

**TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY, 2018**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**ALLEGED COLLAPSE OF THE CENTRAL COMPUTING SYSTEM AT THE MINISTRY  
OF FINANCE**

**The Minister of Finance (Mrs Mwanakatwe)**

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for according my ministry this opportunity to issue a statement on the alleged collapse of the Central Computing System (CCS) at the Ministry of Finance as reported in some sections of the media. I appreciate the honour to have this opportunity to inform this august House and through the nation, on the status of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) and the steps that the Government is undertaking to ensure that it is speedily restored.

Mr Speaker, IFMIS failed on Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018 at about 2200 hours. Since then, the system has not been available for business use. The House may wish to note that the failure was not deliberate but a degeneration of the equipment hardware that resulted in data on the affected damaged portions being corrupted, thereby causing the system to fail. This is attributed to the old age of the equipment which has reached its end of useful life.

Sir, at the time of failure, the Government had already taken steps to replace the old equipment. The new equipment has already been installed and the process to migrate the system from the old equipment to the new hardware has already commenced.

Mr Speaker, the restoration has taken a bit of time because of the extent of damage on the equipment. On the failure occurred, immediate efforts to restore the system using backup data failed because it was discovered that the data for recent backup also contained some corrupted data as the damage to the equipment had taken place over a period of time, but only took its toll on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

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Sir, further, efforts to restore the system using the disaster recovery (DR) site also failed because the data stored on the DR site was replicated with the same corrupted data from the main system.

Mr Speaker, the House may wish to know that the system reconstruction and data recovery process is being done by a combined team of the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) project consultants, a joint venture comprising Novabase Business Solutions of Portugal and Seidor of Spain, who have been contracted to plan, design and implement IFMIS enhancement and interface this project. SAP Germany, who are the software application providers were also included. The team has been working around the clock to restore the system and that substantial progress has been made to restore the system with 95 per cent of the work having been completed. Tests to verify the proper functioning of the recovered components of the system are ongoing and have so far been positive.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to assure this august House that most of the work to restore the system has been done. The system will be put back into operation in the shortest possible time within the month of March. In the meantime, business processes have continued using manual operations although, at a slower service delivery.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.