



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ARTS**

**STATEMENT**

**BY HON. CHARLES. R. BANDA, MP**

**MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ARTS**

**STATEMENT**

**ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF ZAMBIA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY**

**INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

**27.06.2017**

**The Minister of Tourism and Arts (Mr C. R. Banda):** Mr Speaker, I thank you for according me this opportunity to issue a statement on the transformation of the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) into the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) under the Ministry of Tourism and Arts.

Mr Speaker, this august House might recall that the Government abolished ZAWA and created the DNPW following the enactment of the Zambia Wildlife Act No.14 of 2015, which replaced the Zambia Wildlife Act No.12 of 1998, and the granting of Treasury authority for the ministry to transfer of 1,752 former ZAWA employees to the Civil Service in November, 2015. However, by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015, the number of employees on the ZAWA payroll was 2,069. In addition, there were six officers on secondment, bringing the total number to 2,075. The Treasury authority was based on the statistics collected in 2014, but ZAWA employed more staff between 2014 and 2015, hence the difference between the number of positions on the Treasury authority and the number of employees who needed to be integrated into the ministry. In a bid to address the disparity, the ministry requested the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) to freeze thirty-three positions on the Treasury authority, which had initially not existed under ZAWA in order to accommodate more classified daily employees (CDEs) and second request for Treasury authority was granted in November, 2016, which had 181 positions. That increased the total number of positions to be filled to 1,900. Currently, 1, 886 positions are filled while fourteen are vacant, mainly due to death of some officers who were appointed.

Mr Speaker, the breakdown of the 1,900 positions on the two Treasury authorities is as follows:

<i>Staff Categories</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>of</i>
<i>Officers</i>		
Former ZAWA officers transferred to the Civil Service	1,829	
Former ZAWA Officers who came back from secondment	3	
New appointments	11	
Scouts employed as Wildlife Police Officers	16	
Staff transferred from other ministries	27	
Number of positions filled	1,886	
Number of positions available from the treasury authorities	1,900	
Number of vacancies	14	

Mr Speaker, the 2,075 former ZAWA employees who needed to be transferred to the Civil Service were as follows:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>
Number of officers who needed to be transferred	2,075
Officers on ZAWA Payroll	2,069

Officers on secondment	6
Officers dismissed on account of forged qualifications	48
Officers who retired	32
Officers transferred to other ministries	94
Officers whose contracts were not renewed on account of age or after they opted not to re-apply	12
Deceased officers	21
Officers who resigned	6
Officers who returned from secondment	3
Officers still on secondment	3
Officers not yet appointed (on advance list)	27
Officers appointed from ZAWA	1,829
Total	2,075

Mr Speaker, only thirty former ZAWA officers have not yet been transferred to the Civil Service, of which twenty-seven are being paid salary advances equivalent to the salaries they were getting under ZAWA as they await reappointment in the Civil Service while three are still on secondment to the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA), the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) on and Global Environment Fund (GEF).

Mr Speaker, some of the positive results that the transformation of ZAWA into a Government department has started yielding are as follows:

*Improvement in the Revenue Collection*

Mr Speaker, as at December, 2016, revenue from non-consumptive tourism activities in the national parks amounted to K77,069,464.38, compared with K54,723,410.00 in 2015. The revenue was generated from activities in the national parks, such as photographic safaris, entry fees, concession fees and levies. During the same period, revenue amounting to K33,003,118 was also generated from consumptive wildlife utilisation, compared with K32,523,425.19 in 2015. The total revenue in 2016 represents a 26 per cent increase on the 2015 figures. However, it is important to note that only four of the twenty national parks are significantly contributing revenue to the Treasury, namely South Luangwa, Mosi-oa-tunya, Lower Zambezi and Kafue national parks, although there is potential for the other sixteen national parks to do the same if more resources are made available to develop them.

*Consistent Payment of Salaries to Officers*

Mr Speaker, officers managing the wildlife resource now get their salaries every month, unlike the situation under ZAWA, when there were problems in raising funds for salaries. This has enhanced efforts in conservation by wildlife staff, as they now concentrate on conservation rather than on where to find money.

Mr Speaker, in spite of the immediate success in the transformation of ZAWA into a Government department, the DNPW can do better with increased resources. To enhance conservation and protection of wildlife, the Government is doing everything possible to facilitate optimal and effective management of protected areas in accordance with standards set by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The ministry will, therefore, request for an increase in the Budgetary allocation, and we hope to receive support from the House.

Sir, in order to improve the management and accessibility of protected areas, the Government is working hard to improve infrastructure like staff accommodation, training facilities and access roads, and management, which is poor or non-existent in some cases. This will lengthen the tourism season to the whole year.

Mr Speaker, the Government has prioritised tourism development because of its immense potential to contribute to the economic development of the country. In this regard, I thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia for taking the lead in repositioning the sector. Due to tourism in Zambia being largely nature-based, it is important that the Government enhances its commitment to protecting wildlife, national parks and game management areas.

Mr Speaker, as in conclusion, I thank the PSMD and other line ministries, which worked tirelessly to address the challenges encountered in the transformation of

ZAWA. I am confident that the remaining issues, which are largely staff-related, will be cleared in due course because the Government made the right decision to transform ZAWA into a Government department. Beyond doubt, that was done in the best interest of wildlife, the people and the country as a whole.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.