

**WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE, 2018**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**ON THE UPDATE OF THE DRAFT NATIONAL LAND POLICY**

**BY THE MINISTER OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES (MS KAPATA)**

Mr Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make a ministerial statement to this august House on the update of the draft national land policy.

Sir, the ministry convened a series of consultative meetings with key stakeholders since December, 2015, to February, 2018, on the draft national land policy. This was for purposes of ensuring wide stakeholder participation in the policy development process. On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, a national validation meeting was convened to validate the draft policy. The draft national land policy was rejected by twenty-two chiefs who attended the national validation meeting. The main reasons advanced by the chiefs for rejecting the document were that:

- (a) the draft document did not adequately provide for the roles of the chiefs in land administration and management;
- (b) the document suggested that the powers of the chiefs were being taken away; and
- (c) the invitation of twenty-two chiefs to the validation meeting was not adequate considering that there are 288 chiefs in total.

Therefore, the objective of validating the document with key stakeholders was not achieved.

Mr Speaker, despite this set back, the ministry remained committed to the process. I held a meeting with the Chairperson of the House of Chiefs on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, to discuss and agree on a roadmap following the national validation meeting at which the chiefs rejected the document. The meeting was cordial and fruitful. It was concluded that during the May sitting of the House

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of Chiefs, additional days would be allocated and dedicated to reviewing the document page by page so that the chiefs could provide their specific concerns and recommendations to the technocrats.

The ministry through the Permanent Secretary initiated and maintained contact with the Clerk of the House of Chiefs to plan for the activity. The chiefs later took a further step to organise provincial consultative meetings where they met among themselves to discuss the draft document. Following their provincial consultations, the chiefs proceeded to convene a national *indaba* which was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Headquarters in Lusaka. The ministry was invited to the *indaba* and participated as observers.

Sir, it is important to note that the ministry is not yet in receipt of the final recommendations that the *indaba* brought out. It is for this reason that as a ministry we await the House of Chiefs to officially communicate the recommendations that came out from the chiefs' *indabaso* that the next steps can be implemented.

Mr Speaker, copies of the draft national land policy which was rejected at the national validation meeting will be availed to hon. Members of this august House for their information by Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.