



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BY

THE

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ARTS

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ON

RESIDENT HUNTING IN ZAMBIA

MR. SPEAKER,

I thank you for allowing me to present a Ministerial statement to inform the House and the public on the topical subject of Resident Hunting in Zambia in view of the partial suspension of resident hunting. It is important from the outset to provide a brief background on the subject.

The Zambia Wildlife Act No. 12 of 1998 under section 33 provides for different types of hunting licenses that may be issued by the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA). These are:

1. Resident Hunting licenses,
2. Non-resident hunting licenses (Safari Hunting),
3. Bird licenses; and
4. Minister's special licenses.

MR. SPEAKER,

The four categories of licenses are issued by ZAWA with the local communities for purposes of hunting rights in GMAs and open areas across the country. However, hunting is not allowed in the National Parks.

It is important to note that ZAWA's main source of income is from hunting activities. The various types of licenses mentioned above are intended to generate incomes for ZAWA to be able to manage the

national parks and GMAs which cover about 30% of Zambia's total land surface area. In addition, part of the moneys generated from GMAs is ploughed back to the local communities for developmental projects.

MR. SPEAKER,

Of the four categories, the Minister's licenses has not attracted any incomes as this has been issued mainly for traditional ceremonies or other national events. In some incidences, these licenses have been issued to individuals. Although no income has been earned from this category, ZAWA has had to incur costs involved in hunting the animals for those groups issued with such licenses.

MR SPEAKER,

The other category of hunting is resident hunting which attracts incomes for ZAWA. This licence can only be issued to Zambian citizens and established residents. In this regard, established resident means a foreigner who lives and works in Zambia on employment permit. The animals hunted on a resident hunting licence are meant for 'the pot', although, it can also be sold by the licensee upon obtaining authority from ZAWA to sell game meat.

MR. SPEAKER,

The issuance of resident hunting licences is done in two categories:

1. Issuance of resident licences to citizens who live within the GMAs. This includes the chiefs and their subjects.
2. Issuance of resident licences to citizens and established residents who reside outside the GMAs.

Both categories of resident licences issued in this regard pay licence fees except that these are very low in comparison to the non-resident hunting licenses. However, the licence fees paid by established residents are slightly higher by 30% on average than the fees paid by the citizens. It is important at this stage to note that fees generally paid for resident hunting licences are much lower by 300% on average when compared to fees paid for non-resident (safari) hunting.

MR. SPEAKER,

The third category of hunting licence is called Non-resident hunting licence, commonly referred to as safari hunting license. This hunting licence is only issued to a client of a safari hunting company registered with ZAWA. The clients coming through these registered safari hunting companies can be Zambian

citizens, established residents or foreigners not resident in Zambia.

However, it is interesting to note that 99.5% of the clients that have been issued with this type of licence through the registered safari hunting companies are mainly foreigners. This is because this type of licence is perceived to be exclusively for foreigners and partly because the licence fees are on average 300% higher than the resident hunting licence fees. For example, a buffalo hunted on a resident licence would only cost K2.5 million compared to K8.0 million for the same buffalo on a non-resident hunting license.

MR. SPEAKER,

As demonstrated, the Non-resident hunting licence gives more revenues to ZAWA and the local communities compared to the other categories of hunting licences such as the resident hunting and special licences. In addition, safari hunting companies are also given an obligation to contribute to conservation efforts and community development projects whilst the resident hunters have no obligation towards management of wildlife and community projects.

MR. SPEAKER,

It is important to state that the total number of animals which are allocated under the resident hunting licence and non-resident hunting licence are the same. But in most cases, the total number of animals hunted under resident hunting which gives very little revenue is higher than the total number of animals hunted under non-resident hunting which gives ZAWA more resources and contributes to the conservation and management of wildlife.

To illustrate this point further, in the 2011 hunting season, 3,807 animals were hunted under resident hunting, while 2,468 were hunted under Non resident. In terms of the financial value, K2.1 billion was generated from resident hunting against K14.4 billion from non-resident hunting. Clearly, resident hunting does not promote conservation nor does it make any social or economic sense.

MR. SPEAKER,

You may wish to know that resident hunting has been conducted annually since the inception of ZAWA in the year 2000 through advertising in the public media and selecting of successful applicants using raffle draws. In this respect, ZAWA management advertised and conducted the raffle to select successful hunters on

3rd November, 2012. However, in as much as the Government would like the people of Zambia to have access to their wildlife resources, this must take into account the following factors:

- conservation and good management of our wildlife resources for the people and future generations;
- real benefit to the local communities by way of implementing some developmental projects for communal use;
- revenue generation by government through ZAWA;
- increased tourism activities which will result in employment creation and improved earnings for improved welfare and poverty reduction among our people.

MR. SPEAKER,

Any right thinking and well-meaning Zambian citizen will agree that what has been happening in the past in terms of resident hunting administration cannot and should not be allowed to continue under the current administration, which promised better governance and real benefits to the Zambian people, especially the rural poor. As earlier indicated, the revenue from this category of hunting is not economic relative to the administrative costs incurred by ZAWA .

MR SPEAKER,

I wish to inform the House that the resident hunting licence has been abused in many cases whereby hunters have ended up hunting more animals than what has been allowed on a particular licence. This is because of the few numbers of ZAWA officers on the ground to carry out monitoring. Furthermore, some resident hunters have re-sold their licences to foreigners for more money, depriving Government of the much needed revenue for effective wildlife management. This implies that more animals under the resident hunting category have been hunted at very low prices to the extent of threatening the very animal populations as compared to relatively fewer animals under Non-resident hunting. This unbalanced way of hunting, encouraged corruption in the entire business of resident hunting, a vice that must be arrested at all costs.

It is against this background, Mr Speaker, that the Ministry through ZAWA decided to partially suspend the granting of resident hunting for the 2012 hunting season.

MR. SPEAKER,

Allow me at this juncture to list government's concerns on resident hunting:

You are aware that ZAWA has annually been granting resident hunting licenses for the past 12 years of its existence. During this period, ZAWA has been in a critical financial position to the extent that it is unable to meet its statutory financial obligations including failure to pay what is due to the communities in some cases.

It would be irresponsible for the Ministry and ZAWA in particular, to continue operating in a business-as-usual manner at such great expense. In as much as we would like all the people of Zambia to have access to their wildlife resources, this scenario is not sustainable and should not be allowed to continue. This situation is what led Government to partially suspend resident hunting for the 2012 Hunting Season.

MR. SPEAKER,

The reasons for the partial suspension is in recognition of the contributions made by the local communities living in the Game Management Areas in the conservation of wildlife. To this effect, Government has allowed resident hunting by Zambian citizens living in the GMAs. The licenses are strictly being sold to the chiefs and their subjects residing within the GMAs. It must be made clear that what has been suspended is the extension of the issuance of the resident hunting licenses to citizens and

established residents living outside GMAs. However, these are free to hunt under the Non- resident hunting category under a registered safari hunting company.

Mr Speaker,

During the partial suspension, Resident hunters are free to hunt in the private game ranches throughout the country. The resident hunters residing in the GMAs have since been advised that the resident hunting licenses being issued to them cannot be re-sold to foreigners, established residents or Zambian citizens residing outside GMAs. Doing so would constitute a breach of the license conditions and the risk of having this privilege withdrawn from them. The point to note here is that those residing outside the GMAs are catered for through the non resident hunting licenses and, therefore, they cannot claim not to have been catered for.

Mr Speaker,

I wish to correct the misconception that non-resident or safari hunting is restricted to foreign hunters only. It is referred to as non resident hunting license due to the fact that the majority of the people who hunt on this category of hunting license are foreigners who come to hunt animals for trophies which they export to their countries of origin. Zambians of all categories, are also permitted to participate in hunting through the Non resident hunting license and not only foreigners as is wrongly perceived.

MR. SPEAKER,

In conclusion, I wish to assure the House that it is Government's conviction that this measure will go a long way to improve wildlife conservation and management. It will also reverse the negative international perception that the Zambian Government has continued to allow unsustainable utilization of the wildlife. Government will not continue to subsidize the rich hunters at the expense of the poor hunter who only hunts for consumption.

In addition, the partial suspension will also help the Ministry in determining a sustainable way forward during the policy review process which is currently in progress. The continuation of the past way of implementing resident hunting will only serve to deplete the animal population, destroy and undermine the tourism industry which largely depends on wildlife, and perpetuate poverty among the rural poor.

I THANK YOU MR. SPEAKER