



**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE ROAD
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN ZAMBIA
VIS-À-VIS THE LINK ZAMBIA 8000 AND THE
BENEFITS THE COUNTRY IS SO FAR
EXPERIENCING**

4th March, 2015

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I wish to thank you for granting me this opportunity to make a Ministerial Statement on Road Development Programmes in Zambia.

Mr. Speaker,

The Road Development Agency (RDA), falling under my Ministry, was established by the Public Roads Act No. 12 of 2002 for the purpose of providing care, maintenance and construction of public roads in Zambia and to also regulate maximum weights permissible for transmission on roads.

Zambia has a total classified road network of 67,671 Km of public roads. The RDA has identified 40,454 Km from the classified network as the Core Road Network (CRN) which is the minimum network required to spur economic development and this needs to be in maintainable condition.

Mr. Speaker,

To ensure that the Core Road Network is brought to a maintainable condition, the Patriotic Front Government has in the 2015 Road Sector Annual Work Plan (RSAWP) allocated a total of ZMW5.462 billion. This allocation comprises both local and external resources amounting to ZMW3.226 billion and ZMW2.236 billion respectively. The RDA in executing its mandate has embarked on various road developmental projects with the view to address the current road infrastructure deficiencies, thereby stimulating economic growth and consequently reducing the levels of poverty in the country. These major programmes being implemented by the RDA include the Link Zambia 8000 Programme, the Lusaka 400 Project, the pave Zambia 2000 project, the National Road Tolling Programme and other major Rehabilitation and Maintenance Projects.

Mr. Speaker,

As you may be aware, the Government of the Republic of Zambia launched the Link Zambia 8000 Programme on 20th September, 2012. Link Zambia 8000 Project is an accelerated road construction programme aimed at transforming Zambia into a truly land-linked country in Southern Africa. The benefits to accrue from this programme include job creation, reduction of Road User Costs (RUCS) and reduction of transit times and creation of economic growth poles and wealth in outlying areas of Zambia. I am pleased to inform you Sir that as at December 31, 2014; 2,616 Km had been procured out of which 406.09 Km had been surfaced and opened to traffic while other roads are at different levels of completion. Furthermore the programme, since its inception, has created over 18,000 jobs in the road construction industry. Under this programme, the road links from Copperbelt to North Western Provinces will be upgraded to a dual carriageway. Detailed Designs for upgrading these road links to a dual carriageway are underway and will be completed by July 2015. The road link from Lusaka to Kapiri Mposhi is also scheduled to be upgraded to a dual carriageway and designs for this road link have since been completed. Among other notable projects under the Link Zambia 8000 Programme also includes the construction of the road link from Mongu to Kalabo. I wish to inform the honourable members that the project is 75% complete and has seen the construction of eighteen (18) out of twenty six (26) bridges. The project is scheduled to come to a completion in April 2016, four (04) months ahead of schedule. Sir I would like to inform you that 131.5 Km of the Bottom Road from Munyumbwe to Chaanga to Njami in Southern Province is being upgraded to bituminous standard with physical progress standing at 65 per cent.

I would like to mention Sir that alongside the Link Zambia 8000 Programme, the Pave Zambia 2000 Project is being implemented. This project aims at providing improved access to various social amenities in urban areas using the interlocking paving brick and cobblestone technology. The project also aims at creating employment opportunities for the majority of Zambians. So far the installation of paving blocks equipment in all the ten (10) provinces has been completed including the mobilization of plant and equipment to support the project. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform you that Women groups have been formed in Lusaka's Chazanga, Kalingalinga and Zingalume Compounds for training in cobblestone chiselling at National Council for Construction (NCC). So far one group comprising forty five (45) participants have been trained in cobblestone production and laying. And we tend to roll out such a programme to other provinces.

Mr. Speaker,

The RDA is also implementing the L400 project which is targeted at the rehabilitation and upgrading of approximately 400km of selected Lusaka City Roads. The US\$348million project is on-going and is expected to address the current challenges faced on Lusaka roads which include congestion of vehicles and motorized and non-motorized traffic conflicts to mention but a few. The project commenced in 2013 and is scheduled to come to a completion in 2017. So far a total of 100km representing an average of 24.5 per cent have been surfaced.

Mr. Speaker,

In order to provide additional revenues for road maintenance as defined by the Road Tolling Act No.14 of 2011 and SI No. 73 of 2013, the RDA commenced the Road Tolling Programme on November 1, 2013. A total of ZMW 297 million was collected from Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) in Toll Revenues against a target of ZMW 250 million for the period January 2014 to December 2014. RDA collected ZMW 47 million above the target set for 2014. Construction of Toll Plazas is underway and inland collection of tolls from all vehicle types will commence in the second quarter of 2015. It is projected that a total of ZMW 350 million will be collected in 2015.

In addition to the provision of additional revenues for road maintenance, the RDA has also developed a Road Maintenance Strategy (RMS) for the period between 2015 and 2024. The strategy aims at creating a clear pathway for the implementation of maintenance activities on the CRN by making maintenance a number one priority alongside other developmental programmes. Through this Strategy Honourable members, RDA will in the short to medium term, partner with Zambia National Service (ZNS) as their appointed Local Road Authority to rehabilitate a total of 9,991 km of primary feeder roads across the Country at a cost of US\$ 918 million over a period of four years from 2015 to 2018.

Mr. Speaker,

I wish to inform the Honourable Members that beside the Link Zambia 8000 Programme, the RDA is also implementing various construction and rehabilitation projects. Sir, a total of twenty (20) major road construction and rehabilitation projects are currently under implementation.

As of December 31, 2014, a total of approximately 2,268 Km had been surfaced out of approximately 3,307 Km currently under implementation worth ZMW7.93 billion representing 68 per cent overall progress. Among the major rehabilitation projects currently being implemented include the road links from Lusaka to Chirundu, the Great East Road from Arcades to Airport Junction in Lusaka Province, the emergency rehabilitation works on the Nakonde to Chinsali Road Link and the Nacala Corridor from Luangwa Bridge to Mwami Border in Eastern Province to mention but a few.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to mention that the RDA is also undertaking the construction of various bridge projects among which include the Mufuchani and Sioma bridges with physical progress for both bridges standing at 25 per cent and will be completed by November 20th, 2015 and November 30th, 2015 respectively. I am pleased to inform you Sir, that the year 2014 saw the completion of the construction of the Michael Chilufya Sata Bridge in Chiawa. May I also assure you Honourable Members that the Contract for the rehabilitation of the Chingola to Solwezi Road will be awarded by the end of the first quarter of 2015.

Further to these projects Mr. Speaker, the RDA is also undertaking maintenance activities which are aimed at preserving the road asset. Some of the roads under periodic maintenance include the Ndola to Kitwe, Solwezi to Mwinilunga, and Livingstone to Sesheke among many others.

Mr. Speaker,

In enhancing trade facilitation and commerce, Government of the Republic of Zambia with its counterpart the Government of the Republic of Botswana have partnered with support from JICA and Africa Development Bank to construct

the Kazungula Road and Rail Bridge across the Zambezi River with One-Stop Border facilities. I am glad to announce that after many years since the project was conceptualized by the two Governments, a contract to construct the bridge was signed on September 5, 2014 with Daewoo Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd of South Korea at a sum of United States Dollars One Hundred Sixty Two Million approximately. The actual construction of the Bridge commenced on December 5, 2014 and is expected to be completed by December, 2018.

Mr. Speaker,

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming that the Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply and Communications through the RDA will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that roads of good quality are constructed in our quest to transform Zambia from being landlocked to being land linked. It is also anticipated that the newly introduced vendor rating system for works and services will continue to guarantee quality in the design and construction of road works.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.