



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE POINT OF ORDER RAISED BY
HON. JONAS SHAKAFUSWA MP, AND ON THE STATUS OF THE
INPUT DISTRIBUTION UNDER THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT

PRGROMME (FISP)

BY

HON. WYLBUR SIMUUSA, MP

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

20TH NOVEMBER, 2014

MR SPEAKER,

LET ME START BY THANKING YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE POINT OF ORDER RAISED BY HON. JONAS SHAKAFUSWA YESTERDAY.

MR SPEAKER,

FROM THE ONSET, LET ME STATE THAT IT IS NOT TRUE THAT MY MINISTRY, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, HAS STOPPED RECEIVING PAYMENTS FROM FARMERS FOR INPUTS. ON THE CONTRARY, THE MINISTRY IS RECEIVING PAYMENTS FROM FARMERS AND FARMERS ARE COLLECTING THEIR INPUTS.

MR SPEAKER,

LET ME, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE HOUSE ON THE STATUS OF INPUT DISTRIBUTION UNDER THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP) FOR THE 2014/15 AGRICULTURAL SEASON.

MR SPEAKER,

THE FISP TARGETED TO SUPPORT A TOTAL OF **ONE MILLION FARMERS** WITH SUBSIDIZED INPUTS FOR THE 2014/15 FARMING SEASON. THE CROPS THAT ARE BEING SUPPORTED DURING THE 2014/2015 AGRICULTURAL SEASON ARE MAIZE, RICE, SORGHUM AND GROUNDNUTS.

MR. SPEAKER,

- (i) **D-COMPOUND** – THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF 106,409.75MT WAS PRODUCED BY NITROGEN CHEMICALS OF ZAMBIA (NCZ) IN KAFUE AND HAS SINCE BEEN DELIVERED TO ALL DISTRICTS.
- (ii) **UREA** - OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF 101,826.00 MT, ABOUT 50% IS AVAILABLE FOR THE FARMERS.
- (iii) **MAIZE SEED** - OVER 90% OF THE TOTAL BUDGET OF 10,000 MT HAS BEEN DELIVERED.
- (iv) ABOUT 60% OF **RICE SEED** (127 MT) AND **SORGHUM SEED** (119.1 MT) HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE DISTRICTS.
- (v) **GROUNDNUT SEED** – ONLY 24% OF 1,357.1 MT HAS BEEN DELIVERED. THERE ARE CHALLENGES AS REGARDS THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SEED.

MR SPEAKER,

THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO DELIVERING AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO THE FARMING COMMUNITY TIMELY AND IN ADEQUATE AMOUNTS.

IN ITS ENDEAVOUR TO DELIVER INPUTS TIMELY, GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED THE INPUTS DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE TO FARMERS VERY MAY, 2014. THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED. DUE TO THE EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF THE FISP INPUTS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME, THE MINISTRY HAS MANAGED TO DISTRIBUTE THIS YEAR'S AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO FARMERS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

MR SPEAKER,

AS REGARDS THE ACTUAL PICKUP OF THE INPUTS BY THE FARMERS, I WISH TO REPORT THAT AS AT 20TH NOVEMBER 2014, **OVER 44% OF D-COMPOUND, 19% OF UREA FERTILIZER, 43% OF MAIZE SEED AND 29% OF ASSORTED SEED** HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUT TO FARMERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

MR. SPEAKER,

THE INFORMATION GIVEN HERE INDICATES THAT THE INPUT DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE IS GOING ON VERY WELL.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SOME FARMERS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PAID THEIR MONEY FOR THE PRODUCE THEY SUPPLIED TO THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY (FRA) DURING THE 2014 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SEASON. I WISH TO REPORT THAT CONCERTED EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO ENSURE THAT ALL FARMERS ARE PAID FOR THE MAIZE AND RICE SOLD TO THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY (FRA) BEFORE FULL ONSET OF THIS YEAR'S FARMING SEASON. AS I SPEAK NOW MR. SPEAKER, FUNDS ARE BEING RELEASED IN TRANCHES TO PAY THE FARMERS.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WILL AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME REVERT TO THIS HOUSE WITH A DETAILED STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF PAYMENT OF FARMERS BY THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY.

I THANK YOU.