



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS STATEMENT

**FARMERS URGED TO ENSURE HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY BEFORE
• SELLING THEIR HARVEST**

The Food Reserve Agency (FRA) is urging farmers to prioritise household food security as they begin to harvest their crops and only resort to selling when they have excess produce. This is due to the fact that national food security begins at household level.

Therefore, farmers countrywide are urged to store sufficient food for domestic future use before selling any of their produce to interested buyers. Farmers are urged to reflect on the previous farming season and draw lessons from the drought experienced and stock up sufficient food for future use. In as much as the country is likely to record a bumper harvest for the 2019/2020 farming season, the Agency wishes to remind farmers of the ever changing climatic weather pattern and is encouraging them to plan ahead and store enough food for their households.

Further, the Agency wishes to urge farmers countrywide to ensure that they negotiate for competitive prices and not sell their produce at giveaway prices as is currently being reported. Farmers interested in selling their produce to the Agency should take note that the Agency will enter the market once the moisture content of maize reaches the required moisture level of 12.5 percent. Further, the Agency wishes to thank farmers that have sold their crops to the Agency in the past for their contribution in making the country food secure as the Agency depends on small scale farmers to replenish its national strategic food reserves.

With adequately stocked national strategic food reserves, the Agency is able to respond to national emergencies such as floods, drought, mealie meal shortages or high mealie meal prices. Farmers are therefore called upon to play their role in helping Zambia become food secure by selling part of their excess produce to the Agency which is mandated to manage national strategic food reserves.


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John Chipandwe

Public Relations Coordinator (0977 813575)
