



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BY

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ON THE

**MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS & BUS STATIONS
COUNTRYWIDE**

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS & BUS STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE

1. MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS & BUS STATIONS

MR. SPEAKER,

I wish to thank you for this opportunity to render a Ministerial Statement on the management of markets and bus stations countrywide. As the House may be aware, the issue of management of markets and bus stations has generally been very topical in the country for sometime now and specifically in the recent past. As the ministry in charge of Local Authorities, which Authorities are mandated to manage these public facilities, I thought it wise to come and update the House on the measures we intend to take as a Ministry to attend to these public concerns over this matter.

As you rightly observed, Mr. Speaker, I had sought permission to present this statement in this Honourable House even before the point of order was raised by the Hon. Member of Parliament for Mazabuka Constituency.

MR SPEAKER,

All markets and bus stations in the country are under the control and management of a Local Authority having jurisdiction in the area in which they are situated as stipulated in the Markets and Bus Stations Act No. 7 of 2007. Clause 5 (2) of the Markets and Bus Stations Act specifically states that markets and bus stations can be managed either by a Local Authority directly or through a Management Board.

MR SPEAKER,

As can be seen from the foregoing, there are two options which Local Authorities can employ to manage markets and bus stations. And from the inception of this law, Local Authorities have opted to directly manage these facilities themselves. However, most of these Local Authorities have not executed this function as provided for in the law to the expectation of the general members of the public. This is because, inter alia, the markets and bus stations have for some time now been used as political battlegrounds where various political players flex their muscles in their quest to unduly establish dominance in these public facilities.

MR SPEAKER,

To cure this malaise, the government, through my Ministry, has embarked on a program to appoint Management Boards which will in turn manage and control markets and bus stations in line with clause 13 (1) of the Markets and Bus Stations Act. This intervention is envisaged to eliminate the undesirable influence of the various political troupes in the management of markets and bus stations. The intervention will also ensure adequate revenue collections for Local Authorities.

MR SPEAKER,

We intend to pilot this intervention in a few selected Local Authorities, initially, especially those along the line of rail where these undesirable political infiltrations in the management of markets and bus stations are

more pronounced. Mr Speaker, we expect these Management Boards in these selected areas to be in place by June 2017.

However, let me hasten to state that even where a particular market and/or bus station will be managed by a Management Board, the overall responsibility and control shall lie with the Local Authority having jurisdiction in the area in which it is situated. This is because, in accordance with the provisions in the Markets and Bus Stations Act, the Management Boards report to the Local Authorities who are the owners of these facilities.

Consequently, my Ministry shall, in consultation with these selected Local Authorities, establish Management Boards for the effective and efficient running of markets and bus stations. Mr Speaker, I am happy to report that this process has already commenced and is expected to be concluded in the next three months.

MR. SPEAKER,

As the House may be aware, there are a few bus stations in private hands. Let me seize this opportunity, therefore, to sound an early warning to those involved in this adventure by reminding them that the law does not permit any entity or individual to establish and operate a bus station except in partnership with a concerned Local Authority **and with the approval** of the Minister in charge of Local Government. This is in accordance with clause 6(1) of the Markets and Bus Stations Act No. 7 of 2007.

Therefore, let me invite all private operators who are in contravention of this provision to regularize their operations with the respective Local Authorities in the spirit of Public-Private-Partnerships.

MR. SPEAKER,

There are several challenges and constraints being experienced in the planning, resource mobilization, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of market and bus stations projects. Some of the major constraints include;

- a) Most Local Authorities are not financially viable and still require project funding to enable them carryout their mandate of providing markets and bus stations;
- b) There has been limited funding toward construction and maintenance of Markets and bus stations, particularly those in rural and peri-urban areas;
- c) Delays in payment of interim payment certificates is hindering progress in completion of projects;
- d) A number of markets in the country have not been worked on (upgraded/rehabilitated) for a long time, thereby creating a huge backlog of works that require urgent attention against the limited national resource envelope and the increasing number of marketeers;

- e) Inadequate enforcement of trading regulations coupled with inadequate market places have created yet another problem of alarming high levels of street vending;
- f) There has been little interest from the private sector in infrastructure development towards investing in the markets and bus station development sector, thereby leaving the financial burden of markets and bus station development on the government alone.

MR. SPEAKER,

The PF government attaches great importance to markets and bus stations in the country. In order to respond to the challenges of inadequate and inappropriate market places and to support a healthy environment for trading and clear street vending, my Ministry, as provided for in the Markets and Bus Stations Act, has commenced the process to establish a National Markets and Bus Stations Development Fund in order to assist in the raising of sufficient funds. These funds are intended for the development of markets and bus stations in terms of construction of new ones, rehabilitation, upgrading and maintenance of old ones. In this regard, I am in the process of issuing a Statutory Instrument to give effect to this intervention. It is our hope that this Fund will be in place by the end of August 2017.

MR. SPEAKER,

As I conclude, allow me to seize this opportunity to assure the House and through the House, the nation, that the PF government, under the very able

leadership of His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the President of this great Republic, is fully committed to addressing the challenges in the management of markets and bus station facilities. This commitment is aimed at ensuring that the users of these facilities have access to decent and sustainable facilities.

MR. SPEAKER SIR, I THANK YOU.