



**Republic of Zambia**

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDIA STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO  
RE-SCOPE SOME OF THE ROAD PROJECTS**

**ISSUED BY**

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THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING NUMEROUS ROAD PROJECTS COVERING ALL THE REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT WORKS HAVE RANGED FROM CONSTRUCTION, UPGRADING, REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO KEEP THE ROADS IN GOOD CONDITION.

THE PREMISE OF GOVERNMENT'S ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA HAS BEEN THE RECOGNITION THAT A GOOD ROAD NETWORK IS A KEY INGREDIENT IN NATIONAL EFFORTS TO FACILITATE PRIVATE SECTOR LED GROWTH IN THE PRIORITY SECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, MINING, MANUFACTURING AND TOURISM.

SINCE 2011, GOVERNMENT HAS ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT AND TANGIBLE RESULTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS SUCH AS THE LINK ZAMBIA 8000, LUSAKA 400, NATIONAL ROAD TOLLING PROGRAMME AND OTHER ROAD REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

THIS ACHIEVEMENT HAVE BENEFITED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH REDUCED TRANSPORT COSTS AND INCREASED ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES PARTICULARLY IN PREVIOUSLY UNSERVICED AREAS OF OUR COUNTRY. THESE RESULTS WILL HAVE LASTING POSITIVE IMPACTS ON THE ECONOMY.

AT THE SAME TIME, GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO REALIZED THAT THE INVESTMENTS IN THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS SUCH AS THE HOSPITALS, UNIVERSITIES AND AIRPORTS REQUIRES SUFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES MOST OF WHICH SHOULD BE MOBILISED LOCALLY. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE ONGOING AND PIPELINE PROJECTS IN ALL SECTORS IF ALL-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IS TO BE ACHIEVED.

IN THE RECENT PAST, GOVERNMENT HAS FACED SOME CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. THIS IS MAINLY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE LIMITATIONS IN THE MOBILISATION OF LOCAL RESOURCES DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS SUCH AS CONSTRAINED GROWTH AMONG OTHERS.

THE EMERGENCE OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC HAS WORKED TO COMPOUND THE SITUATION UNFAVOURABLY. IN VIEW OF THESE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, COUPLED WITH THE NEED FOR THE TREASURY TO SUSTAIN FUNDING TO OTHER CRITICAL NEEDS, GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO RESTRUCTURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF THE MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS UNDER THE LINK ZAMBIA 8,000 PROGRAMME.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RESTRUCTURING IS TO ALIGN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS TO THE AVAILABLE RESOURCE ENVELOPE AND REDUCE INCIDENCES OF PROJECTS STALLING. THIS WILL IN TURN ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPACT WITH THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

THE GOAL, THEREFORE, IS TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE PUBLIC ON ALL CRITICAL ROAD LINKS IN THE SHORT TERM WHILE DEFERRING THE DELIVERY OF ROADS OF BITUMINOUS STANDARD TO A FUTURE DATE WHEN MORE FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

THE PROJECT RESTRUCTURING INVOLVES RE-SCOPING OR DOWNSCALING PROJECTS FROM UPGRADING TO BITUMINOUS STANDARD (PAVED) TO CONSTRUCTION OF, “**ALL-WEATHER GRAVEL STANDARD ROADS**”.

ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT, I WISH TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT A TOTAL OF THIRTY-ONE (31) PROJECTS LOCATED ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE UNDERGONE DOWNSCALING. THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH CONTRACT RE-NEGOTIATION AND VARIATION. THE UNDERTAKING HAS RESULTED IN THE REDUCTION OF THE COMBINED CONTRACT SUMS OF THE AFFECTED PROJECTS FROM **SIXTEEN BILLION KWACHA (K16, 000, 580, 402.08)** TO SIX **BILLION FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINE MILLION KWACHA** (K6, 479, 621, 277.59). THIS TRANSLATES INTO A REDUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT OF ABOUT 60 PERCENT.

I WISH TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT WITH THIS STRATEGY, GOVERNMENT EXPECTS WORKS ON ALMOST ALL STALLED PROJECTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO RESUME SOON. THIS WILL STILL ENABLE US ACHIEVE GOVERNMENT’S INITIAL OBJECTIVE OF LINKING ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND ENHANCING MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY.

LASTLY, THE PUBLIC IS BEING ASSURED OF GOVERNMENT'S SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO DELIVER INFRASTRUCTURE TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED STANDARDS OF LIVING.

I THANK YOU.

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