



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

SPEECH BY

HON. JEAN KAPATA, MP

MINISTER OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

AT

THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY

MULUNGUSHI HOUSE, LUSAKA

MONDAY 10TH MAY 2021

- **DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES;**
- **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY-MLNR;**
- **THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF LANDS;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **COALEGUES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS PRESENT;**
- **DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS JOINING US ON-LINE;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**

- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS SPECIAL EVENT INTENDED TO LAUNCH THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR ZAMBIA, A MAJOR MILESTONE TO IMPROVE LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTRY NOT JUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT GENERATIONS BUT POSTERITY AS WELL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TO APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF TODAY'S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE LAUNCH OF THE POLICY TODAY, THERE IS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT IN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR, WITH REGARD TO CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES IN PROGRAMMING IN THE ABSENCE OF THE POLICY AS WELL AS ITS FORMULATION PROCESS.

YOU MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT AS A SECTOR, THE SERVICES OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC ARE ALL CONTAINED IN VARIOUS PIECES OF LEGISLATION OF WHICH THE

LANDS ACT OF 1985 IS THE PRINCIPLE ACT. THE ACT PROVIDES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF LEASEHOLD TENURE; THE CONTINUED VESTING OF LAND IN THE PRESIDENT AND ALIENATION OF LAND BY THE PRESIDENT; THE STATUTORY RECOGNITION AND CONTINUATION OF CUSTOMARY TENURE; AND FOR THE CONVERSION OF CUSTOMARY INTO LEASEHOLD TENURE. THE ACT IN ITSELF IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE IN ADDRESSING LAND ISSUES. THE ACT, IS SUPPORTED BY RELATED PIECES OF LEGISLATION, SUCH AS THE LANDS AND DEEDS REGISTRY ACT, AND THE SURVEY ACT AND POLICY DOCUMENTS SUCH AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 1985.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK IN THE SECTOR HAS BEEN A MAJOR OBSTACLES TO ADDRESSING MANY LAND RELATED CHALLENGES IN THE SECTOR. THEREFORE, THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY IS

REQUIRED TO FILL IN THIS VACUUM IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR, WHICH WE ALL KNOW, INCLUDE LAND ENCROACHMENT, LAND DISPLACEMENTS OFTENTIMES WITH LITTLE OR NO COMPENSATION, INADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICED IN VIEW OF POPULATION GROWTH, AND LAND DISPUTES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOVERNMENT HAS LONG REALISED THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL LANDS POLICY. HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS HAS ALSO BEEN A CHALLENGE. YOU MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES BEGUN THE POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS BY THE YEAR 2000

WITH STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS ON LAND MATTERS. SINCE THEN THE MINISTRY HAS COME UP WITH TWO DRAFTS: THE 2007 DRAFT WHICH CABINET COULD NOT APPROVE DUE TO THE NEED FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS; AND THE 2017 DRAFT WHICH WAS NEVER BROUGHT TO CABINET FOR APPROVAL BUT WHICH FACED A NUMBER OF CONCERNS AT THE NATIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP HELD IN FEBRUARY, 2018. THIS TIME AROUND, CHIEFS RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND THE MINISTRY WHICH SAW THE MINISTRY BEING REQUESTED TO REACH CONSENSUS WITH STAKEHOLDERS BEFORE ADOPTION OF THE POLICY. CONSEQUENTLY, FROM 2018 TO DATE, THE MINISTRY HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN ONE FORM OF CONSULTATIONS OR ANOTHER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

DESPITE THESE CHALLENGES FACED WITHOUT A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY, GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA.

SOME OF THE SUCCESSES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO SCORE IN THE LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR SINCE 2016, WHICH I ENDEAVOUR to HIGHLIGHT just A FEW, AS FOLLOWS:

- GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED TITLED LAND TO BETWEEN 23 TO 36 PER CENT OF WOMEN APPLICANTS PER YEAR;
- GOVERNMENT HAS TO DATE ESTABLISHED EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT GROUPS COVERING AN AREA OF ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR (**1,632,324**) HECTARES OF COMMUNITY FOREST AREAS.

- GOVERNMENT HAS FORMULATED NEW POLICIES ON **NATIONAL POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE** OF 2016; **NATIONAL POLICY ON WETLANDS** OF 2018; AND, NOW, THE **NATIONAL LANDS POLICY** (2021).

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY WILL PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVEMENT OF LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE QUESTION ONE MAY ASK IS 'WHAT NEW SOLUTIONS IS THE LANDS POLICY BRINGING TO THE TABLE'? FIRST, LAND TITLING WILL BE MADE POSSIBLE BY ELECTRONIC PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF TITLE ENMASS. SECONDLY, CHIEFS AND OTHER RELEVANT AUTHORITIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ALLOCATE LAND TO WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT; THIRDLY, YOUTH WILL ACQUIRE LAND AT 18 YEARS OF AGE INSTEAD OF 21. FOURTHLY, OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND ENGAGEMENT IN SECONDARY TRANSACTIONS BY NON-ZAMBIAN WILL BE REGULATED; LASTLY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMMES WILL BE STRENGTHENED TO ENSURE ADHERANCE TO THE LAW.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LET ME HASTEN TO SAY THAT THESE ARE NOT THE ONLY PROVISIONS THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY AIMS TO BRING TO THE TABLE BUT MANY MORE. I WISH TO URGE EVERY STAKEHOLDER TO READ THE POLICY THOROUGHLY IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE HOW THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY AIMS AT IMPACTING THE LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR ON THE PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

BEFORE CONCLUDING MY SPEECH, ALLOW ME TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN BOTH THE FORMULATION AND FINALISATION OF THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY OVER THE YEARS: LINE MINISTRIES INCLUDING MY OWN; OUR CHIEFS, OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS, NGOS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE

SUPPORT THAT THEY HAVE RENDERED TO MY MINISTRY AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THIS LAUNCH IS TAKING PLACE WHEN PARLIAMENT IS DISSOLVING AND THIS IS PROBABLY MY LAST OFFICIAL PUBLIC ACT AS A MINISTER WHICH IS, THEREFORE, SYMBOLIC. IT IS NOW MY PRIVILEGE AND HONOUR TO LAUNCH THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY.

I NOW DECLARE THE NATIONAL LANDS POLICY OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED. MAY GOD BLESS OUR GREAT NATION.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION.