

**THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER, 2018**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**HOW THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF MUKULA TREE SPECIES ARE BEING  
ACCOUNTED FOR**

**THE MINISTER OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, MS KAPATA**

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for according me this opportunity to deliver a ministerial statement to this august House and the nation at large, on how the proceeds from the sale Mukula trees are being accounted for.

Mr Speaker, as the House may recall, I made a ministerial statement to this august House on Mukula timber species where I emphasised that the Patriotic Front (PF) Government through my ministry and also under the leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, decided to pay attention to the protection of the valuable timber species, particularly, the Mukula species.

Sir, the Mukula species has the potential to contribute to poverty reduction, job creation and wealth creation for our country. Hence the need to manage this forest resource in a sustainable manner. It is against this background that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources issued a Statutory Instrument No. 31 of 2017, which restricted the exportation and transiting of selected timber species.

Mr Speaker, in order to avoid the loss of revenue, instructions were issued to the Zambia Forest and Forest Industry Corporation (Zaffico) to export all the illegal Mukula logs on behalf of the Government. Zaffico was commissioned to export the Mukula on behalf of the Government on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017. In 2018 alone, Zaffico has been issued with nine export permits.

Sir, all the illegally harvested Mukula logs is seized under Section 82 of the Forest Act No. 4 of 2015. Once the logs have been seized, they are forfeited to the state through the courts of Law.