

Tuesday, 25th February, 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

BY

THE MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, HON. MWANSA, MP

Mr Speaker, I am going to present a Ministerial Statement on the Flood Situation in the country.

Sir, climate change and climate vulnerability has continued to impact vulnerable communities at the scale and magnitude never experienced before in the history of Zambia. These impacts are felt across a wide range of communities and society. Extreme weather events such as floods and drought have impacted negatively on agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, infrastructure, education and energy.

Mr Speaker, not only has the frequency and occurrence of extreme weather events increased over space and time but the number of affected people has more than tripled in the last five years.

Sir, the 2019/2020 season forecast by the Southern African Region Climate Outlook Forum and downscaled by the Zambia Meteorological Department projected that most parts of the country would receive normal to above normal rainfall. Based on the forecast, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) and its partners prepared the 2019/2020 Contingency Plan which identified floods as the main hazard which would characterise the season.

Mr Speaker, the Contingency Plan is prepared every year by the Office of the Vice-President in collaboration with other stakeholders in order to put in place robust disaster preparedness measures to ensure that in times of disasters, impacts and loss is generally minimised by the involvement of authorities, individuals and communities in hazard prone areas. According to the Contingency Plan, sixty-three districts were projected to be affected by floods and dry spells in