



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE WYLBUR SIMUUSA, MINISTER
OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONCERNING
CURRENT REFORMS IN THE SECTOR.**

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MR. SPEAKER, DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA MR. MICHAEL CHILUFYA SATA DIRECTED THAT I ISSUE A MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT IN THIS AUGUST HOUSE.

MR. SPEAKER, THE REFORMS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR SINCE THE ASCENDANCE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT TO POWER ARE MEANT TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT. TO THIS EFFECT THE PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT I WILL MAKE IN THIS AUGUST HOUSE TODAY FORM THE BLUEPRINT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES IN THE SECTOR.

LAND ADMINISTRATION

SECURITY OF TENURE

MR. SPEAKER, IN ORDER FOR LAND TO BE PRODUCTIVELY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES, SECURITY OF TENURE NEEDS TO BE GUARANTEED FOR BOTH STATE LAND AND CUSTOMARY LAND. THE HOUSE WILL RECALL THAT DURING HIS OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESS TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE LAST YEAR, HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA STATED THAT GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH CHIEFS AND OTHER TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES WOULD INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE SECURITY OF

TENURE FOR CUSTOMARY LAND. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT WORK ON THIS PROCESS HAS COMMENCED.

DECENTRALISATION

MR. SPEAKER, AS YOU ARE AWARE LAND ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET BEEN DEVOLVED TO THE DISTRICT LEVEL. THE MINISTRY HAS PRESENCE AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL. TO THIS EFFECT THE VARIOUS COUNCILS THROUGH OUT THE COUNTRY CONTINUED TO ACT AS AGENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAND CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 1985. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION OF BOTH CUSTOMARY AND STATE LAND HAS POSED A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES TO MY MINISTRY. AS A RESULT OF THESE CHALLENGES, MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALIZATION AND TRANSPARENCY IN LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

LAND AUDIT

MR. SPEAKER, I ALSO WISH TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT MY MINISTRY INTENDS TO EMBARK ON A COMPREHENSIVE COUNTRYWIDE LAND AUDIT FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF LAND IN ORDER TO PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS EXERCISE WILL COMMENCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AND WILL CONTINUE INTO THE YEAR 2013. ALSO A LAND AUDIT COMMISSION WILL BE CONSTITUTED IN CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

ILLEGAL LAND ALLOCATION

MR, SPEAKER, MY MINISTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ALLOCATION OF LAND. OUR AGENTS, THE COUNCILS HAVE A MANDATE TO CREATE THE PLOTS, SCRUTINIZE APPLICANTS AND RECOMMEND TO THE MINISTRY FOR ALLOCATION. MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CAUTION MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DESIST FROM ACQUIRING ANY PIECE OF LAND OTHER THAN THROUGH THE SET OUT PROCEDURES. ANARCHY IN LAND ALLOCATION SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED. WE WANT THE COUNTRY TO DEVELOP IN A WELL PLANNED AND COORDINATED MANNER AND ENSURE THAT THERE IS EQUITABLE ACCESS TO LAND BY ALL ZAMBIANS.

LAND DEVELOPMENT FUND

MR. SPEAKER, AS YOU ARE AWARE THIS AUGUST HOUSE PASSED THE LANDS ACT OF 1995 WHICH CREATED THE LAND DEVELOPMENT FUND. THIS IS A FUND WHICH IS MEANT TO OPEN UP NEW AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT. THIS FUND HELPS COUNCILS TO PREPARE LAYOUT PLANS, UNDERTAKE SURVEYS, OPEN UP ROADS, PROVIDE WATER AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE AREAS THAT ARE IDENTIFIED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE ALL DISTRICT COUNCILS ESPECIALLY, THE NEWLY CREATED ONES TO APPLY FOR FINANCES UNDER THE LAND DEVELOPMENT FUND. THIS IS A SURE WAY OF TAKING DEVELOPMENT TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. I HAVE TO CAUTION COUNCILS HOWEVER ABOUT THE TENDENCY TO MISUSE THIS FUND WHICH IS INTENDED TO BENEFIT OUR PEOPLE. THE FUND IS NOT MEANT FOR PAYMENT OF SALARIES, AND ALLOWANCES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AMONG OTHERS. I THEREFORE WISH TO MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE TO TAKE KEEN INTEREST IN THE USAGE OF THIS FUND THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNCILS.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

MR SPEAKER, I DO NOT WANT TO OVER EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO CONSERVE OUR FORESTS. THE WORLD OVER HAS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT FORESTS PLAY IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE. FORESTS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT TO MITIGATING GLOBAL WARMING. AS SUCH, WE AS A NATION CAN NOT AFFORD TO REMAIN BEHIND. IN THIS REGARD I CALL UPON ALL TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO TAKE KEEN INTEREST IN CONSERVING FORESTS IN THEIR AREAS. THE WANTON DESTRUCTION OF OUR FORESTS AND ENCROACHMENTS OF FOREST RESERVES WITH IMPUNITY BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE STOPPED FORTHWITH, IF THE COUNTRY IS TO CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE IN THE REDUCTION OF GREEN HOUSE GASES THAT ARE CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL WARMING WITH ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OUR PLANET.

MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO PLANT TREES IN GENERAL AND ENSURE THAT FOR EACH TREE CUT, FIVE MORE ARE PLANTED.

MY MINISTRY HAS EMBARKED ON MASSIVE AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION BY WAY OF A NATIONAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ESTABLISHING PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL SUPPLY OF FOREST PLANTATIONS TO MEET THE EVER RISING DEMAND FOR TIMBER BOTH LOCALLY AND WITHIN OUR REGION. I WILL SHORTLY DELIVER ANOTHER MINISTERIAL STATEMENT, MR. SPEAKER, TO GIVE DETAIL OF THE NATIONAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME AND HOW WE SHALL ALL PARTICIPATE.

MR. SPEAKER, MY MINISTRY WILL BE PRESENTING BEFORE THIS HOUSE THE REVISED FORESTRY BILL WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR A FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FORESTRY RESOURCES. FURTHER, THE MINISTRY IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE TIMBER EXPORT POLICY OF 2003 IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE MEASURES THAT WILL ENHANCE VALUE ADDITION TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRY IS DEVELOPING THE BEE-KEEPING POLICY WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN AND REGULATE THE SECTOR.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

MR. SPEAKER, IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN ZAMBIA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON EVERY CITIZEN TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND UTILIZE NATURAL RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER AND MAINTAIN A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. IN THIS REGARD, THE PF GOVERNMENT SHALL SAFEGUARD THE ENVIRONMENT BY PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS THROUGH EXPEDITIOUS APPLICATION OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) UNDER THE ENABLING POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS FORMULATED.

I WISH TO INFORM THIS HOUSE THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED TO BUILD SUFFICIENT CAPACITY IN THIS SECTOR TO ENABLE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOME-GROWN SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES. ONE OF THE PRIORITIES OF PROGRAMME FOCUS WILL BE ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN WETLANDS IN TERMS OF MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF WETLANDS RESOURCES.

MR. SPEAKER, ZAMBIA, LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IS ALREADY AFFECTED BY THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE INCREASED INCIDENCES OF ERRATIC RAINFALL AND DROUGHT PATTERNS. THE COUNTRY'S KEY SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE, FORESTRY, WATER, ENERGY AND HUMAN HEALTH HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CLIMATE-INDUCED CHANGES, THEREBY SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF OUR NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

MR. SPEAKER, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO TREAT CLIMATE CHANGE WITH THE SERIOUSNESS IT DESERVES TO ENSURE THAT EFFORTS TO REDUCE POVERTY AMONG OUR PEOPLE. ZAMBIA SHALL ALSO CONTINUE TO DOMESTICATE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS THAT HAVE BEARING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT.

IN ORDER TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE MORE COMPREHENSIVELY AND IN AN EFFECTIVE MANNER, GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE IN FORMULATING A NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY. THIS POLICY IS BEING DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT AND FACILITATE A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY. THE POLICY WILL ENABLE ZAMBIA TO ADAPT ITS CLIMATE SENSITIVE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AND ITS SOCIETY IN ORDER TO MEET ITS DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH THE ARTICULATION OF A LOW CARBON RESILIENT PATHWAY.

INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

MR SPEAKER, GOVERNMENT IS UNDER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO FULFILL THE AFRICAN UNION DECLARATION TO DEMARCATATE AND RE-AFFIRM ALL INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN AFRICA BY 2017. GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, WILL SET ASIDE RESOURCES AND WILL UNDERTAKE TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO REALIZE THIS DECLARATION. THE EXERCISE OF INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES DEMARCATION IS ON-GOING. TO THIS EFFECT I WISH TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT SO FAR THE PHYSICAL DEMARCATATIONS OF ZAMBIA/MALAWI AND ZAMBIA/MOZAMBIQUE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

MR. SPEAKER, FOLLOWING THE CREATION OF A NEW PROVINCE AND DISTRICTS, GOVERNMENT, THROUGH MY MINISTRY, IS ENGAGED IN THE PREPARATION OF NARRATIVE DESCRIPTIONS AND BOUNDARY MAPS TO FACILITATE ISSUANCE OF STATUTORY ORDERS THEREBY PROVIDING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES. MY MINISTRY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING WILL FURTHER DEVELOP, PRODUCE AND PRINT TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS TO FACILITATE PHYSICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING OF THE NEW PROVINCE AND DISTRICTS.

I THANK YOU MR. SPEAKER.