



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RRESOURCES ON
THE REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FARM BLOCKS IN ZAMBIA**

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources has the honour to present its Report for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly on the '*Review of the State of Farm Blocks in Zambia*'. The functions of the Committee are stipulated in Standing Orders 209(a) and 210 of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

In accordance with its approved Programme of Work, the Committee held thirteen meetings to consider the topical issue. To fully interrogate the topical issue, the Committee requested detailed memoranda from various stakeholders, who also appeared before it to speak to their written submissions and make clarifications on issues arising therefrom. The list of stakeholders is at Appendix II.

The Committee's Report is organised in two parts. Part I gives the background, the objectives of the study, a summary of submissions from stakeholders, and the Committee's observations and recommendations. Part II contains the Committee's Observations and Recommendations on the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for the Fourth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly.

The Committee is grateful to all stakeholders who tendered both written and oral submissions. The Committee also wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it an opportunity to carry out its work. The Committee further appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly during its deliberations.



Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

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1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP (Chairperson); Mr Michael J Z Katambo, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Mweemba Malambo, MP; Mr Tyson Simuzingili, MP; Mr Lusale J Simbao, MP; Mr Ackleo I A Banda, MP; Mr Andrew Tayengwa, MP; Mr Peter Phiri, MP; Mr Yotam Mtayachalo, MP; and Mr Malama Mufunelo, MP.

PART I

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE TOPICAL ISSUE

2.1 REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FARM BLOCKS IN ZAMBIA

2.1.1 Background

The agriculture sector has been positioned as a strategic pillar for achieving inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and economic diversification. The sector has been identified as a key driver for achieving the country's Vision 2030 goal of becoming a prosperous middle-income nation. It also guarantees household and national food and nutrition security.

Despite its importance, the sector continues to face persistent structural challenges ranging from low productivity and poor infrastructure, to limited access to inputs, technology, financing, and markets. It has been reported that only about 15 per cent of Zambia's 42 million hectares of arable land is under cultivation, pointing to significant untapped potential (Oxfam Report, 2022-2024).

In an effort to address the persistent bottlenecks, in 2002, the Government prioritised the development of farming blocks as a strategic model to unlock agricultural productivity, attract private investment, promote agro-industrialisation, and enhance rural development. The initial vision under the Farm Block Development Programme was to establish at least one farm block per province, ensuring equitable national coverage and leveraging localised agricultural strengths.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture 2023 Report, the blocks were designed to include a mix of core ventures (large-scale investors), commercial farms, medium-scale farms, and smallholder out-growers. Nevertheless, since then, only Nansanga, Luena, and Luswishi farm blocks have received some support towards infrastructure development, which is at about 85 per cent, 40 per cent, and 15 per cent, respectively. In the other farm blocks, nothing much has taken place, but only land identification and consent from the chiefs has been obtained. It is against this background that the Committee resolved to review the State of Farm Blocks in Zambia.

2.1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

- (i) appreciate the adequacy of the policy and legal framework which supports the development, construction and rehabilitation of farm blocks in Zambia;
- (ii) examine the measures that the Government has put in place to develop, construct and rehabilitate farm flocks in Zambia;
- (iii) evaluate the progress that has been made in the development, construction and rehabilitation of farm blocks in Zambia;
- (iv) Identify the challenges faced, if any, in the development, construction and rehabilitation of farm blocks in Zambia; and
- (v) make recommendations on the way forward.

2.2 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

A summary of submissions by stakeholders is presented below.

2.2.1 POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF FARM BLOCKS IN ZAMBIA

The Committee was informed that the policy and legal framework was not adequate as farm blocks operated without a stand-alone policy and legal framework dedicated to farm block development. As a result, the farm block programme was supported by various policies and laws whose focus was not only to deal with farm blocks but also the provision of general support, as outlined below.

(a) POLICY FRAMEWORK

Some policy instruments relating to farm block development included the Farm Block Development Programme and the Second National Agricultural Policy, as highlighted below.

(i) Farm Block Development Programme

The Committee was informed that the Farm Block Development Programme was introduced by the Government in 2002. The purpose of the Programme was to stimulate agricultural productivity and rural development. It focused on large-scale agricultural zones where infrastructure development such as roads, irrigation and electricity could be provided in order to attract private investors.

(ii) Second National Agricultural Policy

The Committee was informed that the Second National Agricultural Policy provided the overarching framework for agricultural modernisation that emphasised commercialisation, value addition and rural industrialisation that aligned with farm block development objectives. The policy encouraged public-private partnership (PPPs) to mobilise investment in infrastructure and agribusiness.

(b) LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Stakeholders submitted that there was no specific legal framework that directly supported the development of farm blocks in the country. However, the *Lands Act, Chapter 184 of the Laws of Zambia*, indirectly supported farm block implementation. The Act governed land tenure, administration, and alienation in Zambia.

2.2.2 MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP, CONSTRUCT AND REHABILITATE FARM BLOCKS IN ZAMBIA

The Committee was informed that the Government had put in place a range of policy, institutional and infrastructure measures to develop farm blocks, as part of its agricultural transformation agenda. The key measures towards farm block development have been outlined below.

(a) Farm Block Development Programme

Stakeholders informed the Committee that the Government launched the Farm Block Development Programme to open large-scale agricultural zones with basic infrastructure such as roads, irrigation and electricity. The Programme was designed around the anchor farm where:

- i. a large-scale investor was allocated land;
- ii. surrounding smallholder farmers were integrated using out grower schemes; and
- ii. public-private partnership framework was developed.

(b) Policy Alignment

The Committee was informed that the Government had developed the Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Programme (CATSIP) in order to guide agricultural investments from production to value addition and marketing. The aim was to transform the agriculture sector from subsistence based production to a more productive, diversified, and commercially driven system.

(c) Infrastructure Investment

Stakeholders submitted that the Government, working with the support from the World Bank and the African Development Bank, had rehabilitated feeder roads and irrigation infrastructure in selected farm blocks countrywide.

(d) Power and Water Supply

The Committee was informed that the Government had prioritised the electrification and construction of water systems to attract investors to the farm blocks.

(e) Private Sector Incentives

The Committee was informed that the Government was encouraging private sector investments through provision of tax incentives and investment facilitation through the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA).

(f) Development of Legislation

Stakeholders submitted that the Government had approved a Bill, in principle, to establish the Farm Block Development Agency.

2.2.3 PROGRESS MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF FARM BLOCKS IN ZAMBIA

The Committee was informed that some progress had been recorded in the development of farm blocks in the country. The recorded progress included the:

- (i) electrification of Luena Farm Block in Kawambwa District, which was completed in 2025;
- (ii) construction and rehabilitation of 62 kilometres and 80 kilometres of access roads in Luena and Nansanga Farm Blocks, which have since been completed; and designs for a 150 kilometres of access roads in Kalungwishi and another 150 kilometers access roads in Kalumwange Farm Blocks of Northern and Western Provinces, respectively and have since been concluded.

The Committee was further informed that the Government had secured additional funds worth 49 million United States Dollars from the World Bank towards farm blocks development programmes across the country.

2.2.4 CHALLENGES FACED IN THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF FARM BLOCKS IN ZAMBIA

The Committee was informed that some of the challenges being experienced in the development of farm blocks in the country were as outlined below.

(i) Absence of a Dedicated Legal and Policy Framework to Support the Development of Farm Blocks

Stakeholders informed the Committee that there was no dedicated and stand-alone law and policy to support the development of farm blocks in the country. The absence of a dedicated and stand-alone policy and legal framework hampered the development of farm blocks in the country.

(ii) Absence of Specific Body to Coordinate the Development of Farm Blocks

Stakeholders submitted that there was no specific and independent body to coordinate and manage the farm blocks development programmes in the country.

(iii) Inadequate Infrastructure to Support Farm Blocks Development

The Committee was informed that there was inadequate infrastructure to support and attract development in most of the farm blocks in the country. The absence of critical infrastructure demotivated the would-be investors in the various farm blocks.

(iv) Use of Land in the Farm Blocks for Different Purposes than Agriculture

Stakeholders submitted that most of the land in the farm blocks was not being utilised for agricultural activities but for other purposes such as mining activities, which was defeating the purpose for which farm blocks were established.

(v) Conflicting and Overlapping Interest from Traditional Authorities in Land Allocation

Stakeholders submitted that there were conflicting and overlapping interests from traditional leaders in land allocation in the farm blocks, which was also proving to be a challenge in farm block development.

(vi) Lengthy and Difficult Land Tenure Processes

The Committee was informed that the acquisition of land in the farm blocks was lengthy and difficult to conclude. In most cases, it took many months and, in some instances, even years, which discouraged many would be investors from investing in them.

(vii) Non-existence of Critical Infrastructure in the Farm Blocks

Apart from Nansanga and Luena Farm Blocks, most farm blocks in the country did not have the necessary infrastructure such as roads and electricity to attract and support the development of the farm blocks.

2.3 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having reviewed the submissions made by various stakeholders, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations set out below.

(i) Absence of a Dedicated Legal and Policy Framework

The Committee observes, with great concern, the absence of a dedicated and stand-alone legal and policy framework to support the development of farm blocks in the country. The Committee is of the strong view that the absence of a specific policy and legal framework has negatively affected the development of farm blocks in the country.

In this regard, the Committee strongly recommends that, as a matter of urgency, the Government should put in place a comprehensive policy and legal framework that will be specific and tailored to support the development, construction and rehabilitation of farm blocks countrywide.

(ii) Absence of a Coordinating Institutional Body

The Committee observes the absence of a specific and independent institution mandated to coordinate and oversee the implementation of farm block development programmes in the country. The Committee is of the view that this institutional gap is the reason why farm block development programmes have not received the required attention from the Executive.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Government should prioritise the establishment of a Farm Block Development Agency, which will manage and coordinate the development, construction and rehabilitation of farm blocks in the country.

(iii) Inadequate Infrastructure

The Committee observes, with concern, the lack of adequate infrastructure to support and attract development in most of the farm blocks in the country. The Committee notes that the absence of critical infrastructure has the potential to demotivate the would-be investors in the various farm blocks.

The Committee, therefore, urges the Government to devise concrete measures that will ensure that critical infrastructure such as roads, electricity, communication towers and water facilities such as dams, are put in place in order to attract the would-be investors.

(iv) Misuse of Farm Blocks Land

The Committee observes, with great concern, that land designated for farm blocks is, in some instances, being utilised for non-agricultural purposes such as mining activities thereby defeating the purpose for which farm blocks are established.

In this regard, there is an urgent need for the Government to ensure that land within the farm blocks is left to be used for agricultural activities as opposed to allowing activities such as mining to take place in the farm blocks.

(v) Conflicts Land Allocation

The Committee observes, with great concern, that the apparent conflicting and overlapping interests from traditional leaders in the administration and allocation of farm blocks which is proving to be a great challenge in farm block development.

The Committee, therefore, urges the Government to strengthen consultation and coordination mechanisms with traditional leaders to ensure that all aspects of interest on farm block land are carefully addressed prior to offer of such land to individuals and investors. Doing so, would avert disputes and enhance investor confidence within the farm blocks.

(vi) Lengthy Land Tenure Processes

The Committee notes with concern the lengthy procedures in the acquisition of land in the farm blocks, noting that these delays have proved to be a significant stumbling block to would-be investors and discourage many from investing in farm blocks.

In this regard, the Committee urges the Government to streamline and expedite land tenure and application processes in the farm blocks in order to facilitate timely access to land.

(vii) Non-existence of Critical Infrastructure in Farm Blocks

The Committee is greatly concerned that apart from a few farm blocks such as Nansanga and Luena, the majority do not have the necessary infrastructure such as roads and electricity to attract and support their development.

In this regard, the Committee strongly recommends that the Government should, as a matter of urgency, scale up infrastructure development such as roads and electricity across all the farm blocks in the country to ensure development and productivity in the farm blocks.

PART II

3.0 ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.1 THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN ZAMBIA

(i) Ineffective Early Warning System on Climate Change

The Committee had recommended that the Government, through the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, should enhance the early warning systems in order to improve the accuracy of the information it produced and disseminated to the public. The Committee further recommended that the Government should set up weather stations in all districts that did not have.

The Executive submitted that the Government was strengthening early warning systems by investing in Automatic Weather Stations and Rain Stations. However, challenges such as funding gaps, infrastructure coverage, and data-sharing, still required attention to achieve universal coverage.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the need for the Government, through the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, to enhance the early warning systems in order to improve the accuracy of the information it produces and disseminates to the public. The Government should also set up weather stations in all districts that do not have.

(ii) Low Adoption of Conservation Agriculture and Inability to promote Crop Diversification

The Committee had urged the Government to seriously consider intensifying the implementation of conservation farming in the country. The Committee had also implored the Government to consider supporting more than one crop in terms of production, as well as creation of a readily available market.

The Executive submitted that the Government had launched the National Crop Diversification Strategy (NCDS), which was aimed at promoting crop diversity, enhanced household food and nutrition security, and increased household incomes. The NCDS would complement the implementation of the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme in promoting conservation farming for optimal agricultural production and value-chain enhancement of both the input and supply chains.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the progress and resolves to await a progress report on the fully-fledged adoption and implementation of conservation agricultural practices in the country.

(iii) Inadequate Housing Units for Extension Officers

The Committee had urged the Government to consider constructing adequate housing units for extension officers in the agriculture and livestock sectors. The Committee also urged the Government to construct housing units for other related officers such as forestry and reserve officers to enable them live in their catchment areas and enhance service provision.

It was reported that the Executive had commenced processes to employ forestry staff, especially Forest Rangers. The Ministry was given Treasury authority to employ sixty-one forestry staff across the country. However, the number was not commensurate with the required minimum of 2,000 Forest Rangers across the country.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes that the response by the Executive relates to the employment of staff rather than the construction of housing as recommended by the Committee. The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the need for the Government to construct adequate housing units for extension officers in the agriculture and livestock sectors, and for other related officers such as forestry and reserve officers to enable them live in their catchment areas and enhance service provision.

ix) Inadequacy of Agriculture Extension Officers, Forestry Officers and Veterinary Extension Officers

The Committee had urged the Government to consider employing forestry officers, agriculture extension officers and veterinary extension officers. This would contribute to the effective implementation of programmes in the mentioned sub sectors.

The Executive submitted that the structure and plans to recruit officers were there. The Ministry of Agriculture had sought Treasury authority to recruit eighty veterinary officers countrywide. Once authority was granted, the Ministry would proceed to recruit the said officers to mitigate the shortages. Funds available, the Ministry would continue recruiting more officers.

The Ministry of Agriculture was cognisant of the need to employ adequate numbers of agriculture extension officers but was unable to do so due to budgetary constraints. The Ministry would continue to engage the Treasury for authority to employ agriculture

extension officers to ensure effective implementation of programmes in the agricultural sector.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

In noting the submission from the Executive, the Committee resolves to await a progress report on the need to employ forestry officers, agriculture extension officers and veterinary extension officers to ensure effective implementation of programmes in the mentioned subsectors.

3.1.1 CARBON MARKETS AND TRADING IN ZAMBIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

i) Inadequate Information about Carbon Markets and Trading

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the need for the Government to put in place a mechanism that would standardise the calculations of carbon credits and emission limits. The standardised calculations were intended to help analyse whether or not carbon markets were achieving their purpose of reducing green house gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere.

The Executive submitted that the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment:

- a) **had established the National Carbon Market Framework to guide how Zambia would regulate carbon trading, defined roles, and ensured transparency in project participation and benefit-sharing;**
- b) **in collaboration with international partners, was training national experts using internationally accepted Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies to ensure uniform and scientifically credible calculations of emissions and carbon credits;**
- c) **was developing an Integrated Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system to track emission reductions, ensure project compliance, and maintain a national carbon credit registry;**
- d) **was implementing awareness campaigns across communities, traditional leadership, civil society, and the private sector to increase understanding of carbon markets and encourage participation; and**
- e) **was preparing the carbon market regulations under the *Green Economy and Climate Change Act, No. 18 of 2024*, which would provide legal standards for project approval, benefit-sharing, and alignment with international frameworks.**

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the progress and resolves to await a progress report on the development and operationalisation of mechanisms for standardising carbon credit calculations.

ii) Absence of a Systematic Way of Gathering Information

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the development of a carbon market registry and a National Integrated Measurement and Verification System, which would contain comprehensive information on carbon market and trading projects for enhanced data management.

It was reported in the Action Taken-Report that the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, through ZEMA, was still developing a carbon market registry that would serve as a centralised platform to record, track and manage all carbon market transactions and project data, ensuring transparency and accessibility. However, the delay was due to some contractual obligation between the Government and the consultant.

Additionally, the Ministry, was also developing a National Integrated Measurement and Verification System that would provide comprehensive, real-time data on carbon markets, climate change actions, and green economy initiatives. This system was aimed at strengthening data reliability and decision-making. However, the funding modalities with the European Union were still under way.

The progress achieved to date had laid a strong foundation for the successful development deployment of both the IMRV system and the Carbon Registry. Key milestones such as the completion of gap analyses, engagement of specialised consultants, procurement of essential ICT Infrastructure, and submission of draft technical specifications have significantly advanced the readiness for development of these systems for full implementation. These achievements had strengthened institutional capacity, established the technical groundwork to forge way for the development of the two systems and ensured alignment with both national priorities and international reporting requirements.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the ongoing efforts and resolves to await a progress report on the establishment of carbon market registry and a National Integrated Measurement and Verification System.

iii) Loss of Revenue by the Government

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the development of a carbon market framework and a mechanism for regulation of carbon market and trading and measures for generation of revenue by the Government.

The Executive submitted that the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment developed the Carbon Market Framework, which outlined mechanisms for regulating carbon markets, including provisions for share of proceeds, and developer obligations.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and resolves to await a progress report on the development and operationalisation of a carbon market framework and a mechanism for regulation of carbon market and trading and measures for generation of revenue by the Government.

3.2. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN COMBATING LIVESTOCK DISEASES IN ZAMBIA

i) Increase the Number of Staff under the Veterinary Services Department

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter, considering that the increase in staffing levels in the Department of Veterinary Services from 567 to 736 (an increase of only 169 extension officers), was still inadequate.

It was reported that the Executive would continue to recruit more officers apart from the eighty extension officers earmarked for recruitment in order to meet the extension officer-farmers ratio of 1 extension officer to 400 farmers.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and resolves to await a progress report on the recruitment of additional staff to meet required service ratios.

ii) Construction of more Laboratories and Testing Facilities

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the construction of provincial diagnostic laboratories in Ndola and also ensure that the sixty-two district diagnostic laboratories which had been identified were improved to a level where they could serve as sample preparation rooms.

The Executive submitted that the construction of Provincial Diagnostic Laboratories had continued and the progress was as outline below.

a) Ndola Diagnostic Laboratory

In order to complete construction of the works at Ndola Laboratory which had stalled, the Consultant was re-engaged and was back on site, and the project works stood at 45 per cent.

With regards to the sixty-two district diagnostic laboratories that were identified and earmarked for improvement, the Committee was informed that the said laboratories were still at the same level, as no improvement had been done yet because funds had not been released despite being budgeted for in the 2025 fiscal year. The Ministry remained optimistic that completion of works for the identified and earmarked district laboratories for improvement to a level where they could serve as sample preparation rooms and used to conduct basic microscopy would be completed when funds were made available.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response given by the Executive and expresses deep concern that little or no progress has been made by the Government on the construction of provincial diagnostic laboratory. The Committee is further concerned that despite a budget line being available, funds were not released by the treasury towards the construction of the sixty-two district diagnostic laboratories. The Committee resolves to await a progress report on this matter.

iii) Local Vaccine Development

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the rehabilitation of the old vaccine production buildings and the construction of a new vaccine production plant at the Central Veterinary Research Institute.

The Executive submitted that the construction of the new vaccine production plant through a design and build approach was underway and the following had been achieved:

- a) final designs had been produced and approved after the entire process of technical engagements with stakeholders;**
- b) site preparation works had been done, which involved leveling and preliminary road-works;**
- c) site camp establishment had been done (construction of site offices, site engineers hostels/ offices, meeting room etc); and**
- d) construction of guard house and concrete water storage reservoir had been done.**

Project Overall Progress was at 30 Per cent

As outlined, the rehabilitation of the old vaccine production building was in progress and was being implemented in two parts.

- a) Under Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) Funding, the project was at 95 per cent completion. Three out of the five laboratories that were earmarked for refurbishment were completed and had been operationalised. However, only minor works had remaining on the two laboratories.**
- b) Under Government Funding the contractor had mobilised and works have commenced with physical progress at 15 per cent.**

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the rehabilitation of the old vaccine production buildings and the construction of a new vaccine production plant at the Central Veterinary Research Institute.

iv) Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the completion and operationalisation of the infrastructure regarding Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala District.

The Executive submitted that the tender for the above stated works was at evaluation stage and funds had been allocated under the 2025 Annual Budget.

The Committee was informed that progress on the completion and operationalisation of the Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala District was as follows:

- a) April, 2024 assessment of works on site, preparation of drawings, bills of quantities and submission of completed documents to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to undertake the tendering process;**
- b) June, 2025 the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock floated a tender through EGP;**
- c) July and August, 2025 closure of tender, tender evaluation of bids, and approval by the Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC); and**
- d) 9th September, 2025 submission of draft contract to Ministry of Justice for clearance and feedback was being awaited.**

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the progress and resolves to await a progress report on the completion and operationalisation of the Centre.

3.3 A REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

i) High Cost of Imported Fertilisers

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the matter where it urged the Government to recapitalise the Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) Limited, as a matter of urgency, as well as promoting other investments in the local fertiliser industry to reduce the cost of fertiliser in the country.

The Executive submitted that the Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia had made progress as outlined below.

- (i) The construction of the blending and granulating plant had reached 95 per cent completion.**
- (ii) The Government had planned to expand the fertiliser production capacities for the NCZ. It had invested in a new blending and granulating plant that would increase capacities by 144,000 metric tonnes per year for granulated Compound D fertiliser and 288,000 metric tonnes per year for the blended fertiliser. Further, the Government intended to put up urea plants for the NCZ.**

- (iii) For the granulated and blending plant, the construction commenced and work was in progress. For the urea plants, the Governments intended to commence construction works in 2027.
- (iv) The contractor had been paid US\$4, 240,511.34 representing 62 per cent of the contract values.
- (v) K43,627,954.72 had not yet been received from the IDC.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the progress and resolves to await a progress report on the recapitalization of the Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) Limited as well as the promoting other investments in the local fertiliser industry to reduce the cost of fertiliser in the country.

3.4 ZAMBIA'S RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

i) Inadequate Regulation of Mukula Trade

The Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the finalisation of the statutory instrument to declare Mukula as protected flora. The draft Statutory Instrument on Protected Flora was to be finalised. Additionally, protection of the Mukula tree species was done under the Regulation of Protected Flora as defined in Section 47 of the *Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015*. Further, the Mukula tree species was also protected under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to which Zambia was a signatory.

The Executive submitted that the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment had commenced the review of the *Forests Act, No.4 of 2015* and had consolidated proposed amendments to the Act. The Ministry was in the process of commencing provincial consultations to get proposals from provincial level stakeholders for consolidation into the draft Bill. Once the review was concluded, the Ministry would further review subsidiary legislation.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response given by the Executive and resolves to await a progress report on the finalisation of the statutory instrument for the protection of Mukula.

ii) Unregulated Charcoal Burning

The Committee awaited a progress report on the *revision of the Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015*.

The Executive submitted that the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment had commenced the review of the Act and had consolidated the proposed amendments. The Ministry was in the process of commencing provincial consultations to get proposals from provincial-level stakeholders for consolidation into the draft Bill. Once the review was concluded, the Ministry would further review subsidiary legislation.

Committee's Observation and Recommendations

The Committee notes the ongoing review process and resolves to await a progress report on the *revision of the Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015*.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee notes that the Farm Block Development Programme offers Zambia a pathway to agricultural transformation, rural industrialisation, and economic diversification. The Committee also notes that the Government has put in place various mechanisms to support the development, construction and development of farm blocks in the country. However, there are still a number of challenges that require the Executive's urgent attention for the purpose of developing farm blocks in the country. The Committee is of the strong view that, if a dedicated policy and legal framework, institutional coordination and targeted infrastructure investment and inclusive farmer participation were implemented, farm blocks would become the engine of economic growth and food security.

In this regard, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources has made some far-reaching recommendations on the topical issue and is confident that the Executive will act upon the findings and the recommendations contained in its Report.



Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I – LIST OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS

Mr Stephen Chiwota, Director (FC)

Mr Geoffrey Zulu, Deputy Director (FC)

Ms Chitalu R Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk (FC2)

Mr Evans Chilongu, Committee Clerk

Ms Eneless Njobvu, Administrative Assistant

Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant

Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant

Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II – LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Ministry of Finance and National Planning
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
Veterinary Association of Zambia
Agriculture Consultative Forum
Livestock Services and Cooperative Society
Livestock Development Trust
Zambia Environmental Management Agency
Indaba Agriculture Policy and Research Institute
University of Zambia
Zambia Development Agency
Oxfam Zambia
Zambia National Service
Road Development Agency
Natural Resources Development College
House of Chiefs
Industrial Development Corporation