



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

STATEMENT BY HON. GIVEN LUBINDA, MP

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

ON THE UPDATE ON IMPORTATION OF MILK BY SHOPRITE

4TH DECEMBER, 2015

MR SPEAKER

I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER THIS STATEMENT ON **'THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR IN THE CONTROL OF IMPORTS OF MILK OF POLAND ORIGIN BY SHOPRITE FROM SOUTH AFRICA'**. THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWS THE POINT OF ORDER ON THE SUBJECT.

MR SPEAKER,

YOU MAY RECALL THAT DURING MY RESPONSE TO QUESTION NO 81 ON 6TH OCTOBER, 2015, I STATED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS GOING TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND UPDATE THIS AUGUST HOUSE ON THE FINDINGS AND ACTION TAKEN. THE ISSUES OF STANDARDS AND PROCEDURE HAVE SINCE BEEN RESOLVED WITH SHOPRITE. IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE RULES OF ORIGIN WERE OVERLOOKED IN THE MILK IMPORT PERMIT CONDITIONS. ISSUANCE OF MILK IMPORTS TO SHOPRITE CHECKERS HAVE CONTINUED UPON SATISFACTION OF THE RULES OF ORIGIN.

MR. SPEAKER,

ACCORDING TO THE DAIRY ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA, THE COUNTRY PRODUCES APPROXIMATELY 215 MILLION LITRES OF MILK OUT OF THE REQUIRED 253 - 300 MILLION LITRES PER ANNUM. HOWEVER, ONLY 65 MILLION LITRES OF MILK ARE PROCESSED FOR THE FORMAL CONSUMER MARKET. ZAMBIA IMPORTS 12 MILLION LITRES IN FORM OF ULTRA HEAT TREATED (UHT) LONG LIFE MILK, YOGHURTS, CHEESE, BUTTER AND POWDERED MILK IN ORDER TO MEET THE MILK DEFICIT.

MR SPEAKER

THE MINISTRY HAS TAKEN SEVERAL MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD AND FOSTER THE GROWTH OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY. THESE INCLUDE:

1. LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF MILK BEING IMPORTED INTO THE COUNTRY;
2. CONSTRUCTION OF MILK COLLECTION CENTERS;
3. TRAINING OF SMALL HOLDER DAIRY FARMERS IN GOOD DAIRY MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH PRACTICES;
4. IMPROVING THE GENETICS OF THE NATIONAL DAIRY HERD THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND IMPORTATION OF QUALITY DAIRY ANIMALS;
5. IMPROVED PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT; AND
6. PROMOTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTION IN CORE VENTURES IN THE FARMING BLOCKS AS WELL AS THROUGH MATCHING GRANTS.

MR. SPEAKER,

AS I CONCLUDE, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN STATE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AND WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS MANDATE TO SAFEGUARD THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE DAIRY FARMERS ESPECIALLY THE SMALL HOLDERS.

MR. SPEAKER,

I THANK YOU.