

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

2019 DELIMITATION EXERCISE

BY

HER HONOUR THE VICE-PRESIDENT, MRS WINA, MP

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to present a statement on the 2019 Delimitation Exercise.

Sir, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) in accordance with Article 58(5) of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 is mandated to conduct the delimitation of constituencies and wards. Section 21 of the Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016 further mandates the commission to conduct the delimitation of polling districts.

Mr Speaker, in view of the constitutional and statutory mandate, the commission has commenced the process of conducting the delimitation of constituencies, wards and polling districts. The delimitation exercise is a prerequisite for the registration of borders. The exercise is also important as it promotes effective representation of citizens and makes electoral services more essential to the people.

Sir, Parliament approved a total budget of K55 million for the 2019 Delimitation Exercise of constituencies, wards and polling districts. As of 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, the Ministry of Finance had released a total amount of K10 million to the commission for the said exercise. I wish to report that the exercise is on schedule, and to date, the following activities have been undertaken:

### *Briefing of District Electoral Officers*

Mr Speaker, the commission has briefed all district electoral officers and these are town clerks, council secretaries and district planning officers from all the 116 districts on their roles in the delimitation process and on the factors and criteria that will be used to demarcate the electoral boundaries. These meetings were held in clusters on 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, respectively.

### *Consultative Meetings*

- (a) the commission has commenced consultative meetings with stakeholders and on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, it held a meeting with members of the House of Chiefs. The objective of the consultative meeting with the traditional leaders was to orient them on the delimitation process, share factors that will be considered when demarcating the electoral boundaries and discuss the role of traditional leaders during the delimitation process;
- (b) the commission held a political parties liaison meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, to brief and engage political parties on the 2019 Delimitation Exercise;
- (c) the commission held a consultative meeting with civil society organisations and faith-based organisations to brief and engage them on the 2019 Delimitation Exercise; and
- (d) a similar consultative meeting has been scheduled for all hon. Members of Parliament on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, at Parliament. Details pertaining to the delimitation process shall be availed to hon. Members of Parliament at this meeting and they shall be given an opportunity to engage with the commission on this exercise.

Mr Speaker, all things being equal, the commission is scheduled to commence the district delimitation sittings in all the districts from 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 to 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, while provincial delimitation sittings will commence on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

Sir, the commission intends to conclude the delimitation exercise by December 2019. I wish to mention that in the immediate future, the ECZ will publish a detailed schedule of the district sittings for use and planning purposes for hon. Members of Parliament and the general public.

Mr Speaker, I urge all citizens and stakeholders to participate in the delimitation exercise by making submissions during the district and provincial delimitation sittings when the commission will be receiving proposed submissions on how constituencies, wards and polling districts will be demarcated for all the 116 districts across the country. I appeal to all hon. Members of this august House to support this process at all levels to its conclusion. This is because all of us are interested parties in taking the electoral process and services closer to our people.

I thank you, Sir.