

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

ON

2017/2018 LIVESTOCK AND AQUACULTURE CENSUS

BY

THE HON. MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK, PROF. LUO, MP

Mr Speaker, I thank you for according me this rare opportunity and privilege to render a ministerial statement.

Sir, on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, in response to Question 195 asked by Hon. Dr Evans Chibanda, Member of Parliament for Mufulira Constituency, Hon. Kampamba Mulenga Chewe, Member of Parliament and then hon. Minister of Fisheries and Livestock assured this august House and the nation at large that a ministerial statement on the 2017/2018 Livestock and Aquaculture Census would be issued at an appropriate time.

Sir, today is the appropriate time for the ministry to issue this ministerial statement. This statement gives the official results for the livestock and aquaculture census. Right from the onset, I wish to begin by thanking His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu for giving me this real, great privilege to serve as the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Livestock.

As I make this very important pronouncement that will provide the baseline data for the fisheries and livestock sector in our country, even those who are saying “Question” will benefit from it.

Mr Speaker, the livestock and aquaculture census I am announcing today is based on universally applied scientific survey methods that are used worldwide. The livestock and aquaculture census was jointly conducted by my ministry and the Central Statistical Office (CSO) under the Ministry of National Development and Planning covering all the 117 districts of this country.

Sir, may I take this opportunity to inform this House and the nation at large that the general benefit of the census is that it provides a snapshot of the size and profile of the livestock

population and fish farming participation levels in the country. These statistics are very important and are given worldwide and usually they are given periodically. Worldwide periodic livestock and aquaculture census data has been used to develop effective strategies relating to livestock and fishery interventions and other economic and social issues. However, in the case of Zambia, informed decisions and policy making in the livestock and fisheries sector were based on statistics from crop based surveys such as the post harvest survey for the past twenty-six years. In other cases, the Government had to rely on administrative data which has its own shortcomings and lacks scientific merits.

Mr Speaker, with the policy emphasis on the diversification of the agricultural sector into livestock and aquaculture production to enhance household food security and nutrition income generation, empowerment of our people, employment creation and most importantly wealth creation, the need for updated and accurate livestock and aquaculture statistics data cannot be overemphasised to this end. The Government decided to carry out this census primary because in future we want to be making policy decisions based on information from evidence. Let me start by saying that the 2017 and 2018 livestock and aquaculture census was conducted from both household and establishments such as the private sector, Government institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country. Other census that were undertaken before were combined agriculture and livestock census, which were conducted in the 1970 to 1971 and 1991 to 1992 agricultural seasons.

Sir, allow me to share some of the highlights of the 2017 and 2018 livestock and aquaculture census. My ministry has distributed the full report to the Office of the Clerk of National Assembly so that the hon. Members of Parliament can read the full report and benefit from it. So what I am going to give is a synopsis of this report.

I will start with the agricultural households. I am pleased to report that there has been a 48.3 per cent increase in the number of households countrywide from 2,513,768 recorded during the 2010 census of our population to 3,727,362 as at January, 2018. Out of the current numbers of households in the country 2,267,999 which represents 60.8 per cent are agriculture households. Of the 2,267,999 agricultural households in the country, 1,641,826 or 72 per cent were involved

in livestock and aquaculture and or honey production. Further 76.3 per cent of the agricultural households were male headed while only 23.7 per cent were female headed households.

Mr Speaker, the following is a summary of agricultural households involved in livestock farming, bee keeping and aquaculture production. For livestock and poultry, a total of 1,638,423 of the agriculture households in the country were involved in livestock and poultry rearing, with the highest being the Southern Province with 264,197 households. In relation to bee keeping, a total of 37,092 were involved in bee keeping, with the North-Western Province reporting the highest numbers of 9,642 households in relation to fish farming. A total of 9,615 households were involved in fish farming, with the Northern Province reporting the highest at 3,255 households.

Allow me to emphasise the point that livestock numbers in the country today should be considered as a baseline upon which future interventions will be based and their performance measured. As such, there will be need to regularly update these numbers through subsequent livestock and aquaculture census and surveys. As at January 2018, the numbers for the major livestock tabs were as follows.

Mr Speaker, the cattle national total was 3,714,667 with the Southern Province reporting the highest number at 1,315,238 animals. The national total for goats was 3,583,696 with the Southern Province reporting the highest number at 1,290,856 goats. The national total for sheep was 170,262 with the Southern Province reporting the highest number at 62,586 sheep.

Sir, the national total for pigs was 1,082,765, with the Eastern Province reporting the highest number at 306,527 pigs. The country had a total of 15,391,150 village chickens, with the Southern Province reporting the highest number at 3,157,432. The broiler chicken national total was 6,769,921, with Lusaka Province reporting the highest number at 2,554,752 broilers. The national total for layer chickens was 1,672,954, with Lusaka Province reporting the highest number at 874,170 layers.

Mr Speaker, in terms of honey production, the total number of beehives reported was 802,385, with the North-Western Province recording the highest number at 553,095 beehives. Production

of comb honey for 2017 was 9,114.2 metric tonnes with the North-Western Province recording the highest quantity of 4,221 metric tonnes.

Sir, let me now come to aquaculture production. The total number of fish farming facilities such as ponds, cages, tanks, pens and dams in the country was at 39,794 out of which 22,263 was stocked during the survey period. The highest concentrations of these fish farming facilities were recorded in Lusaka Province with a total of 12,325 facilities. The annual aquaculture production was estimated at 21,567 metric tonnes, with the Southern Province recording the highest number at 12,338.6 metric tonnes.

Mr Speaker, having given the statistics on livestock and poultry population, fish farming and honey production in the country, allow me to update the House on the cost involved in conducting the 2017/18 livestock and aquaculture census. The total budget for the 2017/18 survey was K50 million. Thus, funds which were spent on the census and equipment were well spent. Furthermore, the funds were spent on capacity building such as training of master trainers and enumerators, data collectors and data analysts, amongst others.

Sir, it is the Government's resolve that livestock and aquacultures census will be conducted every five years. This will not only provided updates and reliable statistics in the sector, but will also give an opportunity to carry out a trend analysis within the sector whether we are doing well or badly. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is aiming at carrying out a further in-depth analysis to produce more details, especially at the provincial level relying on data from the districts so that better planning for the sector is done and also better decision making of livestock and aquaculture interventions at high levels.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to thank Cabinet, the Treasury, Ministry of National Development and Planning and in particular, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) both at the provincial and district levels and all stakeholders who supported this process. As I said, copies of the detailed report for those who really want to move with this sector are available with the Clerk of the National Assembly and I am sure they will be distributed in our pigeonholes.

I thank you, Mr Speaker.