

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TITLING PROGRAMME
BY THE HON. MINISTER OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, MS KAPATA

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to issue a ministerial statement to this august House on the progress towards the implementation of the National Land Titling Programme (NLTP).

Sir, when I delivered the Policy Statement to this august House seeking support for my ministry's 2018 Budget, I indicated that the implementation of the NLTP was a key priority in 2018. The objective of the NLTP is to regularise ownership of untitled properties in towns and cities and promote security of tenure for property owners on state land.

Mr Speaker, the benefits of implementing the programme include guaranteed security of tenure, reduced displacements, enhanced internal security, increased revenue base and investment in the country thereby contributing to socio-economic development. In addition, titled properties can be included on the property registers and valuation roll of respective councils.

Mr Speaker, my ministry is making steady progress towards the realisation of the 2018 target of processing and issuing 300,000 certificates of title. Some of the measures that have been undertaken to date include the following:

- (a) identification of the sites and properties to contribute to the target of 300,000 certificates of title in 2018. Before a property is registered and issued with a certificate of title, there are a number of conditions that must be met. For instance, the property location, size, boundaries and type must be known and the owner to whom the title shall be made must also be known.

Therefore, in the first and second quarter of 2018, the interim project management team on National Titling, working in collaboration with the stakeholders such as the Resettlement Department under the Office

of the Vice-President as well as the Department of Physical Planning under the Ministry of Local Government have been undertaking the process of property identification and verification. This is what has given the ministry a total of 300,121 certificates of title to be issued in 2018.

Sir, you may further wish to note that sixteen councils in Lusaka, the Copperbelt, Central and the Southern Provinces have also been brought on board to participate in the identification of sites in their jurisdictions that should be titled.

Mr Speaker, I wish to report that 300,121 properties have been identified and are at various stages in the registration process. These include properties under resettlement areas, areas surveyed through the Land Development Fund and in council areas. Activities such as verification of property boundaries, social surveys to verify details of property owners, surveying of unsurveyed properties are some of the tasks of focus to ensure that the properties are registered in line with the targets.

Sir, collaboration with the Resettlement Department has been positive. There are 44,577 farms under resettlement areas, and the department has provided settler registers for 7,036 surveyed properties which should be issued with certificates of title by the end of July, 2018. Work shall continue so that as many properties under this category are ready for titling. Therefore, in the first and second quarter of 2018, about 3,000 certificates of title have been produced under the programme.

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Mr Speaker, my ministry appreciates the concerns that shall be raised regarding the current performance against the target. The contributing challenges have been identified and are being addressed. For instance, challenges in the existing legal framework are being addressed to make them favourable for the successful implementation of a mass titling programme.

Sir, other challenges experienced are the delays by councils to submit recommendations to the Commissioner of Lands for the land to be allocated to applicants. This is of particular