

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON
STATUS OF SALES TAX IMPLEMENTATION
BY
THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MRS MWANAKATWE, MP

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to respond to the point of order raised by the hon. Member for Monze Central and to update the House and the nation on the progress made towards the implementation of the Sales Tax.

As I announced in April, 2019, before this House, we intended to implement the move from Value Added Tax (VAT) to Sales Tax on 1st July, 2019. As you may be aware, the Bill is yet to undergo parliamentary procedures which include, Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading. Once passed by Parliament, the Bill has to undergo presidential assent. Clearly, these procedures cannot be completed before the stated date of 1st July, 2019. To this end, I wish to inform this House and the nation that the implementation date for the Sales Tax has been moved to 1st September, 2019.

Mr Speaker, the Government has continued to receive submissions from both the public and the private sectors as it continues to sensitise them on the content of the Bill.

Sir, as I said in my brief to the House in April, 2019, we do not want to leave any stone unturned. It is in this regard that my ministry, working hand-in-hand with the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), went to all ten provinces to engage stakeholders in order to get their key input on the Bill that was presented before this august House. We also interacted with professional bodies, academia, think tanks and other business associations.

Mr Speaker, may I take this opportunity to thank the Zambian people for their support and determination to ensure that this nation gets enough resources to provide social services. I wish

to inform the nation that people's views and suggestions have been well received and taken into account as we implement the Sales Tax.

Additionally, I propose to hold a workshop with all hon. Members of Parliament next week to discuss and clarify all issues on the Sales Tax. I look forward to the support of the House during further consideration of the Bill presented before this House.

I thank you, Sir.