



MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY

RONALD CHITOTELA, MP,

ON

NATIONAL ROAD TOLLING PROGRAMME

Madam Speaker,

I wish to thank you once again for giving me this opportunity to present to this August House progress made on the National Road Tolling Programme. Madam, Government introduced the National Tolling Programme in order to facilitate the mobilisation of local resources specifically dedicated to road maintenance. Consequently, Phase I of National Road Tolling Programme was launched on November 1, 2013, with inland tolling operations targeting Heavy Goods Vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass of at least 6,500 Kilograms.

During this Phase, collections of toll fees were restricted to ten (10) ports of entry or border toll sites and eight (8) Weighbridges across the country. The strategy was to introduce the Tolling Programme in a phased manner and provide an opportunity for the Road Agencies to sensitise the general public

on the National Tolling Programme and its intended purpose, that is, the mobilisation of resources for road maintenance. Our vision as the Patriotic Front Government is to ensure that the roads that we construct are well maintained and are safe to use by the general public.

Madam Speaker,

I wish to inform this August House that since the inception of the Tolling Programme in November 2013 to August 2016, a total of K1.074 billion has been collected in form of toll fees at all toll collection points which constitute ten (10) Ports of Entry or borders and the two (2) Inland Toll stations.

Madam, on average the National Tolling Programme is accounting for monthly collections amounting to K39 million. This is a demonstration that with concerted efforts, Government

can raise enough revenues for road rehabilitation and maintenance without resorting to the high costs of borrowing.

Clearly, this is the direction that the Government must take and I wish to assure this house that this is the route we are going to take. Madam, to this end, my Ministry plans to roll out to 40 new Tolling Stations by end of 2017. The main objective is to exponentially increase non tax revenues in the form of tolls which would be channelled towards road maintenance programmes.

To this end, my Ministry will, in the second phase, roll out an additional ten (10) sites by the end 2016. These include the following sites that are earmarked for conventional toll plazas and are currently under a contract signed between AVIC International and RDA.

1. Chisamba/Katuba – between Lusaka and Kabwe;
2. Shimabala – Between Lusaka and Kafue;
3. Chongwe – 20 km after Chongwe going east; and
4. Mumbwa – 20 Km before Mumbwa turn off.

The scope of works at these sites includes widening of the carriageway; reinforcing the pavement with concrete; construction of a Control Building; and provision of the toll system. The contractor has mobilised and works are progressing on all the four sites. The cost is K 100 million for the four (4) sites.

I wish to further inform this House that field assessments and traffic counts are being done to determine viability and the road condition on setting up six (6) additional sites across the country which include the following sites:

1. Choma – about 20 Km before Choma;
2. Garnaton – between Kitwe and Chingola;
3. Levy Mwanawasa/Mofu tree;
4. Serenje - Mpika;
5. Solwezi-Mutanda; and
6. Mbala-Nakonde.

The scope of works on the six sites generally includes widening the road section, installation of booths and booms and erecting of the canopy. The estimated cost of construction for the ten (10) new Toll Stations with the exception of Kafulafuta and Manyumbi Toll Stations is K100 million.

Madam Speaker,

We have taken note of the concerns raised by the population residing in areas where the tolling stations have been erected that they are made to pay frequently and at the same charges as

the travelling public from other towns. Thus, my Ministry has already commenced working on adjusting the current statutory Instrument to take care of the concerned local users within a radius of ten (10) kilometres of the tolling stations. Sir, we are a listening Government.

Madam Speaker

In concluding my statement, I wish to assure this August House that my ministry has prioritised road maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure that our roads are safe and that the transportation cost are minimized.

I also wish to take this opportunity to inform the Honourable Members of Parliament that my ministry is also engaging the Private Sector in the implementation of the Public Private Partnerships in the construction and maintenance of road infrastructure as an alternative source of financing for road

construction. I will be providing updates on the implementation of the PPPs in the road sector at an opportune time.

Madam, I thank you.