MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

2020 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING PREPARATIONS

BY THE

HON. MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING, MR CHITEME,

MP

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of National Development and Planning has been requested to submit a ministerial statement giving a detailed status on the progress relating to the 2020 census preparations. This memorandum, therefore, is a submission of the progress achieved to date.

Sir, planning for Zambia's next census of population and housing which is scheduled for August 2020 commenced in 2017. The immediate past census was conducted in 2010 which recorded social-economic data from 13 million people and 3.2 million households. The 2010 Census of Population and Housing was conducted between 16th October, 2010 and 15th November, 2010 with all parts of the country covered by 30th November, 2010.

Mr Speaker, this was the fifth national population census exercise for Zambia since its independence in 1964 with previous censuses conducted in 1969, 1980, 1990 and 2000. Optical Mark Reading (OMR) and Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology were used for data capture.

Sir, the 2020 census of population and housing will be the first of its kind in Zambia to be conducted using electronic data collection methodology Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). This will improve the quality of data collected and reduce the time-lag between data collection and the dissemination of the census results.

Mr Speaker, as we make progress on our development trajectory, the need for evidence based decision-making also grows and this process requires very detailed information at national, regional and district levels including small area populations such as constituencies and wards. As hon. Members of Parliament, we are representatives of our people. It is therefore, our responsibility to provide guidance when planning for pro-poor services such as basic education, health, water and sanitation and other social services including human

settlements. The only way to secure that level of detail is through conducting an accurate census of population and housing that fairly represents every Zambian.

Sir, to this end, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) will be commencing a mapping exercise throughout the country as part of the preparation towards the conduct of the 2020 population and housing census. The mapping exercise seeks to update the 2010 Census enumeration areas. An enumeration area is the smallest spatial statistical area unit for one enumerator to work in, and constitutes one of the most essential aids required to achieving a complete enumeration during the census.

Mr Speaker, enumeration areas are mutually exclusive and form the basis of ensuring that persons are neither double counted nor left out during a census. These enumeration areas are however, dynamic and subject to change with changes in population characteristics. Therefore, there is need to update them just before a population census takes place. Field mappers will be deployed to all localities across the country to update these enumeration areas.

Sir, as part of the exercise, Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of certain locations, landmarks, buildings or structures, including schools, health facilities, municipal water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, drying facilities, public transit stations, agriculture warehouses, boreholes, irrigation systems, solid waste treatment facilities, cold storage facilities and processing facilities will be identified and classified accordingly.

Mr Speaker, another important preparatory activity to be undertaken starting this year through 2019 is the User Consultation Dialogue. During this process, data users and stakeholders across Zambia will be consulted for their views on the type and extent of social economic information they believe the census should provide. The Government of the Republic of Zambia, through CSO wishes to remain socially relevant while striving to meet the interests of diverse data users.

Mr Speaker, pre-tests are planned for November, 2018 and March, 2019 with a small number of households being selected to test the questionnaires. Pre-tests are used to assess the quality of information that would result from the changes made to the questionnaires and

questionnaire designs. Questions will, therefore, be retained or dropped from the census questionnaire based on the willingness and the ability of the respondents to answer them.

Sir, a census pilot to be carried out in a number of communities is planned for August 2019. The national census pilot serves to confirm the suitability of a new or modified question or the introduction of innovative procedures such as CAPI. The census pilot will be used to gauge the efficacy of the whole 2020 census information technology system.

Mr Speaker, data collection for the 2020 census will take place in August 2020. The 2020 Census will involve about 31,000 enumerators and 8,000 supervisors among other census staff at different levels. Enumerators will use tablets pre-installed with the data capturing applications with a set of validation rules implemented to reduce the time of processing and increase the reliability of the collected data.

Mr Speaker, my ministry counts on the support of all citizens and residents of Zambia for successful statistical area delineation, user-consultations, pre-testing and national piloting exercises towards the August 2020 Census of Population and Housing.

Sir, all the 2010 Enumeration Areas (EAs) based on the 2010 census have been harmonised with the satellite imagery that were procured from the Surveyor General's Office. The number of EAs has since increased from 25,633 recorded in 2010 to 27,560. The next step involves physical boundary verification and a quick head count of households and capture of key infrastructure geo-codes using electronic devices.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.