



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
HON. SILVIA T. MASEBO, M.P.
ACTING MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

AT THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CROP FORECASTING
SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE 2024/2025 AGRICULTURAL SEASON AND THE
FOOD SECURITY STATUS FOR THE 2025 MARKETING SEASON

May, 2025

- **MR. JOHN MULONGOTI, PERMANENT SECRETARY - TECHNICAL SERVICES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE;**
- **MRS. SHIELA S. MUDENDA, ACTING STATISTICIAN GENERAL, ZAMBIA STATISTICS AGENCY;**
- **MR. JUSTIN CHUUNKA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOOD RESERVE AGENCY;**
- **OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **COOPERATING PARTNERS PRESENT;**
- **DR. BRIAN MULENGA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INDABA AGRICULTURE POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE;**
- **MS. ELLAH CHELLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ZAMBIA NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION;**
- **MR. MWENGE NKANDU, CHAIRPERSON OF THE GRAIN TRADERS ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA;**
- **MR. ANDREW CHINTALA; CHAIRPERSON OF THE MILLERS' ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA,**

- **DR. AUBREY CHIBUMBA; CHAIRPERSON OF THE CRUSHERS OF EDIBLE OILS AND REFINERS' ASSOCIATION;**
- **DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL STOCKS MONITORING COMMITTEE PRESENT;**
- **ALL PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYERS REPRESENTED TODAY;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY AT THE RELEASE OF THE RESULTS OF THE CROP FORECASTING SURVEY FOR THE 2024/2025 AGRICULTURAL SEASON. THE CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TODAY BY THE ACTING STATISTICIAN GENERAL, ARE BASED ON A UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY.

THE CROP FORECASTING SURVEY IS JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE ZAMBIA STATISTICS AGENCY AND COVERS ALL THE 116 DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY. YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT WE HAVE CONTINUED TO UNDERTAKE THE CROP

FORECASTING SURVEY ANNUALLY TO HELP US PLAN FOR OUR COUNTRY'S FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY. THEREFORE, THIS SURVEY REMAINS CRITICAL FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE NATION AT LARGE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LET ME BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR ENTIRE FARMING COMMUNITY. YOUR RESILIENCE AND HARD WORK HAS KEPT THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, OUR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, AND OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE RIGHT TRAJECTORY. YOU HAVE REMAINED COMMITTED TO FEEDING OUR NATION AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN NEED.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE 2023/2024 AGRICULTURE SEASON WAS TRULY CHALLENGING FOR ALL OF US. WE FACED A SEVERE DROUGHT THAT DEVASTATED OUR SECTOR AND IMPACTED OTHER PARTS OF OUR ECONOMY, EXPOSING APPROXIMATELY SIX MILLION OF OUR PEOPLE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY.

THE EXPERIENCES OF THE DROUGHT HAS TAUGHT US VALUABLE LESSONS, REMINDING US OF THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS WITHIN OUR AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS. I WANT TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AND OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS FOR WORKING DILIGENTLY TO ENSURE THAT, THOSE WHO WERE SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT RECEIVED HELP.

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT OUR GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLED A MULTISECTORAL TEAM TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROGRAMMES UNDER THE DISASTER MITIGATION RESPONSE PLAN, TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE DIED OF HUNGER. WE IMPLEMENTED SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE FOOD FOR WORK, AN ENHANCED CASH TRANSFER AND THROUGH THE FOOD RESERVE AGENCY, WE ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY MAIZE SALES FOR OUR PEOPLE TO ACCESS MAIZE WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM INSPIRED BY THE REMARKABLE RESILIENCE DEMONSTRATED BY OUR FARMERS, MANY OF WHOM REPLANTED MULTIPLE TIMES TO ENSURE BETTER HARVESTS. THE RESULTS FROM THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF OUR FARMERS ARE REFLECTED IN THE CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES ANNOUNCED BY OUR ACTING STATISTICIAN GENERAL INDICATING INCREASES IN PRODUCTION OF SOME OF OUR PRIORITY CROPS.

THIS IS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE DROUGHT THE COUNTRY HAD WITNESSED LAST SEASON AND THE CLIMATIC CHALLENGES THAT OCCURRED IN THE CURRENT AGRICULTURAL SEASON. DURING THIS SEASON, WE ENCOUNTERED A COMPOUND ARRAY OF CLIMATIC CHALLENGES INCLUDING LATE ONSET OF RAINS, DRY SPELLS, FLOODING, OUTBREAK OF DISEASE AND PESTS AND EARLY CESSATION OF RAINS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE RED LOCUSTS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, AND WE ARE VERY SURE, WE WILL WIN SOON RATHER THAN LATER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE NATIONAL FOOD BALANCE SHEET FOR THE 2025/2026 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SEASON BASED ON THE CROP FORECASTING SURVEY SHOWS THAT THE COUNTRY HAS PRODUCED SUFFICIENT MAIZE FOR BOTH HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND INDUSTRIAL USE. THE TOTAL MAIZE SUPPLY IS ESTIMATED AT **4,040,645 METRIC TONNES**, WITH NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF **3,539,024 METRIC TONNES**. THIS RESULTS IN A SURPLUS OF **501,621 METRIC TONNES**. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE DEFICITS IN RICE OF **55,138 METRIC TONNES**, WHEAT OF **327,938 METRIC TONNES**, AND CASSAVA FLOUR OF **636,921 METRIC TONNES**.

TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE SURPLUS PRODUCE OF SOME CROPS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING STORAGE FACILITIES, AND EXPANDING MARKET LINKAGES. FOR ALL DEFICITS RECORDED, WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMMES THAT WILL ENHANCE PRODUCTION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOVERNMENT REMAINS DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING CONSISTENT AND PREDICTABLE TRADE POLICIES, WORKING CLOSELY WITH ALL PARTNERS TO ENSURE STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL MARKETING REMAINS IMPORTANT. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE MARKETS. IN THE SAME BREATH, ALLOW ME TO URGE OUR FARMERS NOT TO PANIC AND OFFER THEIR HARD EARNED PRODUCE AT GIVE AWAY PRICES.

LAST YEAR'S AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SEASON EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN PRICES OF MOST AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES DUE TO REDUCTIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF THESE COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY FOR MAIZE. HOWEVER, THE PRICES FOR THE COMMODITIES REMAINED STABLE OVER THE 2024 MARKETING SEASON. I AM HOPEFUL THAT WITH THE INCREASE IN PRODUCTION IN MAIZE RECORDED IN THE 2024/2025 AGRICULTURE SEASON, WE WILL

CONTINUE TO SEE MEALIE MEAL PRICES GOING DOWN IN THE 2025 AGRICULTURE MARKETING SEASON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

OUR FOCUS IS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICES, INCLUDING IRRIGATION, AND ENHANCING ACCESS TO MECHANIZATION. ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING OUR FARMERS THROUGH TRAINING, ACCESS TO CREDIT, ACCESS TO INPUTS AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES THAT BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE.

I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT IN THE 2025/2026 AGRICULTURE SEASON, THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP) WILL BE MANAGED ON 100 PERCENT E- VOUCHER MODALITY, ENCOURAGING FARMERS TO EASILY ACCESS THEIR INPUTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING OUR FARMERS TO ACCESS THROUGH COMMERCIAL BANKS THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FINANCING FACILITY (SAFF) TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO CREDIT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

AS I CONCLUDE, I WANT TO CALL UPON OUR FARMERS AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR HARVESTS FROM PESTS, DISEASES, AND ADVERSE WEATHER, ENSURING THAT OUR EFFORTS TRANSLATE INTO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE SURVEY TEAM, THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE ZAMBIA STATISTICS AGENCY FOR THEIR VITAL EFFORTS IN GATHERING THESE STATISTICS.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO SURVEY TIMELINES TO ENABLE TIMELY DECISION-MAKING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE POST-HARVEST SURVEY RESULTS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2025, WHICH WILL UPDATE OUR CROP FORECASTS WITH ACTUAL FIGURES AND HELP US TRACK

OUR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY SITUATION AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS.

TO ALL FARMERS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT RESPONDED TO OUR DATA REQUESTS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS VITAL FOR INFORMED DECISION-MAKING.

ONCE AGAIN, ALLOW ME TO END MY STATEMENT BY THANKING YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND RESILIENCE. WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED WE CAN OVERCOME CHALLENGES.

I THANK YOU ALL.

