for the development and promotion of athletics in the country whilst promoting an integrated approach to health response with the focus on the HIV/AIDS campaign.

For the past 17 years, the Inter Company Relay has continued to promote physical activity and has contributed to the promotion of exercising for good health apart from enabling people to know their status through the testing and screening that take place during the event. And am told many lives have been saved as a result.

I am also delighted to learn that the Inter Company Relay has added onto its platform the testing and screening of various medical conditions such as breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes and hypertension. And this year am told prostate cancer was screened right here at the show grounds. For sure this is a uniquely designed sporting event and Mr. Elias Mpondela, the founder of the Inter Company Relay and his team must be commended for such an initiative that has saved so many lives.

You may wish to know that I have participated in the 5km health walk of this event before and I would like to confirm that this is a great event as it brings corporate leaders and executives, civil society, & government leaders, the diplomatic corps (pronounced as core) and the community in one place for a day of fun in a socially-friendly atmosphere. We all need happy moments.

The theme chosen for this year is appropriate as we look to August 11, 2016 general elections for our country. We all need peace and unity as the hallmark of our country and we must keep it this way. A peaceful and stable country attracts foreign investment and we need investment for our economy to grow and thrive. Let’s allow the atmosphere created by the theme of this event to be the lifestyle of all Zambians.