

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

PREVAILING HUNGER SITUATION COUNTRYWIDE

BY

THE HON. MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, MRS MWANSA, MP

Mr Speaker, thank you for according me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the prevailing hunger situation in the country.

Sir, the drought conditions that the country experienced during the 2018/2019 rainy season is a regional problem that has affected as many as seven countries including Zambia. The drought has mainly affected the Southern half with part of Central, Eastern and Lusaka Provinces. The drought conditions were influenced by a weak state of the El Nino–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) which had resulted in below average rainfall in Southern parts of Zambia. In a twist of fate, my office also had to contend with floods in the northern half of the country.

Mr Speaker, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) conducted the 2019 In-Depth Vulnerability and Needs Assessment with the purpose of understanding the impact that the drought and floods had on selected sectors of the economy. I would like to inform the House that a total 2,330,182 people representing 388,364 households in fifty-eight districts will require relief interventions for them to survive up to the next harvest. These households will require 164,775 metric tonnes of cereal and 49,433 metric tonnes of pulses.

Mr Speaker, the House may also wish to know that we have included pulses such as beans to ensure food and nutrition security at household level.

Sir, my office has distributed a total of 2,033,920 by 12.5 kg of mealie meal in fifty-eight districts which were assessed by the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC) and an additional thirteen districts which were not captured in the assessment. This is an on-going process that will go on up to the next harvest period.