



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

STATEMENT ON THE DROUGHT RESPONSE APPEAL

BY

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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2024

LUSAKA

DROUGHT RESPONSE APPEAL

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATING PARTNERS,

- **AS YOU KNOW, ZAMBIA HAS EXPERIENCED EXTREMELY LOW RAINFALL THIS YEAR, CULMINATING IN THE WORST DROUGHT THE COUNTRY HAS EXPERIENCED SINCE RECORDS BEGAN**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOW UPON US, AND IT HAS BROUGHT INCREASED FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS SUCH AS DROUGHT AND FLOODING.**
- **THE EFFECTS OF THIS DROUGHT WERE MOST CLEARLY OBSERVED IN CROP PRODUCTION, WHERE ONE MILLION HECTARES OF PLANTED MAIZE HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED ACROSS EIGHTY-FOUR (84) OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN (116) DISTRICTS IN OUR COUNTRY**
- **SIMILARLY, PASTURE AVAILABILITY HAS REDUCED FOR ANIMALS, WHILE GROUND AND SURFACE WATER LEVELS HAVE ALSO BEEN IMPACTED NEGATIVELY.**

- **NINE POINT EIGHT MILLION (9.8 MILLION) OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT.**
- **OF THESE, 6.6 MILLION PEOPLE ARE IN NEED OF URGENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.**
- **ON THURSDAY 29TH FEBRUARY 2024, WE DECLARED THE COUNTRY'S DROUGHT AS A NATIONAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY.**
- **TO RESPOND TO THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT, EMPHASIS IS BEING PLACED ON THE PROVISION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE IN NEED, AS WELL AS INTERVENTIONS FOR EARLY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE BUILDING, GOING FORWARD.**
- **WE ARE PLACING SPECIAL FOCUS ON INVESTMENTS IN WATER DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL, AND ENERGY PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF WATER TO HOUSEHOLDS, LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE.**
- **IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE ROBUST INTERVENTIONS IN HEALTH, NUTRITION, TOURISM, AND PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENRY, AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE.**

- **OVERALL, IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATE LIFE-SAVING AND LIFE-SUSTAINING HUMANITARIAN AND RECOVERY NEEDS, A TOTAL OF 23.5 BILLION ZAMBIAN KWACHA, TRANSLATING TO 940.6 MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS IS URGENTLY REQUIRED.**
- **OF THIS AMOUNT, 1.3 BILLION ZAMBIAN KWACHA, EQUIVALENT TO 51.2 MILLION UNITED STATE DOLLARS IS AVAILABLE LEAVING A FINANCING GAP OF 22.2 BILLION ZAMBIAN KWACHA, EQUIVALENT TO 889.4 MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS.**
- **TO BE SPECIFIC, 12.6 BILLION KWACHA IS REQUIRED FOR IMMEDIATE FOOD ASSISTANCE, OUT OF WHICH 28.3 MILLION KWACHA IS AVAILABLE, LEAVING A GAP OF ABOUT 12.54 BILLION KWACHA.**
- **FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR, PARTICULARLY IN EXPANDING THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME, A SUM OF 784 MILLION KWACHA IS URGENTLY REQUIRED.**
- **IN THE HEALTH SECTOR, 2.5 BILLION KWACHA IS REQUIRED, OUT OF WHICH 51.7 MILLION KWACHA IS AVAILABLE, LEAVING A GAP OF 2.45 BILLION KWACHA.**

- **TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE, AS WELL AS PREGNANT WOMEN AND NEW MOTHERS, THEIR NUTRITION NEEDS WILL REQUIRE A TOTAL OF 532 MILLION KWACHA.**
- **WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT, A KEY PILLAR OF EARLY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE BUILDING, WILL REQUIRE 3.02 BILLION KWACHA OUT OF WHICH 569 MILLION KWACHA IS AVAILABLE, LEAVING A FUNDING GAP OF 2.4 BILLION KWACHA.**
- **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AS PART OF EARLY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE BUILDING, WILL REQUIRE 2.5 BILLION KWACHA, AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO THE FUNDING GAP OF THIS SPECIFIC ACTIVITY SINCE NO RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS.**
- **FINALLY, LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND WELLBEING WILL REQUIRE 1.7 BILLION KWACHA, OUT OF WHICH 98 MILLION IS AVAILABLE, LEAVING A FUNDING GAP OF 1.5 BILLION KWACHA.**

CLEARLY, THIS IS A DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR THE COUNTRY.

WITH A HEAVY HEART, ON BEHALF OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA, WE HEREBY APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, OUR PARTNERS WITHIN THE COUNTRY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE CHURCH, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, TO SUPPORT OUR PLAN FINANCIALLY AND MATERIALLY, IN MITIGATING THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT.

IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT YOU, THE VARIOUS LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS SHALL JOIN HANDS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA, TO ALLEVIATE THIS GRAVE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND THE OTHER NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THIS DROUGHT.

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL

MAY GOD BLESS OUR COUNTRY, ZAMBIA

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION