



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS STATEMENT

FRA REFUTES MEDIA REPORTS THAT OVER 3, 000 CHAMA RESIDENTS ARE CAMPED AT CHAMA DEPOT TO BUY MAIZE

The Food Reserve Agency (FRA) wishes to refute allegations made in an article published in the Times of Zambia newspaper of 18th February, 2020 which stated that "Over 3,000 Chama residents camp at FRA depot to buy maize."

The Agency wishes to inform Chama residents and the nation at large that the article did not portray a correct and true picture of what is currently on the ground in Chama District. First and foremost, there are no people camped at the FRA Depot in Chama and when the Agency is conducting Community Sales anywhere, the process is conducted fairly and efficiently and no intended beneficiary is made to wait abnormally. The Agency further wishes to assure the residents of Chama that the district still has maize in the FRA Depot and residents should not panic.

The Agency further wishes to inform the public that it sold under the Community Sales programme, a total of one thousand, two hundred (1,200) by 50 kg bags of white maize to Chama residents between 13th and 16th February, 2020 at K111 per 50kg bag. This quantity practically covers at least 1,000 households. This is besides the sale of maize conducted earlier than the indicated period.

The Agency is also aware of certain individuals that would wish to buy the same maize for stock piling and possible resale. As such, the Agency is tirelessly working with the local leadership and security agencies to ensure that the maize only benefits the vulnerable households of Chama.

The Agency wishes to assure Chama residents and the nation at large that it will continue playing its strategic role of providing relief food to the vulnerable people in the district and other affected areas.

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John Chipandwe - Public Relations Coordinator (0977 813575)