



Republic of Zambia

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK MINISTERIAL

**STATEMENT BY HONORABLE. GIVEN LUBINDA,
M.P. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK ON "THE
PREPAREDNESS OF THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAM
(FISP) FOR THE 2015/16 AGRICULTURAL SEASON."**

1st October, 2015

MR. SPEAKER,

I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER THIS STATEMENT ON '**THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAM (FISP)**'. THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN NECESSITATED BY THE NEED TO INFORM PARLIAMENT AND THE NATION AT LARGE ON THIS TOPICAL ISSUE.

GOVERNMENT DESIGNED THE THEN FERTILIZER SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FSP) WHICH WAS LATER RENAMED THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP), FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP) IN 2002. THE AIM OF THE PROGRAMME WAS TO IMPROVE ACCESS OF RESOURCE POOR SMALL SCALE FARMERS TO IMPROVED INPUTS AND TO ENHANCE THE PARTICIPATION AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS.

MR. SPEAKER,

DURING THE 2015/2016 AGRICULTURE SEASON, A TOTAL OF **759,000** SMALL-SCALE FARMERS WILL BE SUPPORTED

WITH AGRICULTURAL INPUTS UNDER THE CONVENTIONAL FISP WHILE 241, 000 SMALL-SCALE FARMERS WILL BE TARGETED UNDER THE ELECTRONIC VOUCHER SYSTEM IN 13 DISTRICTS, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES TO 1,000,000 FARMERS. THE DISTRICTS IN WHICH THE E-VOUCHER WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ARE:

- 1) KALOMO
- 2) CHOMA
- 3) MONZE
- 4) MAZABUKA
- 5) CHIKANKATA
- 6) PEMBA
- 7) CHONGWE
- 8) MUMBWA
- 9) CHIBOMBO
- 10) KABWE
- 11) KAPIRI MPOSHI
- 12) NDOLA; AND

13) CHISAMBA

THE E-VOUCHER WILL BE ROLLED OUT TO OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE COMING YEARS. THE E-VOUCHER WILL GIVE FARMERS A WIDE CHOICE OF INPUTS INCLUDING LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES INPUTS AS PART OF GOVERNMENTS PUSH FOR AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION. THESE INPUTS WILL INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, VETERINARY DRUGS, FERTILISERS, SEEDS, FINGERLINGS AND FISH FEED. FURTHER, THE E-VOUCHER SYSTEM WILL ALLOW FARMERS TO SOURCE THEIR INPUTS DIRECTLY FROM AGRO-DEALERS INSTEAD OF GOVERNMENT PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF INPUTS.

IT IS PLANNED THAT THE E-VOUCHER WILL BE LAUNCHED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, MR EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU.

MR. SPEAKER,

UNDER THE CONVENTIONAL FISP, GOVERNMENT WILL ASSIST **759,000** SMALL-SCALE FARMERS WITH THE FOLLOWING INPUTS:

1.	FERTILISER	214.000 MT
2.	MAIZE SEED	5,987.23MT
3.	RICE SEED	127MT
4.	SORGHUM SEED	119.1MT
5.	GROUNDNUTS	1,357.1MT
6.	ORANGE MAIZE	77.6MT
7.	SOYA BEANS	776.5MT
8.	COTION SEED	155.3MT
9.	BEANS SEED	232.86MT
10.	SUNFLOWER	37.28MT

MR SPEAKER

I AM VERY PLEASED TO INFORM THE NATION THROUGH THIS AUGUST HOUSE THAT, THE TREASURY HAS MANAGED TO MOBILISE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PAY ALL INPUT SUPPLIERS FOR THE 2015/2016 FARMING SEASON. THIS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PF GOVERNMENT AND THE TOP PRIORITY IT HAS PLACED ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

THEREFORE, I CALL UPON THE SUPPLIERS TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE INPUTS ARE IN EVERY DISTRICT AND ARE DISTRIBUTED AS

SCHEDULED TO AVOID DELAYS. ON OUR PART WE ARE MONITORING THE MOVEMENT OF THESE INPUTS ON A VERY REGULAR BASIS.

MR. SPEAKER,

I ALSO WISH TO INFORM THE HOUSE AND THE NATION THAT MORE CROPS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED IN FISP THIS SEASON, INCREASING THE NUMBER FROM FOUR TO NINE AS I HAVE STATED ABOVE. THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SUPPORTED CROPS UNDER CONVENTIONAL FISP IS IN PURSUIT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) POLICY OF DIVERSIFICATION. THE INPUTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO 759,000 BENEFICIARIES UNDER CONVENTIONAL FISP AS FOLLOWS:

CROP	NO OF BENEFICIARIES
MAIZE	598,723.00
RICE	12,700.00
SORGHUM	23,820.00
GROUNDNUTS	67,855.00
ORANGE MAIZE	7,760.00
SOYBEANS	15,530.00
COTION	15,530.00
BEANS	7,762.00
SUNFLOWER	9,320.00
TOTAL	759,000.00

THESE INPUTS SHALL SUPPORT OUR FARMERS TO COVER AN AREA OF 379,500 HECTARES.

AS I SPEAK, MORE THAN **72,000MT** OF D-COMPOUND FERTILISER HAS BEEN PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY NITROGEN CHEMICALS OF ZAMBIA LIMITED (NCZ) WHILE **60,790MT** OF UREA FERTILISER HAS BEEN IMPORTED, SUPPLIED AND DISTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS DISTRICT

CENTRES BY THE TWO PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES THAT WERE GIVEN CONTRACTS TO SUPPLY UREA FERTILISER.

IN THE QUEST TO DIVERSIFY, ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO FOOD PRODUCTION AS WELL AS THE NEED TO IMPROVE ON THE NUTRITION AND INCOME STATUS OF OUR FARMERS. THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROGRAMME IS K2.1 BILLION. THIS COVERS THE COST OF INPUTS, TRANSPORTATION, MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION.

MR SPEAKER,

THE FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM THE FISP ARE BEING SELECTED BY THE CAMP AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEES (CACs) THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE FARMER ORGANISATIONS PARTICULARLY FARMER COOPERATIVES. UPON BEING SELECTED IN LINE WITH THE CRITERIA CONTAINED IN THE FISP IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL, THE FARMERS WILL HAVE TO DEPOSIT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE THEY CAN ACCESS THE INPUTS. KEY CRITERIA FOR FARMER SELECTION INCLUDE:-

- (i) BEING A REGISTERED SMALL-SCALE FARMER AND ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FARMING WITHIN THE CAMP COVERAGE AREA;
- (ii) CULTIVATING UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 5 HA OF LAND;
- (iii) HAVING THE CAPACITY TO PAY THE PRESCRIBED FARMER CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE TOTAL COST OF AN INPUT PACK.
- (iv) NOT CONCURRENTLY BENEFITING FROM THE FOOD SECURITY PACK PROGRAMME; AND
- (v) NOT BEING A DEFAULTER FROM ANY OTHER AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMME.

FOR THE 2015/2016 AGRICULTURAL SEASONS THE FARMER CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- (i) MAIZE PACK: K400.00; SUBSIDY – 70.67%
- (ii) SORGHUM PACK: K280.00; SUBSIDY – 73.33%
- (iii) RICE PACK: K220.00; SUBSIDY- 60.67%
- (iv) GROUNDNUTS PACK: K210.00; SUBSIDY- 64. %00
- (v) ORANGE MAIZE PACK: K400.00; SUBSIDY- 74.67%
- (vi) SOYA BEANS PACK: K330.00; SUBSIDY – 68.50%
- (vii) COTTON PACK: K195.00; SUBSIDY – 65.00%

(viii) BEANS PACK: K400.00; SUBSIDY – 72.00% AND

(ix) SUNFLOWER PACK: K280.00. SUBSIDY- 67.33%

THE AVERAGE SUBSIDY ACROSS THE CROPS IN 2015/2016 AGRICULTURAL SEASON WILL BE 71.62% COMPARED TO 66% IN THE 2014/2015 AGRICULTURAL SEASON.

MR SPEAKER

THE ABOVE CALCULATIONS ARE BASED ON THE PRICES AT WHICH THE FISP IS PAYING FOR THE INPUTS WHICH ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE MARKET PRICES. SIR, THE PRICES OF THE FERTILISER ON THE OPEN MARKET ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

‘D’ COMPOUND IS RANGING FROM K280 TO K419 PER 50KG BAG WHILE UREA IS RANGING FROM K363 TO 381 PER 50KG BAG.

MR SPEAKER

I NOW WISH TO ENCOURAGE OUR FARMERS TO MOBILISE RESOURCES SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

AND ACCESS THE INPUTS ON TIME.

FOR THE FARMERS THAT HAVE SOLD THEIR MAIZE TO THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY (FRA), LET ME ASSURE THEM THAT GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PAYING THEM PROMPTLY. THIS WILL ENABLE THE BENEFICIARY FARMERS UNDER FISP TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCESS THE INPUTS FOR THE 2015/2016 AGRICULTURAL SEASON ON TIME.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, I INSTRUCTED THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY TO PAY FARMERS PROMPTLY IN NOT MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF MAIZE BY SATELLITE DEPOTS.

MR SPEAKER

I HAVE SINCE RECEIVED SOME COMPLAINTS FROM SOME DISTRICTS THAT PAYMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE IN ACCORDANCE TO MY INSTRUCTIONS, AS SUCH I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY TO PRESENT TO ME THE FULL SCHEDULE OF MAIZE PURCHASES AND PAYMENT WHICH I WILL AVAIL TO PARLIAMENT IN THE COURSE OF NEXT WEEK.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WISH TO COMMEND OUR HARD-WORKING FARMERS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE DURING THE 2014/2015 AGRICULTURAL SEASON. THEIR HARD WORK MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ZAMBIA TO RECORD A MAIZE SURPLUS DESPITE THE UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS. IN APPRECIATION OF THE FARMERS CONTRIBUTION, GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THE MAIZE IS BOUGHT BY BOTH FRA AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I WILL SOON COME BACK TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE WITH THE STATEMENT ON CROP MARKETING.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CALL UPON THE FARMERS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM FISP TO USE GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTISES SO THAT THEIR PRODUCTIVITY CAN FURTHER INCREASE AND COSTS PER UNIT OF PRODUCTION DECLINE. WITH INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, F A R M E R S SHOULD SEE IMPROVED PROFITABILITY OF THEIR ENTERPRISES.

THE EXTENSION STAFF ARE ALSO BEING DIRECTED TO SUPPORT THE FARMERS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTISES.

MR. SPEAKER,

BESIDES INPUTS THAT FARMERS ACCESS UNDER FISP, I WISH TO ENCOURAGE THOSE WITH BIGGER FIELDS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR INPUTS WITH THOSE FROM THE OPEN MARKET. THIS APPROACH SHOULD LEAD TO INCREASED PRODUCTION.

AS I CALL UPON THE FARMERS TO SUPPLEMENT THE INPUTS FROM FISP WITH THOSE FROM THE OPEN MARKET, I RECOGNISE THAT THIS CAN ONLY WORK EFFECTIVELY IF AGRO-SHOPS EXIST AT CONVENIENT LOCATIONS WHERE FARMERS CAN BUY INPUTS FROM. I, THEREFORE, URGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ESTABLISH AGRO-DEALER SHOPS IN LOCATIONS OF CLOSE PROXIMITY TO FARMERS.

MR. SPEAKER,

IN CONCLUDING, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CAUTION ALL AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS INVOLVED IN FISP TO DESIST FROM INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN MALPRACTICES DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME. AS OFFICERS, THEIR ROLE IS TO ENSURE THAT FISP IS IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY AND IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT POLICY.

FINALLY, I WISH TO CALL UPON THE DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FISP. THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ABOVE STAKEHOLDERS WILL ENSURE THAT CHALLENGES ARE ADDRESSED IN GOOD TIME AND UNNECESSARY DELAYS IN DISTRIBUTING INPUTS TO SELECTED BENEFICIARY FARMERS ARE AVOIDED.

MR. SPEAKER, I THANK YOU