

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr Katambo): Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to deliver this ministerial statement on the implementation of the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) for the 2018/2019 agriculture season. This statement is a follow-up to the statement I delivered on Tuesday, 25th September, 2018, where I updated the House on the preparations the Ministry of Agriculture undertook on the implementation of FISP. It is now necessary that I update the House and the nation at large on the status of the implementation.

Mr Speaker, allow me to remind the House of the salient points of my last ministerial statement on the subject at hand. In the 2018/2019 agriculture season, FISP was implemented using two approaches, namely: the Electronic Voucher System (e-Voucher) and the Direct Input Supply System (DISS). A total of one million farmers was targeted to receive inputs under the programme. The targeted farmers were expected to each contribute K400 while the Government contributed K1700 towards the inputs.

Mr Speaker, in order to facilitate the implementation of the programme, the ministry used the Zambia Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (ZIAMIS). The features of the ZIAMIS were enhanced to facilitate the implementation of both the e-Voucher system and the DISS. In addition to facilitating the farmer deposits and payments to agro dealers, seven commercial banks and two private sector financial service providers were contracted by the ministry. The ministry also registered 870 agro dealers who operated about 2,155 outlets.

Mr Speaker, as at 14th February, 2019, a total of 998,791 or 99.9 per cent of the targeted one million farmers in both the e-Voucher and Direct Input Supply districts had successfully deposited their contribution. These farmers were eligible to receive Government support. Of this