

FRIDAY, 24 MARCH, 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

BY THE

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT,

MR CHITOTELA,

ON THE

**FLOODING OF KAFUE RIVER AT KAFUE HOOK BRIDGE IN KAFUE NATIONAL
PARK – CENTRAL PROVINCE**

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you most sincerely for granting me this opportunity to make a ministerial statement on the high water levels in Kafue River at Kafue Hook Bridge in Kafue National Park of Central Province.

Mr Chitotela: Sir, the Government, through my ministry, has prioritised infrastructure such roads and bridges as key to National development. Accordingly, the Government is heavily investing in the construction, upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance of the all road infrastructure across the country. This commitment is demonstrated through the implementation of various road infrastructure projects being undertaken in the country under the charge of the Road Development Agency (RDA).

Mr Speaker, RDA was established by the Road Public Act of No. 12 of 2002 for the purpose of providing care, maintenance and construction of all public roads in Zambia, and to also regulate the maximum weight permissible for transmission on our roads.

Sir, the Government, through the Ministry of Transport and Communications, in September, last year, indicated through a press release that the country was likely to receive normal to above normal to above normal rainfall during the 2016/2017 rain season, with a possibility of flash floods. Institutions responsible for disaster management were requested to prepare for any eventuality that may arise during this period. Indeed, in January, February and March, 2017, the country has received normal to above normal rains that has exerted pressure on the road infrastructure across the country.