

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
MEASURES TO EQUALISE INPUT DISTRIBUTION UNDER FISP
BY THE
HON. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR M. R. PHIRI), MP

Madam Speaker, I thank you this opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the measures that the Government has put in place to equalise input distribution under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in the 2021/2022 agriculture season.

Madam, in my ministerial statement, I will update the House on the following specific issues:

- (a) status on the ongoing audit of contracted input suppliers under FISP; and
- (b) measures that the Government has taken to ensure equity and fairness in the distribution of inputs.

Madam Speaker, as a preamble to my ministerial statement, I would like to mention that the update has become necessary because of the questions and enquiries that the Ministry of Agriculture has been receiving in relation to the implementation of FISP in the current agriculture season. In the 2021/2022 agriculture season, FISP will target a total of 1,024,434 farmers across the country. It is important to note that all beneficiaries of the programme each contribute K400 to be eligible to receive inputs, and from this contribution, K100 will be paid as a premium towards the weather index insurance.

Madam Speaker, allow me to update the House on the status of the FISP audit that the Government commissioned in September 2021. The hon. Members of the House may wish to know that as a precautionary measure to ensure that the right quantities have been physically delivered to all districts in the country, the Government commissioned an audit of the input distribution process under FISP. It is important to note that for the current agriculture season, the