



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HON. VINCENT MWALE,
MP, ON UPGRADING OF COUNCILS AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COUNCILS**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPGRADING OF COUNCILS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COUNCILS

Mr. Speaker

I wish to submit a statement on the floor of the House on four issues which are:

- (i) Proclamation of Chipata Municipal Council as a City;
- (ii) Upgrading of Chongwe Town Council as a Municipality.
- (iii) Establishment of New Districts
- (iv) Criteria for upgrading the status of councils

Mr. Speaker

(i) Proclamation of Chipata as a City

Mr. Speaker, before I dwell on the matter at hand, I wish to state that a lot of developments which have taken place in Chipata in the last few years have raised the economic profile of that district and given it a competitive edge not only in the Province but across our borders as well.

The House may wish to know that Chipata District is among the Districts in the nation that has taken advantage of the enabling environment created by the Government policies and programmes to improve their Local Economy and Welfare of its residents. As a result, this put Chipata Municipal Council in a better position to request for consideration to be upgraded to City status by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia.

The fact that Chipata is among the Provincial Capitals that are proactively striving to improve their Local Economies and Living Standards of their people does not surprise the Government at all. The efforts the district is making demonstrate visionary leadership and a willingness to experiment and innovate.

It is no wonder that after receiving petitions and appeals that Chipata District be upgraded to city status, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu undertook wide consultations and interrogation to determine whether or not to grant Chipata City status. You

may wish to note that after these consultations, His Excellency the President did not hesitate to upgrade Chipata Municipal Council to City status. As the House and the nation maybe aware in exercise of his powers contained under section three (3) and four (4) of the Local Government Act **Cap 281** of the Laws of Zambia, the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu proclaimed that the status of a City be conferred on the Municipality of Chipata and that the Municipality shall be known by the name of the City of Chipata. This proclamation came into operation on **25th February, 2017** in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. **13 of 2017** the City of Chipata proclamation, **2017** issued under the President's hand.

Mr. Speaker,

In view of the above, I wish to inform the House that the City of Chipata now joins the other four cities namely Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe and Livingstone bringing the number of cities in the Country to five.

Mr. Speaker,

(ii) Upgrading of Chongwe as a Municipality.

I wish to inform the House that Chongwe is among the Town Councils that demonstrated excellence in collective effort which has positioned the District to proactively strive to improve the Local Economy and Living Standards of its residents. It is also suffice to mention that the efforts the District is making exhibits visionary leadership and willingness to experiment and innovate.

Mr. Speaker,

With its location closer to Lusaka, the Capital City of our Country, Chongwe has witnessed massive development especially to the west of the District which is closer to the capital city. However, it is Government's wish that the whole district would be developed over time as development is a process.

The House may also wish to know that Chongwe District houses the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, which the Government is currently expanding and refurbishing to International standards. The airport currently handles approximately **1,200,000** passengers per year and this number is anticipated to increase tremendously once the expansion works are completed. The expansion

includes a Shopping Mall, two **(2)** Hotels, a new Fire Station, and a new Terminal Building among others.

A number of residential areas have been developed in the district in the recent past. These include places such as Meanwood Ndeke, Kwamwena, Vorna Valley, Madido and Obama which can be classified between low and high density areas. With this stratification of residential areas, I am aware that the district boasts of having approximately **15,295** properties on the **2014** approved Valuation Roll. However, this figure is a downplay of the present housing stock in the district, which is currently at approximately **35,000** which is by far more than that of Livingstone, Kafue and Kabwe district.

Chongwe district has in the recent past also witnessed development through implementation of various other projects including public and private sector investments:

Mr. Speaker,

It is no wonder, after receiving petitions and appeals that Chongwe District be upgraded to municipality status, I undertook wide consultations and interrogations in my determination as to whether or not to grant Chongwe Municipal status. You may wish to note that after these consultations, I did not also hesitate to upgrade Chongwe Town Council and I am proud to inform the House that in exercise of my powers contained under section three **(3)** of the Local Government Act **CAP 281** of the laws of Zambia, I upgraded the status of Chongwe District to a Municipality status by the establishment of Municipal Council for Chongwe District and the Town Council shall be known by the name of the Chongwe Municipal Council in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. **14** of **2017** the Local Government (Establishment of Councils) Order, **2017** dated **17th** February, **2017** issued under my hand.

Mr. Speaker,

The House may wish to know that it is Government's hope that the attainment of City and Municipal status by Chipata and Chongwe respectively would serve to motivate other Districts and Local Authorities in the Country to strive to attain City and Municipality status to realise their dream. However, Government urges the two Local Authorities not to relent but endeavor to provide improved service delivery in their respective Districts to the aspirations of the Government and