



**Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental  
Protection**

***MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL TREE  
PLANTING PROGRAMME TO BE DELIVERED IN  
PARLIAMENT THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012 BY  
MINISTER OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,  
HON. WYLBUR C. SIMUUSA, MP***

MR. SPEAKER, I AM GREATLY HONOURED TO ISSUE THIS MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME (NTPP). THIS IS AN INITIATIVE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA WITH HELP FROM CO-OPERATING PARTNERS AND PRIVATE SECTOR, TO PLANT **25,100,000** TREES COUNTRY WIDE EQUIVALENT TO APPROXIMATELY **20,000** HECTARES WHICH WILL INCLUDE OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR TREE PLANTING INITIATIVES, FOR THE 2012/2013 TREE PLANTING SEASON.

OUR COUNTRY ZAMBIA IS ENDOWED WITH VAST FOREST RESOURCES CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT 49.9 MILLION HECTARES OR 66% OF TOTAL LAND COVER OF ZAMBIA; WITH A GROWING VOLUME OF **2.9 BILLION** CUBIC METRES PER ANNUM. REGRETTABLY, THIS RESOURCE IS PRESENTLY THREATENED WITH ONE OF THE HIGHEST

DEFORESTATION RATES IN THE WORLD, ESTIMATED AT **250,000 TO 300,000** HECTARES PER ANNUM. THE ATTENDANT ANNUAL SAW LOG/TIMBER DEFICIT IS **2.5** MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THERE IS URGENT NEED MR. SPEAKER, FOR A SERIOUS CONCERTED EFFORT TO ADDRESS THIS VERY SERIOUS SITUATION AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 30 YEARS, YOUR PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT IN LINE WITH ITS MANIFESTO, HAS TAKEN A BOLD STEP TO ADDRESS THE DEPLETING FOREST RESOURCES BY FUNDING MY MINISTRY WITH AN INITIAL AMOUNT OF **K12 BILLION**. THE PURPOSE OF THIS FUNDING IS TO:

1. IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH ELEVEN (11) LARGE SCALE TREE NURSERIES IN OUR TEN (10) PROVINCES AND AT FORESTRY RESEARCH CENTRE IN KITWE;

2. RAISE **17,500,000** TREE SEEDLINGS IN **11** LARGE SCALE FOREST NURSERIES COUNTRY-WIDE; BY DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2012;
3. ENGAGE **4,972**, LOCAL PEOPLE DURING THE PRODUCTION; WHICH WILL INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS WITH TREE SEEDLING NURSERIES;
4. DEVELOP AN OUT-GROWER SCHEME TO PRODUCE **8,000,000 SEEDLINGS** COUNTRYWIDE VALUED AT K1 BILLION (800 NURSERIES OF 10,000 SEEDLINGS CAPACITY EACH);
5. INVOLVE TRADITIONAL RULERS, SCHOOLS, HEALTH FACILITIES, CHURCHES AND OTHER COMMUNITY BASED INSTITUTIONS IN TREE PLANTING; AND
6. PLANT ***PINUS, EUCALUPTUS, MORINGA, FALDHERBIA*** AND OTHER TREE SPECIES INCLUDING FRUIT TREES.

THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNISED THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT HIGH RATE OF DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION IF NOT URGENTLY ADDRESSED, WILL LEAD TO DESERTIFICATION, WHICH IS THE DRYING UP OF OUR COUNTRY ZAMBIA. MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY SHALL BE AFFECTED WITH HUGE REPARCUSIONS FOR OUR WELL BEING AS A PEOPLE AND INDEED TO OUR LIVESTOCK AS WELL AS WILD ANIMALS. WE ARE ALREADY WITNESSING THIS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY LIKE THE MWERU-WANTIPA IN KAPUTA DISTRICT, NORTHERN PROVINCE AS WELL AS CENTRAL, SOUTHERN AND WESTERN PROVINCES.

MR. SPEAKER, A WELL MANAGED FOREST RESOURCE IS VITAL FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SOUND PRODUCTIVE

ECO-SYSTEMS WHICH WE SO MUCH DEPEND ON SUCH AS WATER CATCHMENT AREAS.

RECENTLY, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO VISIT THE SOURCE OF THE MIGHTY ZAMBEZI RIVER IN IKELENGE DISTRICT AND I WAS DISMAYED TO LEARN FROM OUR CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS THAT DUE TO REDUCTION IN FOREST COVER BECAUSE OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES, THE AMOUNT OF WATER DISCHARGE HAS REDUCED DRASTICALLY. THIS REDUCTION IN WATER DISCHARGE THREATENS THE FUTURE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NOT ONLY ZAMBIA, BUT THE SADC REGION AS A WHOLE. THIS ARISES DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE ENTIRE ZAMBEZI RIVER BASEMENT AREA WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED GIVING RISE TO UNTOLD MISERY TO BOTH HUMAN BEINGS AND ANIMALS.

WORSE STILL, THIS SAD DEVELOPMENT HAS BECOME THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN MANY PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY. FORESTS ARE BEING INDISCRIMINATELY CLEARED TO PAVE WAY FOR UNSUSTAINABLE POOR AGRICULTURAL METHODS OF FARMING, CHARCOAL PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES AND LOGGING PRACTICES WITH VERY LITTLE CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR ACTIONS TO OUR ENVIRONMENT. HENCE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT'S URGENCY IN EMBARKING ON A NATIONAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME TO REVERSE THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR FORESTS FOR OUR OWN SURVIVAL.

MR. SPEAKER, BESIDES THE ASPECT OF FIGHTING FOR OUR SURVIVAL, THE PLANTING, PROPER MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF TREES WHICH I AM CALLING "**OUR**

**GREEN GOLD**" HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TURN THE ECONOMY OF ZAMBIA AROUND. I BORROW FROM THE EXAMPLE OF FINLAND WHOSE ECONOMY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND IS SUSTAINED BY THE PRUDENT USE OF THEIR FORESTS AND WHOSE ECONOMY IS RANKED AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.

BEARING THE FOREGOING IN MIND, MR. SPEAKER, AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL THE NATIONAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FOLLOWS:-

- (A) NURSERY SIZE SHALL BE **2 TO 3** HECTARES PER DISTRICT;
- (B) **1,550** TONS OF SOIL SHALL BE COLLECTED FOR NURSERY;
- (C) **452** WORKERS SHALL BE ENGAGED PER PROVINCE AND AT FORESTRY RESEARCH;



(D) **1,550,000** POLYTHENE POTS SHALL BE FILLED WITH SOIL AND SOWN SEED;

(E) **1,550,000** POLYTHENE POTS SHALL BE ASSUMED FOR SEED GERMINATION AND SURVIVAL; AND

(F) EACH PROVINCE AND THE FORESTRY RESEARCH BRANCH SHALL RECEIVE **K485,057,251** FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION.

VARIOUS SELECTIONS OF SPECIES FOR DIFFERENT USES SHALL BE GROWN:-

(I) ***PINUS*** SPECIES SHALL BE GROWN TO PRODUCE TIMBER, POLES AND RESINS;

(II) ***EUCALYPTUS*** SPECIES SHALL BE GROWN TO PRODUCE TIMBER, POLES AND FIREWOOD;

(III) ***FALDHERBIA ALBIDA*** (THORN TREE) SPECIES SHALL BE GROWN FOR ANIMAL FODDER, NITROGEN FIXING (AMELIORATION OF THE SOIL) AND FIREWOOD; AND

(IV) **MORINGA OLEIFERA** FOR MEDICINE, FODDER, OIL AND FOOD. THIS SHALL CONSTITUTE 20% OF THE TOTAL GROWING STOCK; AND

(V) **FRUIT TREES** (GUAVA, LEMON, PAWPAW, POMEGRANADE, MANGO, AVOCADO, ETCETRA) FOR FOOD. FRUIT TREES SHALL CONSTITUTE 40% OF GROWING STOCK WHILE THE REST SHALL CONSTITUTE 60%.

NEEDLESS TO STATE HERE, THE PROGRAMME CAN NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF OUR COMMUNITIES. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE EXPECTED TO PLANT THE **8,000,000** TREES COUNTRY WIDE:-

(A) SCHOOLS;

(B) CHIEFDOMS;

(C) CLINICS; AND HEALTH FACILITIES

(D) CHURCHES;

(E) WOMEN GROUPS, YOUTH GROUPS;

(F) OTHER INSTITUTIONS (ZNS, ZESCO, BANKS, ZAFFICO,

KCM, BUSINESSES ETC); AND

(G) INDIVIDUALS.

(H) MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MP's)

AN AVERAGE OF **100,000** SEEDLINGS WILL BE PLANTED IN EACH OF THE 80 DISTRICTS.

PRESENTLY, THE FOLLOWING QUANTITIES OF SEED HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AND DISPATCHED TO THE PROVINCIAL FORESTRY OFFICES THROUGH THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT:-

(1) ***PINUS KESIYA AND OOCARPA*** – 50KG. EACH

PROVINCE HAS BEEN GIVEN 4-5KG EQUIVALENT 270,000 SEEDS.

- (2) ***EUCALYPTUS*** (VARIOUS SPECIES) – **10KG**. EACH PROVINCE HAS BEEN GIVEN 1KG EQUIVALENT TO 1 MILLION SEEDS;
- (3) ***FALDHERBIA ALBIDA*** (THORN TREE) – **300KG**  
EACH PROVINCE HAS BEEN GIVEN 27.3KG EQUIVALENT TO 273,000 SEEDS;
- (4) ***MORINGA OLEIFERA*** – **300KG**. EACH PROVINCE HAS BEEN GIVEN **27.3KG** EQUIVALENT TO **68,000** SEEDS;
- (5) ***BAKIAE PLURIJUGA*** (***MIOMBO TREE***) – **500KG**.  
WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES SHALL PLANT 50KG EACH EQUIVALENT TO 100,000 SEED EACH; AND

(6) **GUIBORTIA COLEOSPERMUM (MUZAULI) – 200KG.**

WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES SHALL  
PLANT **30KG** EACH EQUIVALENT TO 150,000 SEED  
EACH.

THE NURSERY OUTGROWER SCHEME IS EXPECTED TO  
RAISE **8,000,000** SEEDLINGS IN TEN (10) PROVINCES. THE  
GOVERNMENT SHALL PURCHASE EACH SEEDLING AT  
**K500.00.**

UPON RAISING THE SEEDLINGS THEY SHALL BE  
TRANSPLANTED IN DESIGNATED AREAS AS SHOWN  
BELOW:-

(1) CENTRAL PROVINCE – KABWE AND SERENJE, 700  
HECTARES;

(2) COPPERBELT PROVINCE – NDOLA, MUFULIRA AND  
CHINGOLA, 5000 HECTARES;

- (3) EASTERN PROVINCE – KATETE AND CHIPATA, 2,700 HECTARES;
- (4) LUAPULA PROVINCE – MWENSE, SAMFYA AND KAPUTA, 5,000 HECTARES;
- (5) LUSAKA PROVINCE – CHONGWE AND LUFUNSA, 4,000 HECTARES;
- (6) MUCHINGA PROVINCE – CHINSALI AND MPIKA, 10,000 HECTARES;
- (7) NORTHERN PROVINCE – KASAMA AND MPULUNGU, 5,000 HECTARES;
- (8) NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE – SOLWEZI AND MWINILUNGA, 5,000;
- (9) SOUTHERN PROVINCE – CHOMA, MAGOYE AND KALOMO, 3,000 HECTARES AND
- (10) WESTERN PROVINCE – MONGU AND KAOMA, 5,000 HECTARES;

GIVEN THE FOREGOING, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HECTARAGE TO BE PLANTED IS **51,700** COUNTRY WIDE.

**MR. SPEAKER**

FORESTS ARE A RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCE WHICH, WITH PRUDENT MANAGEMENT, CAN SUSTAIN OUR COUNTRY IN PERPETUITY BY PROVIDING FOREST GOODS, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SOUND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES.

THIS NATIONAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME, ONCE FULLY ROLED OUT IS EXPECTED TO CREATE MORE THAN **200,000** JOBS. WHILE THE FIRST PHASE OF ESTABLISHING ELEVEN LARGE SCALE FOREST NURSERIES AND COMMUNITY NURSERIES WILL CREATE MORE THAN **6,000** JOBS COUNTRY WIDE.

IT IS MY SINCERE BELIEF THAT ONCE THIS PROGRAMME IS IMPLEMENTED, THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE CONTRIBUTED ITS SHARE IN THE REDUCTION OF GREEN HOUSE GASES WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE WITH ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS TO MOTHER EARTH.

I THEREFORE, URGE ALL MINISTRIES, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, INDIVIDUAL NURSERY OWNERS, YOUTHS, WOMEN AND MEN TO VISIT THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT AT PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICES TO FIND OUT HOW THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS NOBLE CAUSE.

BEFORE I END MY STATEMENT, I WISH TO STATE THAT IN TANDEM WITH THE EFFORTS TO RESTORE OUR VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCE, YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT ON THE ONE HAND WHILE WE EMBARK ON THIS NATIONAL



TREE PLANTING EXERCISE, ON THE OTHER HAND WE NEED TO PUT MEASURES TO STOP THE DESTRUCTION AND CUTTING DOWN OF OUR TREES.

IN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS OR SO MY OFFICE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM CONCERNED CITIZENS ABOUT THE MANNER OUR VALUABLE TIMBER SPECIES ARE BEING EXPLOITED. MOST, IF NOT ALL TIMBER LICENCEES DO NOT ABIDE BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THEIR LICENCES. A LOT OF DEBRIS AND BRANCHWOOD IS LEFT ON STUMPS FRUSTRATING COPPING AND NATURAL SEEDING, THUS ADVERSELY AFFECTING NATURAL REGENERATION.

EQUALLY ALL FOREST LICENCEES HAVE NOT DEMARCATED THEIR BOUNDARIES AND PUT INTO EFFECT EFFECTIVE FIRE MANAGEMENT REGIMES TO ENCOURAGE

NATURAL REGERATION OF THEIR CONCESSION AREAS, THE LACK OF CLEAR BOUNDARIES FOR THEIR CONCESSION AREAS HAS BROUGHT UNNECESSARY DISPUTES WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

FURTHERMORE, IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT MOST TIMBER LICENCEES ARE OVERCUTTING THEIR ALLOWABLE EXTRACTION VOLUMES PER MONTH AND ARE IN THE HABIT OF PURCHASING ILLEGAL TIMBER FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES, THUS ABETTING THE UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION OF OUR VALUABLE TIMBER SPECIES. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, MOST PITSAW LICENCEES ARE USING CHAIN SAWS AND WOODMISERS FOR FELLING AND SPLITTING TIMBER RESPECTIVELY AND NOT THE AXES AND TWO (2) MAN SAWS IN THE PIT, THUS OVER CUTTING THE ALLOWABLE VOLUME FOR PITSAWERS PER MONTH.

THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

IT IS IN THIS REGARD THAT I, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT SUSPEND ALL TIMBER LICENSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AS EMPOWERED UNDER SECTION 68 (2) (F) OF THE FORESTS ACT NUMBER 39 OF 1973 CAP 199 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA. THIS SUSPENSION WILL NOT HOWEVER APPLY TO EXOTIC TIMBER PLANTATIONS OR TO TIMBER THAT WAS LEGALLY EXTRACTED, PROCESSED AND IS IN TIMBER YARDS, FACTORIES OR MARKETS.

ALL PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT FOREST OFFICIALS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE INSTRUCTED TO ENSURE THAT THIS BAN IS ENFORCED. MY MINISTRY WILL ENGAGE OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS, LINE MINISTRIES, NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR, SAWMILLERS, JUST TO MENTION BUT A FEW TO

DEVELOP EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCY SYSTEMS IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR VALUABLE TIMBER SPECIES AS WELL AS POLICING MECHANISMS.

DURING THE SUSPENSION PERIOD, NO INDIGENOUS SAW LOGS, CANTS OR POLES WILL BE FELLED AND TRANSPORTED TO ANY DESTINATION. ANY SAW LOGS, CANTS OR INDEED POLES THAT WILL BE FOUND BEING FELLED OR TRANSPORTED TO ANY DESTINATION OR MARKETS WILL BE CONFISCATED AND FORFEITED TO THE STATE.

MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE TAKEN THIS DRASTIC MEASURE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

IN ENDING THIS MINISTERIAL STATEMENT, I CALL UPON ON  
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US TO GIVE A GIFT OF LIFE AND  
PLANT A TREE.

**MR SPEAKER, I THANK YOU.**