

**TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

ON THE

PREPARATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT  
PROGRAMME IN 2018/2019 AGRICULTURAL SEASON

BY THE

HON. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR KATAMBO), MP

Madam Speaker, before I issue my ministerial statement, allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest sympathy on the tragic death of our beloved citizens who perished in a road accident in South Africa and have been laid to rest today. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to deliver this ministerial statement on the preparations that the ministry has undertaken so far for the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) for the 2018/2019 Agricultural Season. This statement is a follow up to the one I delivered on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, to this august House. In the statement delivered in July, 2018, I announced that the Government will use two approaches in the distribution of inputs to the farmers, namely, the FISP Electronic Voucher System and the direct supply of inputs to the farmers. The two approaches, will continue to have their data base managed by the Zambia Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (ZIAMIS). This means that farmers' deposits of K400 and the Government contribution of K1,700 will be captured under the ZIAMIS.

Madam Speaker, under the direct supply of inputs, a total of 373,616 farmers in fifty-four districts will be serviced. In preparation for the direct supply of inputs to the farmers, contracts for supply of D-compound and urea fertilisers have been awarded to four companies. To date, a total of 93,478 metric tonnes of D-compound and 65,751 metric tonnes of urea fertilisers have been distributed to the targeted districts.