



**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON MINISTER OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ON THE RELEASE OF 2014 AND  
2015 CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND TO CONSTITUENCIES**

**2 OCTOBER 2015**

Mr. Speaker

Arising from the point of order raised by Hon. Allan Divide Mbewe, the Member of Parliament for Chadiza Constituency on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 and the subsequent ruling which you made ordering the Minister of Local Government and Housing to prepare and present a Ministerial Statement on the same, I now do so.

Mr. Speaker

Before I do that, allow me to use this opportunity you have created for me, to welcome and congratulate Hon. George Mwamba (Lubasenshi Constituency); Hon. Kasandwe (Bangweulu Constituency) and Hon. Teddy Kasonso (Solwezi West Constituency) for emerging victorious in the recently-held two Parliamentary by - elections. Welcome to the world of CDF.

Secondly Sir, as I respond to your order to present a Ministerial Statement arising from the point of order, I would like to allay the fears and misgivings the House may have that Government only responds when it is awakened to do so. On the contrary, Sir, the point of order came at a time when sufficient progress was already made on the subject matter. However, I am in no way belittling the point of order but rather thanking the Hon. Member of Parliament for raising it because it also shows the important role the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) plays. Similarly,

the point of order raised by Hon. Victoria Kalima (Kasenengwa Constituency) yesterday in the House shows the critical role that CDF continues to play in the development efforts of the nation.

Mr. Speaker,

If I sound guarded in my submission on CDF disbursements, it is because I respect the roles which the Ministry of Local Government and Housing and the Ministry of Finance - working together - play in the administration of CDF.

The Ministry which I am privileged to lead scrutinizes and approves projects earmarked for implementation by CDF Committees and Councils. Thereafter, the Ministry recommends to the Ministry of Finance for the release of Funds to Constituencies. Before 2014 my Ministry was responsible for disbursing CDF to Constituencies, however, following financial irregularities as regards disbursement of CDF the Ministry of Finance started disbursing funds directly to Constituencies.

The Ministry in June, 2015 had requested Councils to justify the reasons why they were still holding huge balances in the Commercial Banks. The information was received in July, 2015 with justifications and at that time it was established that 112 of the Constituencies had utilized the funds. This is when on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, my Ministry made a formal recommendation and

requested the Ministry of Finance to release 2014 CDF to 37 Constituencies and 2015 CDF to 113 Constituencies whose projects were approved and which had utilized most of their 2013 and 2014 allocations respectively.

Mr. Speaker,

Government has disbursed 2014 CDF to 113 Constituencies amounting to a total of K158.2million leaving a balance of 37 Constituencies that are yet to receive their 2014 CDF allocation amounting to a total of K51.8million. The delay to release 2014 CDF to the 37 Constituencies was due to huge balances of unutilized 2013 CDF allocation which was held in the commercial bank accounts.

Mr. Speaker,

Considering the fiscal limitations and competing demands on the National Treasury allow me to thank the Ministry of Finance for confirming to my Ministry that disbursement of the 2014 CDF to the 37 constituencies will be deposited in the Council accounts today the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2015 while the 113 Constituencies whose projects have been approved and have low account balances in their CDF accounts will start receiving their 2015 CDF allocation this October, 2015.

Mr. Speaker,

Allow me to lay on the table of the House two documents. Document 1 containing the names of the 113 Constituencies which are earmarked to receive 2015 CDF and Document 2 containing names of the 37 Constituencies that are earmarked for 2014 CDF. As Honourable Members will see from document 2, the following constituencies will receive their 2014 CDF this week:-

Kankoyo, Nchanga, Kalulushi, Kamfinsa, Kwacha, Nkana, Chifubu, Kabushi, Chingola, Chimwemwe, Ndola Central, Katuba, Keembe, Mkushi South, Kasenengwa, Petauke Central, Milanzi, Malambo, Msanzala, Chawama, Kabwata, Kanyama, Lusaka Central, Mandevu, Matero, Isoka, Solwezi Central, Livingstone, Chikankata, Katombola, Moomba, Sesheke, Nalikwanda, Chimbamilonga, Senga Hill, Kasama Central, and Lukashya Constituency.

I have also layed the 2006 Guidelines on the Management and utilization of CDF for the perusal of Hon. Members especially Honourable Members of Parliament who have recently come to the House.

Mr. Speaker

Government is committed to ensure that all the one hundred and fifty (150) constituencies are allocated the 2015 CDF as they are all budgeted for and eligible for funding. I apologize to the Honourable Members of Parliament for the delay in the release of CDF and call upon them to closely monitor and supervise these projects to ensure timely implementation.

Mr. Speaker

Allow me to thank all Members of Parliament for the successful utilization of the 2013 and 2014 CDF and urge the Honourable Members to ensure that these projects contribute to uplifting the lives of our people in our communities.

Mr. Speaker,

In conclusion I want to state that it is my sincere hope that Members of Parliament will assist Government in ensuring that funds are no longer held in the Banks unnecessarily so that projects are speedily implemented for the benefit of our communities.

Hon. Members of Parliament CDF is for all the one hundred and fifty constituencies (150) and as such Government attaches great importance to ensuring that this resource reaches all our constituencies without delay or partiality.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.