MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

2017/2018 LIVESTOCK AND AQUACULTURE CENSUS

BY

THE HON. MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK, PROF. LUO, MP

Mr Speaker, I thank you for according me this rare opportunity and privilege to render a ministerial statement.

Sir, on 13th February, 2019, in response to Question 195 asked by Hon. Dr Evans Chibanda, Member of Parliament for Mufulira Constituency, Hon. Kampamba Mulenga Chewe, Member of Parliament and then hon. Minister of Fisheries and Livestock assured this august House and the nation at large that a ministerial statement on the 2017/2018 Livestock and Aquaculture Census would be issued at an appropriate time.

Sir, today is the appropriate time for the ministry to issue this ministerial statement. This statement gives the official results for the livestock and aquaculture census. Right from the onset, I wish to begin by thanking His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu for giving me this real, great privilege to serve as the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Livestock.

As I make this very important pronouncement that will provide the baseline data for the fisheries and livestock sector in our country, even those who are saying "Question" will benefit from it.

Mr Speaker, the livestock and aquaculture census I am announcing today is based on universally applied scientific survey methods that are used worldwide. The livestock and aquaculture census was jointly conducted by my ministry and the Central Statistical Office (CSO) under the Ministry of National Development and Planning covering all the 117 districts of this country.

Sir, may I take this opportunity to inform this House and the nation at large that the general benefit of the census is that it provides a snapshot of the size and profile of the livestock

population and fish farming participation levels in the country. These statistics are very important and are given worldwide and usually they are given periodically. Worldwide periodic livestock and aquaculture census data has been used to develop effective strategies relating to livestock and fishery interventions and other economic and social issues. However, in the case of Zambia, informed decisions and policy making in the livestock and fisheries sector were based on statistics from crop based surveys such as the post harvest survey for the past twenty-six years. In other cases, the Government had to rely on administrative data which has its own shortcomings and lacks scientific merits.

Mr Speaker, with the policy emphasis on the diversification of the agricultural sector into livestock and aquaculture production to enhance household food security and nutrition income generation, empowerment of our people, employment creation and most importantly wealth creation, the need for updated and accurate livestock and aquaculture statistics data cannot be overemphasised to this end. The Government decided to carry out this census primary because in future we want to be making policy decisions based on information from evidence. Let me start by saying that the 2017 and 2018 livestock and aquaculture census was conducted from both household and establishments such as the private sector, Government institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country. Other census that were undertaken before were combined agriculture and livestock census, which were conducted in the 1970 to 1971 and 1991 to 1992 agricultural seasons.

Sir, allow me to share some of the highlights of the 2017 and 2018 livestock and aquaculture census. My ministry has distributed the full report to the Office of the Clerk of National Assembly so that the hon. Members of Parliament can read the full report and benefit from it. So what I am going to give is a synopsis of this report.

I will start with the agricultural households. I am pleased to report that there has been a 48.3 per cent increase in the number of households countrywide from 2,513,768 recorded during the 2010 census of our population to 3,727,362 as at January, 2018. Out of the current numbers of households in the country 2,267,999 which represents 60.8 per cent are agriculture households. Of the 2,267,999 agricultural households in the country, 1,641,826 or 72 per cent were involved