

THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

**POULTRY IMPORT BAN ARISING FROM OUTBREAKS OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC
AVIAN INFLUENZA**

BY THE HON. MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK, MR KATAMBO

Madam Speaker, thank you for availing me this opportunity to address this august House on the resurgence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a number of African countries and the measures that my ministry has instituted so far.

Madam Speaker, I am making this statement as a result of a number of queries received from the business community on the import ban on poultry and poultry products from countries affected by HPAI.

Madam Speaker, in June this year, my ministry banned the importation of poultry and poultry products from countries that have reported outbreaks of HPAI. The avian influenza or bird flu virus can kill 90 to 100 per cent of the flock on affected farms. The disease can cause outbreaks that may spread rapidly within the country and devastate the poultry industry resulting in economic losses. Additionally, the rural poultry farming community can be negatively affected by the disease due to the high mortalities and this can result in the perpetuation of poverty in affected areas.

Madam Speaker, the current situation is that Zambia has not recorded any cases of HPAI. However, some of our neighbouring countries have continued to see cases and in some instances the disease has been spreading. South Africa has seen the disease spread to new areas and cases are still being reported as of 2nd October, 2017. Zimbabwe last reported cases on 13th September, 2017, but has not resolved the outbreak.

The disease can be spread by wild birds, infected poultry and poultry products as well as contaminated objects such as vehicles and clothes from people who have visited the outbreak areas. Zambia is, therefore, considered to be at high risk to the disease.