

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME STATUS OF THE 2022/2023
FARMING SEASON

Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) status for the 2022/2023 Farming Season. Kindly note that this ministerial statement will only focus on the concluded purchase of fertiliser and the inputs of the programme, that is, the procurement process, which is under way, and the awarding process, which will be done in due course.

Madam Speaker, kindly be informed that 1,024,434 farmers have been targeted for the 2022/2023 Farming Season, using the Direct Input Supply Modality (DISM). I will repeat the figure, 1,024,434.

This entails that all inputs will be procured by the Government. The total tonnage of fertiliser for this farming season is 307,330.20 metric tonnes of which, 153,665.10 is Urea and the other half, 153,665.10 is D-Compound.

Madam Speaker, the distribution breakdown of the fertiliser by province is as follows:

| <i>Supplier</i> | <i>Province</i> | <i>Commodity</i> | <i>Quantities (MT) A</i> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| ETG Input Zambia LTD | N. Western | D-Compound | 10,195.95 |
| United Capital Fertiliser | Western | D-Compound | 5,652.60 |
| | Northern | D-Compound | 14,747.25 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|
| | Muchinga | D-Compound | 9,772.95 |
| | Luapula | D-Compound | 9,270.60 |
| Agrizam Investment LTD | Eastern | D-Compound | 29,181.45 |
| Alpha Commodities LTD | Southern | D-Compound | 27,506.25 |
| Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia | | D-Compound | 47,338.05 |
| Total Distribution | | | 153,665.10 |

Madam Speaker, I now move to Urea fertiliser.

| <i>Supplier</i> | <i>Province</i> | <i>Commodity</i> | <i>Quantities (MT) A</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| ETG Input | North-Western | Urea | 10,195.95 |
| Zambia Ltd | Copperbelt | Urea | 14,053.20 |
| | Northern | Urea | 14,747.25 |
| United Capital | Western | Urea | 5,652.60 |
| Fertiliser | Muchinga | | 9,772.95 |
| | Luapula | | 9,270.60 |
| Agrizam Investment Ltd | Eastern | Urea | 29,181.45 |
| Alpha Commodities Ltd | Southern | Urea | 27,506.25 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|------|------------|
| Fertiliser Seed and Grain | Central | Urea | 24,406,65 |
| | Lusaka | Urea | 8,878.20 |
| <i>Total</i> | | | 153,665.10 |

Madam Speaker, the estimated budget for the fertiliser was US\$522,461,340. However, the actual expenditure on the procurement of this fertiliser, given the quantities and the suppliers I have mentioned, is US\$369,073,965.74.

Madam Speaker, I am highly delighted and very happy to inform this august House that the Government has, from the figures I have given, saved a total of US\$153,387,374.26. I will repeat, for the sake of Hon. Sampa. The Government has saved US\$153,387,374.26.

This can be attributed to the fact that much of the fertiliser is being produced by and purchased from local suppliers.

Madam Speaker, the Government has strengthened the selection criteria by ensuring that only eligible beneficiaries get the inputs. Allow me to outline the criteria the Government will use in the 2022/2023 Farming/Marketing Season. This is the most important part of my statement this afternoon, given the confusion that is developing out there in the provinces.

Madam Speaker, in order to qualify for the programme, an individual farmer needs to:

- (a) be a member of a duly registered farmer organisation or co-operative. The co-operative or farmer organisation should have a registration certificate issued by the Department of Co-operatives, under the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development, or the Registrar of Societies;

- (b) be a registered small-scale farmer and actively involved in farming within the camp coverage area;
- (c) be cultivating not more than 5 ha of land. We want to target the real small-scale farmer. So, we want those with fields not more than 5 ha, but 5 ha or below;
- (d) have the capacity to pay the K400, as farmer contribution per pack, and no more than that. That is the money that is going to the Government;
- (e) be a Zambian and possess a green National Registration Card (NRC); and
- (f) where possible, it is to their advantage if they have an active phone number. It is not a necessity, but an added advantage.

Madam Speaker, it is important that an individual farmer:

- (a) is not an employee of the Government of the Republic of Zambia. Therefore, he/she should not be a civil servant and should not be from public institutions such as statutory bodies and parastatals. We want the real farmers; and
- (b) is not a beneficiary of any other Government support programme. This benefit is not meant to go to those on Government support programmes similar to the FISP, for example, the Food Security Pack, under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. This is limited to those who are receiving fertiliser and seed, and not those receiving cash. The former are welcome.

Madam Speaker, each targeted farmer will receive a pack. What is the definition of a pack? The pack is composed of the following:

- (a) 3 x 50 kg bags of D-Compound and 3 x 50 kg bags of Urea fertiliser, meaning a total of six bags of fertiliser;

- (b) a 1 x 10 kg bag of maize seed for each of the 1,024,434 farmers; and
- (c) either a 1 x 25 kg bag of soya bean seed or 1 x 20 kg bag of groundnut seed.

Madam Speaker, allow me to make clarifications on some of the misconceptions that have emerged regarding the 2022/2023 Farming Season, as it relates to the FISP.

Madam Speaker, an individual beneficiary will not be required to pay any other money apart from the K400 contribution.

A voter's card is not a requirement for farmers to be registered and to benefit from the programme. A voter's card is not a requirement for the FISP. No, it is not.

Madam Speaker, may I conclude by indicating that the flagging off of the distribution of fertiliser was held on 21st September, 2022, and the exercise is going on pretty well.

Madam Speaker, may I reaffirm the Government's commitment to a timely distribution of inputs and a transparent selection process. The New Dawn Government, under the leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, and Her Honour the Vice-President, is committed to improving the livelihoods of its poor people and increasing food security in the country. Among the many interventions that can actualise this aspiration is the prudent implementation of the FISP, which the Government is undertaking.

Madam Speaker, I thank you, and I thank the hon. Members for listening attentively.

Thank you, Madam.