



Republic of Zambia

**MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PRESENTED**

**BY**

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MINISTER OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES  
DEVELOPMENT**

**ON THE FISHING BAN**

**MARCH, 2011**

**MR SPEAKER,**

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME TO BE GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE ANNUAL FISHING BAN WHICH I ANNOUNCED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2010.

IT IS ALWAYS NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE ANNUAL FISHING BAN IN SOME FISHERY AREAS SO AS TO PROTECT THE FISH DURING THE BREEDING SEASON. THIS INDEED IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION OF FISHERIES RESOURCES AND INCREASED FISH PRODUCTION. IT IS ALSO THE PRIORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY IN THE LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES SECTORS.

**MR SPEAKER,**

YOU MAY RECALL THAT FROM THE 1970'S TO THE 1980s, THE CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FISH IN ZAMBIA WAS 12.0 KG PER PERSON PER ANNUM. HOWEVER, RECENT ESTIMATES HAVE PUT THE PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION AT 7.0 KG PER PERSON PER ANNUM. THE DROP IN THE PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE IN FISH STOCKS IN SOME OF THE FISHERIES AS A RESULT OF EXCESSIVE FISHING AND USE OF BAD FISHING METHODS AS WELL AS AN INCREASE IN DEMAND DUE TO THE INCREASE IN HUMAN POPULATION. THE INCREASE IN

DEMAND HAS RESULTED IN INCREASE IN FISHING PRESSURE TO THE EXTENT THAT SOME FISHERS USE ENVIRONMENTALLY UNSOUND METHODS OF CAPTURING FISH.

THE CONTINUED DECLINE IN FISH CATCHES IN MOST OF OUR WATER BODIES HAS LEFT GOVERNMENT WITH NO OPTION BUT TO PUT IN PLACE MEASURES THAT WILL ENSURE THAT FISH AS A NATURAL RESOURCE IS CONSERVED AND UTILIZED IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

**MR SPEAKER,**

THE MONITORING OF THE FISHING BAN BY THE STAFF IN THE MINISTRY STARTED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010. IT HAD BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE RESULTS BEYOND WHAT I WILL STATE LATER BECAUSE OF A LACK OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO UNDERTAKE SUFFICIENT WATER PATROLS TO STOP ACTIVE FISHING AS REPORTED BY VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS IN MOST OF THE MAJOR FISHERIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. DESPITE THIS CHALLENGE, MY STAFF WERE ENCOURAGED TO DO WHAT THEY COULD UNDER THE VERY DIFFICULT CHALLENGES AND DID A COMMENDABLE JOB DURING THE THREE MONTHS OF THE CLOSURE.

**MR SPEAKER,**

WATER PATROLS WERE CARRIED OUT IN ALL THE FISHERY AREAS THAT WERE AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE. NOTABLE AREAS IN WHICH SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WAS MADE IN ENSURING THAT THE FISHING BAN IS OBSERVED IN ITEZHI-TEZHI FISHERY, KAFUE FISHERY IN NAMWALA AND KAFUE DISTRICTS, THE LUAPULA RIVER IN MWENSE AND KAWAMBWA (CHIPITA), LAKE MWERU IN NCHELENGE AND CHIENGE, LUKANGA SWAMPS FISHERY, MWERU WA NTIPA FISHERY, BANGWEULU FISHERY AND KAFUE FISHERY (BLUE LAGOON).

MY MINISTRY, WHILE WORKING WITH COLLEAGUES FROM THE ZAMBIA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY AND THE ZAMBIA POLICE CARRIED OUT LAND PATROLS WHICH INVOLVED ROADBLOCKS IN SELECTED AREAS SINCE THESE ARE RELATIVELY CHEAPER TO UNDERTAKE. IN SOME AREAS WHICH WERE FREQUENTLY VISITED BY PEOPLE WITH COMMERCIAL MINDS, FOCUS WAS ON MONITORING TRADE ROUTES SUCH AS LUSAKA WEST AREA WHICH NORMALLY GIVES ACCESS ROADS OUT OF THE BLUE LAGOON AREA AS WELL AS THE ACCESS ROADS FROM LUKANGA SWAMPS.

**MR SPEAKER**

AS A RESULT OF THESE OPERATIONS, SEVERAL SUSPECTS WERE ARRESTED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW AND A NUMBER OF THEM APPEARED IN COURT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS FOLLOWS:

- FOURTEEN WERE ARRESTED IN ITEZHI-TEZHI FISHERY OUT OF WHICH 12 ARE MALE AND 2 ARE FEMALE. OF THESE, 2 HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONVICTED WHILE THE REST OF THE CASES ARE STILL IN COURT.
- SEVENTY ONE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED IN MWERU WA NTIPA. ALL WERE RELEASED ON POLICE BOND AND ARE YET TO APPEAR IN COURT.
- TWENTY FOUR PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AND CONVICTED IN UPPER ZAMBEZI. THREE WERE GIVEN CUSTODIAL SENTENCES RANGING FROM THREE TO SIX MONTHS. THE REST WERE GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCES RANGING FROM ONE TO SIX MONTHS.

- IN KAFUE FISHERY (NAMWALA, KAFUE) SIX (6) PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AND CONVICTED. THEY WERE SENT TO SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.
- FOR BANGWEULU SOUTH (SAMFYA), OF THE 55 ARRESTED COMPRISING 26 MALE AND 29 FEMALE, ALL WERE CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO ONE TO THREE YEARS JAIL TERMS.
- IN BANGWEULU NORTH (CHILUBI, LUWINGU), OF THE TWENTY THREE ARRESTED, FOUR WERE ACQUITTED BECAUSE THEY WERE JUVENILES, FOUR WERE GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCES OF ONE YEAR EACH WHILE THE REST OF THE CASES ARE STILL BEFORE THE COURT.
- IN LUAPULA RIVER FISHERY (MWENSE AND KAWAMBWA), ALL THE THIRTY EIGHTY (38) WHO WERE ARRESTED WERE CONVICTED. THE JAIL SENTENCES RANGED FROM ONE TO ONE AND HALF YEARS.
- IN MWERU LUAPULA FISHERY (CHIENGIE), THIRTY TWO (32) ARRESTS WERE MADE – 31 MALE AND 1 FEMALE. OF THESE 19 WERE CONVICTED, 8 ACQUITTED AND TWO ESCAPED FROM POLICE CUSTODY. THE JAIL SENTENCES RANGED FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS.

- IN MWERU LUAPULA FISHERY (NCHELENGE), ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY THREE (133) WERE ARRESTED. SEVENTY FIVE WERE CONVICTED. THE CUSTODIAL SENTENCES RANGED FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS.

IN ALL, A TOTAL OF K 15.8 MILLION WAS REALISED THROUGH COURT FINES AND K1.7 MILLION FROM THE SALE OF CONFISCATED FISH.

**MR SPEAKER,**

MY STAFF ALSO MANAGED TO CONFISTICATE FISHING GEAR WHICH INCLUDED TWO BALES OF MOSQUITO NETS AND NINETEEN (19) INDIVIDUAL MOSQUITO NETS, NINETY FIVE (95) SEINE NETS, 1,190 GILL NETS.

IN ADDITION, MY MINISTRY CONFISTICATED A TOTAL OF 300 KG FRESH KAPENTA, 4,946 KG OF FRESH FISH AND 23,068 KG OF DRY FISH DURING THE FISHING BAN PERIOD.

THE CONFISCATED FISH WAS DISPOSED OF BY ORDER OF THE SUBORDINATE COURTS IN THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS. OTHER CONFISCATED ITEMS INCLUDED 3 TRUCKS, 3 MOTOTR CYCLES, 2 YAMAHA ENGINES (1 X 25HP AND 1 X 25HP), 103 FISHING

BOATS, 2 CANOES, 21 BICYCLES, 19 TILLEY LAMPS, 18 SPEARS,  
4 x 50 KG SALT, 8 x 250 LT PLASTIC DRUMS AND 88 PADDLES.

CHIMBAMILONGA AND KAPUTA CONSTITUENCIES  
SUPPLEMENTED MY MINISTRY'S EFFORT IN EFFECTING THE  
FISHING BAN THROUGH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE  
CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND. THIS INITIATIVE IS  
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

**MR SPEAKER,**

I MUST STATE THAT PRIOR TO THE LAUNCH OF THE FISHING  
BAN, MY MINISTRY WORKED TIRELESLY WITH OUR  
COOPERATING PARTNERS SUCH AS THE FINISH GOVERNMENT  
(THROUGH PLARD IN LUAPULA PROVINCE) TO SENSITIZE THE  
COMMUNITIES ON THIS ANNUAL EVENT. A NUMBER OF  
SENSITIZATION MEETINGS WERE ALSO HELD IN ALL THE FISHERY  
AREAS THAT ARE NORMALLY SUBJECT TO CLOSURE.

SENSITISATION PROGRAMMES THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC  
AND PRINT MEDIA WERE ALSO UNDERTAKEN IN AREAS THAT  
ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CLOSURE TO EXPLAIN TO THE  
COMMUNITIES WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM DURING THE  
PERIOD OF THE CLOSURE. THIS IS IN RELATION TO THE



MOVEMENT OF FISH FROM THE AREAS THAT ARE NOT  
AFFECTED BY THE BAN.

**MR SPEAKER,**

ALL OTHER FISHERY AREAS ARE CLOSED TO FISHING FROM 1  
DECEMBER TO END OF FEBRUARY OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR  
EXCEPT FOR LAKES KARIBA AND TANGANYIKA. THE TWO  
WATER BODIES ARE SHARED WATER BODIES AND THEREFORE  
HAVE DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS.

**MR SPEAKER,**

NOW THAT THE FISHING BAN HAS BEEN LIFTED, I URGE ALL  
FISHERS TO USE SUSTAINABLE FISHING METHODS TO AVOID  
DEPLETION OF OUR FISHERIES RESOURCE IN NATURAL WATER  
BODIES.

**I THANK YOU MR SPEAKER.**