



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HON. VINCENT MWALE,
MP, ON UPGRADING OF COUNCILS AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COUNCILS**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPGRADING OF COUNCILS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COUNCILS

Mr. Speaker

I wish to submit a statement on the floor of the House on four issues which are:

- (i) Proclamation of Chipata Municipal Council as a City;
- (ii) Upgrading of Chongwe Town Council as a Municipality.
- (iii) Establishment of New Districts
- (iv) Criteria for upgrading the status of councils

Mr. Speaker

(i) Proclamation of Chipata as a City

Mr. Speaker, before I dwell on the matter at hand, I wish to state that a lot of developments which have taken place in Chipata in the last few years have raised the economic profile of that district and given it a competitive edge not only in the Province but across our borders as well.

The House may wish to know that Chipata District is among the Districts in the nation that has taken advantage of the enabling environment created by the Government policies and programmes to improve their Local Economy and Welfare of its residents. As a result, this put Chipata Municipal Council in a better position to request for consideration to be upgraded to City status by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia.

The fact that Chipata is among the Provincial Capitals that are proactively striving to improve their Local Economies and Living Standards of their people does not surprise the Government at all. The efforts the district is making demonstrate visionary leadership and a willingness to experiment and innovate.

It is no wonder that after receiving petitions and appeals that Chipata District be upgraded to city status, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu undertook wide consultations and interrogation to determine whether or not to grant Chipata City status. You

may wish to note that after these consultations, His Excellency the President did not hesitate to upgrade Chipata Municipal Council to City status. As the House and the nation maybe aware in exercise of his powers contained under section three (3) and four (4) of the Local Government Act **Cap 281** of the Laws of Zambia, the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu proclaimed that the status of a City be conferred on the Municipality of Chipata and that the Municipality shall be known by the name of the City of Chipata. This proclamation came into operation on **25th February, 2017** in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. **13 of 2017** the City of Chipata proclamation, **2017** issued under the President's hand.

Mr. Speaker,

In view of the above, I wish to inform the House that the City of Chipata now joins the other four cities namely Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe and Livingstone bringing the number of cities in the Country to five.

Mr. Speaker,

(ii) Upgrading of Chongwe as a Municipality.

I wish to inform the House that Chongwe is among the Town Councils that demonstrated excellence in collective effort which has positioned the District to proactively strive to improve the Local Economy and Living Standards of its residents. It is also suffice to mention that the efforts the District is making exhibits visionary leadership and willingness to experiment and innovate.

Mr. Speaker,

With its location closer to Lusaka, the Capital City of our Country, Chongwe has witnessed massive development especially to the west of the District which is closer to the capital city. However, it is Government's wish that the whole district would be developed over time as development is a process.

The House may also wish to know that Chongwe District houses the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, which the Government is currently expanding and refurbishing to International standards. The airport currently handles approximately **1,200,000** passengers per year and this number is anticipated to increase tremendously once the expansion works are completed. The expansion

includes a Shopping Mall, two **(2)** Hotels, a new Fire Station, and a new Terminal Building among others.

A number of residential areas have been developed in the district in the recent past. These include places such as Meanwood Ndeke, Kwamwena, Vorna Valley, Madido and Obama which can be classified between low and high density areas. With this stratification of residential areas, I am aware that the district boasts of having approximately **15,295** properties on the **2014** approved Valuation Roll. However, this figure is a downplay of the present housing stock in the district, which is currently at approximately **35,000** which is by far more than that of Livingstone, Kafue and Kabwe district.

Chongwe district has in the recent past also witnessed development through implementation of various other projects including public and private sector investments:

Mr. Speaker,

It is no wonder, after receiving petitions and appeals that Chongwe District be upgraded to municipality status, I undertook wide consultations and interrogations in my determination as to whether or not to grant Chongwe Municipal status. You may wish to note that after these consultations, I did not also hesitate to upgrade Chongwe Town Council and I am proud to inform the House that in exercise of my powers contained under section three **(3)** of the Local Government Act **CAP 281** of the laws of Zambia, I upgraded the status of Chongwe District to a Municipality status by the establishment of Municipal Council for Chongwe District and the Town Council shall be known by the name of the Chongwe Municipal Council in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. **14** of **2017** the Local Government (Establishment of Councils) Order, **2017** dated **17th** February, **2017** issued under my hand.

Mr. Speaker,

The House may wish to know that it is Government's hope that the attainment of City and Municipal status by Chipata and Chongwe respectively would serve to motivate other Districts and Local Authorities in the Country to strive to attain City and Municipality status to realise their dream. However, Government urges the two Local Authorities not to relent but endeavor to provide improved service delivery in their respective Districts to the aspirations of the Government and

our people they serve. Therefore, I challenge Chipata City Council, Chongwe Municipal Council and indeed all Councils in the Republic of Zambia to put themselves in a position of continuous and never ending improvement, if human and sustainable development is to be realised at the local level.

Mr. Speaker

Let me take this opportunity to once again congratulate the people of Chipata and Chongwe and indeed Eastern and Lusaka Provinces, and all well-meaning partners who have helped these Districts transform their vision into reality. It is my envisioned hope that they will continue working steadfastly as teams to attain accelerated development in these region.

Mr. Speaker

(3) Establishment of new districts

Let me reiterate that the Patriotic Front Government under His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, has placed a lot of importance in the role played by Local Authorities as demonstrated by Government's determination to address the challenges faced by the Councils and implementation of the Decentralisation Policy to transfer power to the people and ensure that Councils start generating their own resources and not necessarily relying on Government grants in the provision of services at the Local Level.

Mr. Speaker,

As part of the implementation of Decentralization process and the continued fulfilling of the campaign promises to the people of Zambia I wish to inform the House that in the continued Government effort and programme of taking services closer to the people, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu in exercise of his powers contained in section **2** of the Provincial and District Boundaries Act **Cap 286**, declared the establishment of Lunte District from Mporokoso District in Northern Province and Kanchibiya and Lavushimanda districts from Mpika District in Muchinga Province by issuance of Statutory Instrument number **9** of **2017**, the Provincial and District Boundaries (Division) (Amendment) Order, **2017**. The establishment of these new districts is a fulfilment of the President's promises to the people of Lunte and Mpika to create Lunte as a district and split Mpika into three districts made in July, 2016, during the run up to the elections.

Mr. Speaker, the potential the creation of new districts has to accelerate the human, social – economic and sustainable development cannot be over emphasized as it has been appreciated by the residents of the newly created districts across the Country dating from 2011 to date.

Mr. Speaker,

(4) CRITERIA FOR UPGRADING THE STATUS OF COUNCILS

I wish to inform the House that following several appeals and petitions my Ministry has continued to receive from some Local Authorities across the Country requesting to be upgraded to either City or Municipal status and the absence of a well-defined criteria for upgrading the status of Councils. We embarked on broader consultations with various key stakeholders to develop the criteria that could guide the upgrading of councils in order to enhance and bring about meaningful human, social – economic and sustainable development at the local level. To this effect, I wish to inform the House that the criteria has now been developed.

In view of the above, the House is advised that the threshold required for the conferment of a higher status on a Council in Zambia in accordance with section three **(3)** and four **(4)** of the Local Government Act **Cap 281** of the Laws of Zambia, shall be as provided in the attached Schedule. In addition, the following guidance has been provided to the Local Authorities:

- (1) Any Local Authority meeting the set out Criteria stipulated in the Schedule may apply, in writing, to the Minister for Local Government for the conferment of higher status on its Council.
- (2) As part of the consultation process, the Minister shall appoint an Assessment Committee to assess a Council which shall make recommendations to the Minister on the application to upgrade to higher status.
- (3) Upon receiving the application and assessment report for conferment of higher status, the Minister may recommend to the President in the case of applications relating to City status that such a Council meets the set out Criteria. Those for Municipality status would be determined by the Minister.

The President and the Minister may defer the conferment of higher status on a Council as the case maybe notwithstanding that the Council meets the Criteria to qualify for such higher status.

- (4) Upon receipt of that recommendation from the Minister, the President **may** or **may not** grant the status of City applied for and may refer back to the Minister who shall communicate in writing to the Local Authority. Similarly, the Minister **may** or **may not** grant the higher status of Municipality and the concerned District would be informed accordingly.

Mr. Speaker,

As I conclude, this entails that going forward all Councils aspiring to be upgraded will be required to meet the set out criteria. Therefore, all Districts are advised to put themselves in a position of continuous and never ending improvement to stand a better chance of attaining a higher status of either **Municipality** or **City** as the case maybe.

I thank you.

SCHEDULE

CRITERIA FOR UPGRADING THE STATUS OF COUNCILS

	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL	CITY COUNCIL
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban population – above 30,000 • Population density 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban population – above 100,000 • Population density • Historic significance
2	<p>Functional urban infrastructure to provide for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security • Health Services • Basic Education • Local Government • Community Development and Social Services • Agriculture and Natural Resources • Legal Services • Office Accommodation • Residential Accommodation • Road Network • Information Services • Administration and Finance • Development Planning • Police Services • Tarred Roads • Water and waste water treating facilities • General Hospital • Secondary School • Level of financial services • Communication network • Parks and gardens • Defined residential areas • Hotels/Lodges • Public Library • Office Accommodation 	<p>Functional urban infrastructure to provide for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarred Roads ✕ • Street names • Water and waste water treating facilities ✕ • Central Hospital • Secondary School • Banks and other financial institutions • Communication network • Parks and gardens • Defined residential areas • Hotels/Lodges • Public Library • Office Accommodation • University • Traffic Control Systems • Shopping Mall Centres • Parking space in the Central business district • Golf Cause course

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Names • Traffic Lights <i>Control Sys Lane</i> 	
3	Number of Properties and Rateable Value	Number of Properties and Rateable Value
4	Established and functional Government departments	Established and functional Government departments
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cosmopolitan population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly cosmopolitan population • Densely urbanised with well identified Central Business District
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversified and growing economic profile of district • Growing percentage of locally generated revenue of the council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversified and strong economic base • High percentage of locally generated and sustainable revenue sources of the council • Stable employment numbers with strong commercial and industrial base and linkages.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient and sustainable solid waste management system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient and sustainable solid waste management system
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established Fire and Emergency Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient Fire and Emergency Services
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of higher level judicial services including courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of high level judicial services at the level of high court
10	<p>Availability of key social amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets • Bus stations • Public toilets/ ablution facilities 	<p>Availability of higher level social amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets • Intra town bus station • Intercity bus terminus • Public toilets/ ablution facilities
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of Integrated Development Plan • Availability of a Council Strategic Plan • Availability of a Service Charter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of Integrated Development Plan • Availability of a Council Strategic Plan • Availability of a Service Charter