



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

**PRE-CROP HARVEST ESTIMATES AND NCZ FERTILIZER
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING MODALITIES FOR THE 2013
AGRICULTURE SEASON**

BY

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1. INTRODUCTION

MR SPEAKER,

I THANK YOU SIR, FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE THE **PRE-CROP HARVEST ESTIMATES** FOR 2013.

IT IS MY PLEASANT DUTY TO REPORT TO THIS HOUSE THE COUNTRY'S **ESTIMATED CROP PRODUCTION FOR THE 2012/2013 AGRICULTURAL SEASON**. FURTHER, I WISH TO EXPLAIN THE COUNTRY'S **NATIONAL FOOD BALANCE SHEET STATUS** FOR THE MARKETING SEASON COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 1ST MAY, 2013 TO 30TH APRIL, 2014.

2. PRE-CROP HARVEST ESTIMATES

MR SPEAKER,

ANNUALLY, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OR ITS PREDECESSORS, ANNOUNCES THE DATE OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE **MARKETING SEASON**. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THAT PRACTICE, ON 14TH MAY THIS YEAR, I ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE **PRE-MARKETING SEASON CROP FORECAST SURVEY**, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED JOINTLY BETWEEN OUR MINISTRY AND THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (CSO).

MR SPEAKER,

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THIS YEAR, ZAMBIA IS LIKELY TO HARVEST ABOUT **2,532,800 METRIC TONNES OF MAIZE**, WHICH REPRESENTS AN 11% DROP, WHEN COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. THE REDUCTION IN MAIZE PRODUCTION IS PARTLY AS A RESULT OF POOR RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHERN, EASTERN, LUSAKA, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES. ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY RECEIVED ENOUGH RAINFALL, THE DISTRIBUTION OVER TIME AND GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD WAS ERRATIC. OTHER NEGATIVE FACTORS SUCH AS **THE ARMY WORM OUTBREAK** ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE REDUCTION OF MAIZE YIELDS. ALTHOUGH FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE ARMY WORMS WERE PROVIDED WITH SEED TO REPLANT THEIR MAIZE FIELDS, THE REPLANTED CROP WAS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY THE SUDDEN END OF THE RAINS BEFORE THE MAIZE COULD REACH FULL MATURITY. THIS

RESULTED IN SHRIVELING OF THE MAIZE IN SOME CASES. THE INCREASE IN AREA PLANTED TO MAIZE, HAS TO SOME EXTENT, HELPED TO OFF-SET THE IMPACT OF THE REDUCTION IN MAIZE YIELDS.

FURTHER, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF OTHER MAJOR CROPS. AREA PLANTED TO **COTTON** REDUCED BY 48 PERCENT WHILE COTTON PRODUCTION DECREASED BY 48 PER CENT. THE REDUCTION IN AREA PLANTED TO COTTON IS DUE TO THE MARKETING CHALLENGES THAT THE SUB-SECTOR EXPERIENCED IN THE LAST MARKETING YEAR. I, THEREFORE, WISH TO ENCOURAGE OUR FARMERS TO CONTINUE INVESTING IN COTTON PRODUCTION.

RICE PRESENTS ANOTHER CROP WITH SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTION POTENTIAL. PRODUCTION FOR 2013 HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO HAVE DECLINED BY 1 PERCENT TO 44,747 METRIC TONNES FROM 45,321 METRIC TONNES IN 2012. I WISH TO ENCOURAGE OUR FARMERS, PARTICULARLY IN WESTERN PROVINCE, CHAMBESHI VALLEY IN NORTHERN PROVINCE AND CHAMA AND LUANGWA VALLEY IN MUCHINGA PROVINCE AS WELL AS LUAPULA PROVINCE, TO INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION.

PRODUCTION FOR SOME CROPS SUCH AS MILLET, GROUNDNUTS AND SORGHUM DURING THE 2012/2013 SEASON HAS DECLINED BY 15.83 PERCENT, 5.52 PERCENT AND 2.65 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY MAINLY DUE TO POOR PERFORMANCE OF RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION.

HOWEVER, IN SO FAR AS MAIZE GRAIN IS CONCERNED, THE COUNTRY'S FOOD BALANCE SHEET INDICATES AN ANNUAL SURPLUS OF 453,995MT. **THERE ARE SUFFICIENT CARRY OVER STOCKS AS OF 1ST MAY 2013**, EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT EXPORTS TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

MR SPEAKER, SIR,

IN GENERAL, THE AREA PLANTED TO MOST CROPS CONTINUES TO INCREASE. I AM PLEASED TO INFORM THIS AUGUST HOUSE, THAT PRODUCTION OF SOYABEANS, SUNFLOWER, MIXED BEANS, BAMBARA NUTS, COWPEAS, SWEET POTATOES, WHEAT, POPCORN AND BURLEY

TOBACCO, HAVE ALL SHOWN INCREASES, IN COMPARISON TO PRODUCTION RECORDED IN THE 2011/2012 AGRICULTURAL SEASON.

AREA PLANTED TO **SOYA BEANS** INCREASED BY 45 PERCENT WHILE PRODUCTION INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT. THIS IS DRIVEN IN LARGE PART BY THE FAVOURABLE PRICES OF SOYA BEANS ON THE LOCAL MARKET AND INCREASED DEMAND FOR STOCK FEED BY THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY.

AREA PLANTED TO COW PEAS INCREASED BY 62 PERCENT WHILE ITS PRODUCTION INCREASED BY 94 PER CENT. AREA PLANTED TO MIXED BEANS INCREASED BY 17 PERCENT WHILE PRODUCTION INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT.

THE **WHEAT** CROP FOR THE 2012/2013 SEASON IS CURRENTLY UNDER PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, ESTIMATES BASED ON FORECAST AREA TO BE PLANTED, INDICATE THAT THE COUNTRY IS LIKELY TO ATTAIN A PRODUCTION OF **273,600** METRIC TONNES OF WHEAT FOR THE 2012/2013 SEASON, COMPARED TO **253,522** METRIC TONNES PRODUCED IN 2011/2012.

I AM, THEREFORE, CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE INCREASES IN HECTARAGE AND PRODUCTION OF MANY CROPS COUPLED WITH OTHER INITIATIVES THAT MY MINISTRY IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING, ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE TO REGISTER POSITIVE GROWTH IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

MR SPEAKER,

ON 14TH MAY, WHEN I ANNOUNCED THE **CROP FORECASTING SURVEY** RESULTS FOR THE **2012/2013 AGRICULTURAL SEASON** AND THE **FOOD BALANCE SHEET STATUS**, FOR THE 2013/2014 MARKETING SEASON, I ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY (FRA) WOULD COMMENCE CROP PURCHASES ON 10TH JUNE 2013 DEPENDING UPON THE **MOISTURE CONTENT FOR MAIZE GRAIN** REACHING DESIRED LOW LEVELS OF 12.5%. THIS IS NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE POST-HARVEST STORAGE LOSSES.

I WISH TO INFORM THE NATION THAT MOISTURE CONTENT FOR MAIZE GRAIN HAS BEEN RECORDED ON A REGULAR BASIS FROM LAST MONTH. THE LAST READINGS UNDERTAKEN ON

27TH JUNE 2013 INDICATE A MOISTURE CONTENT RANGING FROM **12.41% TO 14.94%**. THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AT THE SAME DATE, WAS REGRETTABLY **13.13%**, HIGHER THAN THE SAFE THRESHOLD.

THIS MEANS THEREFORE THAT FRA COULD NOT HAVE COMMENCED BUYING MAIZE IMMEDIATELY IN MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. NEVERTHELESS, MONITORING OF THE MOISTURE LEVELS BY EXPERTS, HAS CONTINUED UNTIL IT REACHES THE DESIRED LEVEL OF **12.5%**. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AS OF LAST FRIDAY, THE 13TH OF JULY, THE AVERAGE MOISTURE CONTENT STOOD AT 12.64% AND IN A NUMBER OF PROVINCES HAD REACHED BELOW 12.5%. THE COPPERBELT WAS AT 12.15%, EASTERN (A) 12.5%, EASTERN (B), 12.47%, SOUTHERN (A) 12.12%, SOUTHERN (B) 12.17%. OTHERS ARE CLOSE TO 12.5%. LUAPULA 12.78%, LUSAKA 12.70%, WESTERN 12.35%, NORTHERN 12.86%, NORTHWESTERN 12.53%.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT FRA WILL COMMENCE BUYING MAIZE-GRAIN ON MONDAY, 22ND JULY, 2013. OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUT IN PLACE IN THE DEPOTS IN RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS. FRA IS CURRENTLY TRAINING AND DEPLOYING SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL IN ALL THE 1,231 DEPOTS NATION-WIDE.

MEANWHILE, I WISH TO REPORT THAT OVER **16 MILLION EMPTY GRAIN BAGS** AND OVER **1, 000 WEIGHING SCALES**, HAVE ALREADY BEEN PRE-POSITIONED AT DISTRICT DEPOTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO OTHER MARKETING REQUISITES SUCH AS GRAIN SIEVES, TWINE AND BLACK SHEETS.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO URGE AND REMIND OUR SMALL-SCALE FARMERS, THAT THE FRA WILL BE BUYING ONLY **WHITE 'GRADE A' MAIZE**. I ALSO WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT THIS YEAR, **WE ENCOURAGE OUR FARMERS NOT TO SPEND NIGHTS AT THE SATELLITE DEPOTS**. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT OUR FARMERS INTENSIFY THE SORTING AND CLEANING OF THEIR HARVESTED GRAIN FROM THEIR HOUSES OR FARMS FOR DELIVERY TO THE FRA SATELLITE DEPOTS. CLEANING OF GRAIN FROM THE HOUSE OR FARM IS EASIER AND MORE CONVENIENT, AS THIS WILL MINIMIZE THE TIME SPENT BY OUR FARMERS AT THE FRA DEPOTS.

I ENCOURAGE ALL FARMERS **NOT** TO SELL THEIR MAIZE AT PRICES LOWER THAN THE BASE PRICE OF **K65 PER 50KG BAG OF GRADE A NON-GMO MAIZE**.

3. MILLER TO PURCHASE OWN MAIZE STOCKS

MR SPEAKER,

FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO RESTRICT THE BUYING OF MAIZE GRAIN BY THE FRA, TO THAT OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC RESERVES ONLY, THE MINISTRY WISHES TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE HOUSE AND THROUGH THIS STATEMENT, THAT FRA WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP) UNIT OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, WILL IMMEDIATELY COMMENCE THE PURCHASES TO BE MADE THROUGH THE BARTER EXCHANGE OF MAIZE FOR FERTILIZER. FOR PROCUREMENTS TO BE MADE BY FRA FOR CASH, PAYMENT WILL BE MADE WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS. SIMILARLY, BARTER EXCHANGE FERTILIZER WILL BE DELIVERED TO DEPOTS WITHIN 14 DAYS.

MEANWHILE, I WISH TO INFORM ALL MILLERS THAT THEY WILL BE EXPECTED TO PROCURE AND CARRY THEIR OWN STOCKS TO COVER THE ENTIRE YEAR, FROM **JULY, 2013 TO NEXT YEAR JUNE, 2014**.

4. NCZ DELIVERIES OF FERTILISER TO THE DISTRICTS

MR SPEAKER,

I AM DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH OF JUNE 2013, I FLAGGED OFF THE FIRST FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTION TO **ALL THE PROVINCES, PARTICULARLY TARGETING FAR-FLUNG HIGH PRODUCTION AREAS** THAT WERE IDENTIFIED TO RECEIVE THE INITIAL SUPPLY OF SOME **40,000 METRIC TONNES**. I TRUST THAT EVEN DOUBTING MEMBER OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE WILL NOW START TO BELIEVE THAT THE PF GOVERNMENT MEANS BUSINESS AND IS DELIVERING.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AS OF 30TH JUNE, 2013, THE FOLLOWING WAS THE POSITION:

- (a) REHABILITATION OF CRITICAL PARTS OF THE PLANT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AT TOTAL COST OF **KR70.4 MILLION**.AS A RESULT OF THE REHABILITATION WORKS CARRIED OUT, THE RATED CAPACITY OF THE PLANT HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY INCREASED FROM **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (100, 000) METRIC TONNES TO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THOUSAND (150, 000) METRIC TONNES**, AN IMPROVEMENT OF **50% PERCENT** OF THE ORIGINAL RATED CAPACITY; AND
- (b) PRODUCTION AGAINST THE ORDER OF **FISP FERTILIZER** HAS NOW EXCEEDED**42,000 METRIC TONNES**. THE ENTIRE ORDER IS PLANNED TO BE COMPLETED BY MID-AUGUST NEXT MONTH.MEANWHILE, THE PLANT HAS CONTINUED TO PERFORM EXCEEDINGLY WELL AND ALL THE WAREHOUSES ARE FULL SUCH THAT, WE FOUND IT APPROPRIATE TO COMMENCE FERTILIZER DELIVERIES, WAY AHEAD OF ORIGINAL SCHEDULE.

IF THIS IS NOT DELIVERY BY THE PF GOVERNMENT, THEN, WHAT IS IT?

THAT IS PERFORMANCE BY THE PF GOVERNEMENT!!

THE **AMMONIUM NITRATE** PLANT WHICH HAD NOT WORKED FOR 11 YEARS SINCE 2002 HAS ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFULLY REHABILITATED AND IS NOW READY FOR TEST PRODUCTION. AMMONIUM HAS BEEN ORDERED AND UPON ITS RECEIPT WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS, PRODUCTION TESTING WILL COMMENCE. OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

MR. SPEAKER,

THAT IS DELIVERY BY THE PF GOVERNMENT!

THIS GOVERNMENT WILL ACT AND NOT WASTE TIME TALKING!!

NO ONE CAN DISPUTE THE IMPORTANT **MILESTONE** IN THE LIFE OF THE NCZ AND THE LIVELIHOODS OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE OF KAFUE. THE BENEFIT OF ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE **PF GOVERNMENT** WILL BE FELT BEYOND KAFUE, TO ALL WHO

WILL RECEIVE PRODUCTS FROM THE PLANT, INCLUDING DISTRICTS REPRESENTED BY OPPOSITION MEMBERS IN THE HOUSE.

MR. SPEAKER, NO ONE CAN FAIL TO APPRECIATE THAT THIS IS GREAT PERFORMANCE BY THE PF GOVERNMENT.

5. MAIZE AND MAIZE PRODUCTS EXPORTS

MR SPEAKER,

AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, FRA HAS ENTERED INTO A NUMBER OF SALE AGREEMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES FOR THE SALE OF MAIZE GRAIN. PLEASE LET IT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE ARE **NOTDONATIONS** FROM ZAMBIA TO ITS NEIGHBOURS. THESE ARE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS AND BEING PAID FOR. THE PROCEEDS FROM THESE SALES ARE ALL BEING DEPOSITED INTO A **SPECIAL BANK** ACCOUNT HELD AT THE **BANK OF ZAMBIA** FROM WHICH ALL OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS TO COMMERCIAL BANKS THAT FUNDED THE GRAIN PURCHASES, LAST YEAR, ARE BEING SERVICED.

LET ME REITERATE WHAT I HAVE STATED BEFORE, THAT THE COUNTRY CURRENTLY HAS MORE THAN **SUFFICIENT MAIZE STOCKS** AND THAT THERE IS **NO CAUSE FOR ANY PANIC** WHATSOEVER. FRA HOLDS SUFFICIENT STOCKS TO MEET ANY UNFORESEEN EMERGENCIES.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WISH TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT AT THE SADC MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE MEETING HELD IN MAPUTO, ON 7TH JUNE, MINISTERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE SITUATION OF GRAIN AVAILABILITY IN THE REGION IS QUITE PRECARIOUS AND THERE WILL BE A SHORTFALL IN THE ENTIRE REGION. ALMOST ALL THE COUNTRIES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE WILL EXPERIENCE A MAIZE GRAIN SHORTAGE.

THE GOVERNMENT SEES THE FOOD SHORTAGES IN THE ECONOMIC REGIONS, AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THIS GROWING MARKET. OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION IS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION ALL ROUND FIRST IN ORDER TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY AT HOME, THEN ALSO TO POSITION ZAMBIA AS THE **REGION'S FOOD BASKET**.

6.0 CONCLUSION

MR SPEAKER,

LET ME INFORM HONOURABLE MEMBERS THAT THEY WILL FIND A COPY OF THE **ZAMBIA CROP FORECAST SURVEY SUMMARY FLIERFOR THE 2012/2013 AGRICULTURE SEASON**IN THEIR PIGEON HOLE.

AS I CONCLUDE, LET ME MAKE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION. QUITE OFTEN WHEN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS HAVE PROVIDED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OR MADE MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS, IN REACTION OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE OPPOSITION CLAIM GOVERNMENT IS WRONG UNLESS THAT ACTION IS ACCORDING TO WHAT MMD DID OR UPND WOULD HAVE DONE.

GOVERNMENT HAS TREMENDOUS DIFFICULTIES APPRECIATING THIS STANCE. SIR, THE PF GOVERNMENT HAS ITS OWN APPROACH TO RESOLVING ZAMBIA'S CHALLENGES. TO DISCOVER, IS TO FIND SOMETHING OR DETERMINE SOME IDEAS THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS NOT DONE SO BEFORE.

TO INVENT IS TO FIND A NEW TECHNOLOGY OR WAY OF SOLVING A PARTICULAR PROBLEM. THEREFORE JUST BECAUSE, PF HAVE NOT DONE IT THE WAY MMD DID IT OR WOULD HAVE PREFERED IT DONE, DOES NOT MAKE THE PF APPROACH WRONG. SIMILARLY JUST BECAUSE THE PF GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DONE IT THE WAY UPND HAD PLANNED, OR WOULD HAVE PREFERRED DONE, DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE PF APPROACH.

THE PF GOVERNMENT HAS ITS OWN IDEAS, AS REFLECTED IN ITS MANIFESTO, THE RIGHT AS GOVERNMENT AND THE MANDATE FROM THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE TO IMPLEMENT WHAT IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE TO SOLVE THAT PROBLEM AT HAND.

HENCE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE TO ADOPT THE MMD WAY OR THE UPND WAY.

MR, SPEAKER, I THANK YOU.