

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

FOOD RESERVE AGENCY 2021/2022 CROP MARKETING SEASON PRICES

Mr Speaker, it is a great honour and privilege to be accorded this opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the review of the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) 2021/2022 Crop Marketing Season prices.

Sir, as you might be aware, the FRA announced the prices at which it will be buying maize, soya beans and rice from small-scale farmers during this 2021/2022 Crop Marketing Season as follows:

- (a) white maize was priced at K3.20 per kg or at K160 per 50 kg bag;
- (b) soya beans at K11 per kg or K550 per 50 kg bag; and
- (c) rice at K5 per kg or K200 per 40 kg bag of paddy rice.

Mr Speaker, I wish to state that the Government has since taken into consideration the concerns expressed by stakeholders across the country on these prices. In view of the above, I wish to state that the FRA has reviewed the crop prices, as earlier announced, taking into consideration the current market dynamics, especially supply and demand, as follows:

- (a) non-genetically modified organism (GMO) white maize will be from the K160 per 50 kg to K180 per 50 kg bag, which is equivalent to K3,600 per metric tonne;
- (b) soya beans will remain at K11 per kg or K550 per 50kg bag; and
- (c) rice will remain at K5 per kg, which is K200 per 40kg bag.

Sir, given these prices, I wish to urge our hard-working farmers to take note of our prices as they dispose of their produce on the market.

Mr Speaker, I further wish to inform the House that the FRA will maintain the 1,255 satellite depots across the country. I will simply give the provinces, but I will lay on the Table the detailed tabulation of satellites of district by district and province by province. The satellites are distributed as follows:

<i>Province</i>	<i>No. of Depots</i>
Central	118
Copperbelt	77
Eastern	179
Luapula	34
Lusaka	93
Muchinga	139
Northern	196
North-Western	117
Southern	148
Western	54
<i>Total</i>	1,255

Mr Speaker, this is exactly as it was last season.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to inform the nation that the FRA is going to commence crop purchases and all things being equal, it should commence by this weekend, most likely on Saturday, 16th July, 2022.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.