



Republic of Zambia

MINISTRY OF CHIEFS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON INCREASED MEMBERSHIP OF
THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HON.
LAWRENCE J. SICHALWE, MP. MINISTER OF CHIEFS AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

October, 2016

MR. SPEAKER

I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR ACCORDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE ON THE INCREASED MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 OF 2016.

MR. SPEAKER

THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS HAS CONTINUED TO ENGAGE THE 288 ROYAL HIGHNESSES SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN AND PROMOTE THE INSTITUTION OF CHIEFS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE TRADITIONAL LOCAL GOVERNANCE, CHIEFDOM DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION OF CULTURE.

IN ADDITION, MY MINISTRY HAS CONTINUED TO FOSTER RELATIONS WITH THE CHIEFS IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT TRADITIONAL LEADERS PLAY IN SPEARHEADING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS IN CHIEFDOMS.

MR. SPEAKER

DURING HIS PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 OF 2016 ON THE 5TH JANUARY, 2016, HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU, ASSENTED TO THE INCREMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS. IN THIS REGARD, THE CONSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 OF 2016 ARTICLE 169 SUB SECTION 2 PROVIDES THAT THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE CHIEFS FROM EACH PROVINCE, ELECTED BY THE CHIEFS IN A PROVINCE.

MR. SPEAKER

THIS IMPLIES THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS HAS INCREASED FROM 3 CHIEFS (AS PREVIOUSLY CONTAINED IN HOUSE OF CHIEFS REGULATIONS 1998, STATUTORY INSTRUMENT (S.I.) NO 41 OF 1998) TO 5 CHIEFS PER PROVINCE THEREBY BRINGING THE TOTAL REPRESENTATION FROM 30 TO 50 MEMBERS.

IN ADDITION, THE CONSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 OF 2016 ARTICLE 170. SUB SECTION 1 (A) STATES THAT A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS AND IS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION FOR A FURTHER TERM OF FIVE YEARS. **MR SPEAKER**, THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION AS MENTIONED EARLIER WILL ENSURE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AND REPRESENTATION OF PROGRAMMES FOR THE DIFFERENT CULTURAL GROUPINGS IN THE CHIEFDOMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

MR. SPEAKER

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS IS AN ADVISORY BODY ON TRADITIONAL, CUSTOMARY AND ANY OTHER MATTERS REFERRED TO IT BY THE PRESIDENT. THE INCREMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP WILL ADD VALUE TO THE RESOLUTION OF VARIOUS CUSTOMARY, TRADITIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE RURAL POPULACE IN CHIEFDOMS AND THE COUNTRY AT LARGE.

IN ADDITION, THIS WILL ENHANCE THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE INSTITUTION OF CHIEFTAINCY. THEREFORE, AMONG OTHERS, THERE WILL BE ENHANCED LINKAGES WITH PARLIAMENT IN ITS DELIBERATIONS ON BILLS RELATING TO CUSTOMS OR TRADITIONS REFERRED TO IT BY THE PRESIDENT, BEFORE THE BILL IS INTRODUCED INTO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FURTHER, THE MANAGEMENT AND DISPENSATION OF JUSTICE THROUGH TRADITIONAL COURTS WILL BE ENHANCED.

MR. SPEAKER

NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE BENEFITS, THE INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS HAS UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENTED NEW CHALLENGES.

SIR, THE 67 PERCENT INCREMENT IN THE MEMBERS FOR THIS HONOURARY HOUSE ENTAILS AN UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS WHOSE

PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE PARTICIPATION IN OUR CHIEFDOMS.

FURTHER, IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS, THERE WILL BE AN URGENT NEED TO RENOVATE THE CHAMBER AS THE CURRENT SITTING CAPACITY IS ONLY UP TO 30 MEMBERS AND ALSO TO IMPROVE THE RECORDING AND PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS.

MR. SPEAKER, WITH THE INCREASE OF THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS FROM 30 TO 50, THE EXISTING CHAMBER IS INADEQUATE TO ACCOMMODATE THE MEMBERS DURING SESSIONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE MINISTRY WILL BE MAKING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO PROPOSE THE USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PARLIAMENT IN INTERIM ^{WHEN} ~~WHEN~~ THE HOUSE IS IN RECESS. THIS PROPOSAL IS ARISING FROM THE FACT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS MAY NOT BE A PRIORITY AS OF NOW CONSIDERING THE CURRENT BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS BY THE TREASURY.

SIR, I THEREFORE, WISH TO CONCLUDE BY ASSURING THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT, THROUGH MY MINISTRY, REMAINS RESOLUTE IN DELIVERING ITS COMMITMENT IN IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES. I FURTHER WISH TO CALL UPON ALL THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE TO SUPPORT THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS WHEN THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE PRESENTS THE NATIONAL BUDGET.

I THANK YOU.