

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
END OF THE 2017/2018 CHOLERA OUTBREAK
BY THE HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR CHILUFYA

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for granting me this opportunity to deliver a ministerial statement on the end of the 2017/2018 cholera outbreak in Zambia. The brief background is that on 4th October, 2017, two suspected cases were reported to Chipata Clinic with acute watery diarrhoea. Following laboratory confirmation of samples from the two suspected cases, a cholera outbreak was declared in Lusaka District on 6th October, 2017. Since then, a total of 5,935 cases were recorded from seven of the ten provinces in Zambia, excluding of course Luapula, Northern and Muchinga Provinces.

Mr Speaker, several of the cases recorded in other provinces were linked to cases reported in Lusaka. Lusaka Province alone recorded 5,718 cases from seven districts broken down as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>
Lusaka	5,444
Kafue	87
Chongwe	66
Chilanga	62
Shibuyunji	53
Rufunsa	05
Chirundu	01
<i>Total</i>	5,718

Mr Speaker, the Central Province recorded 123 cases from eight districts, namely:

<i>District</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>
Kabwe	43
Mumbwa	34
Chibombo	16
Serenje	15
Chisamba	6
Mkushi	4
Kapiri Mposhi	4
Itezhi-tezhi	1
<i>Total</i>	123

Mr Speaker, the Southern Province recorded 39 cases from seven districts as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>
Chikankata	22
Mazabuka	7
Kalomo	4
Siavonga	2
Sinazongwe	2
Livingstone	1
Pemba	1
<i>Total</i>	39

Mr Speaker, the Eastern Province recorded 36 cases from five districts, which were:

<i>District</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>
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Lundazi	20
Petauke	10
Katete	3
Sinda	2
Chipata	1
<i>Total</i>	36

Mr Speaker, the Copperbelt Province had thirteen cases from Ndola seven and Kitwe six, while the Western Province recorded four cases from Mongu three and Kaoma one. The North-Western Province had the least number of cases with only two cases reported from Mwinilunga one case and Solwezi one case.

Mr Speaker, with sadness, I report to the House that the outbreak claimed 114 lives across the country, ninety-eight of which were recorded in Lusaka alone, five from Shibuyunji, two from Chilanga, two from Kafue, two from Mumbwa and one each from Chongwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Kabwe, Lundazi and Ndola.

Mr Speaker, it is standard practice to declare a cholera outbreak over when you have had no laboratory cases reported over a two-week period. I am happy to report to the House that the last recorded case from outside Lusaka Province was from Kabwe, on 27th April, 2018 while the last case in Lusaka was recorded on 31st May, 2018, from Mtendere. On this premise, the outbreak was declared over on 15th June, 2018.

Mr Speaker, allow me to recognise the various players whose swift action and unwavering dedication and support over the last nine months ensured that the outbreak was contained in the shortest period of time.

Mr Speaker, allow me to thank and commend His, Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu for ensuring unprecedented political will and leadership