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**PRESS STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON  
ON THE DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET AT THE 27TH CABINET  
MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2020**

His Excellency, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia called for a virtual Cabinet Meeting today, 14th December, 2020, to discuss policy matters regarding the development Agenda the Government has continued to pursue in order to improve the livelihoods of the people.

The following were the decisions made:

**1. Declaration of Jiangxi Multi-Facility Economic Zone.**

Cabinet approved the declaration of Farm No. 2112, situated in Chibombo District in Central Province, belonging to Jiangxi United Industrial Investment Limited, as a Multi-Facility Economic Zone (MFEZ).

The establishment of the MFEZ will come with an injection of US\$1.0 billion which will comprise various industries primarily in the manufacturing sector such as textile and apparel manufacturing plants. Also expected in the MFEZ will be building materials; manufacturing plants; an agricultural activity area; hardware manufacturing plants; electronic manufacturing plants; and scientific research facilities.

The MFEZ is earmarked to create at least 20,000 permanent jobs and over 80,000 temporal jobs during the construction stage.

## **2. Operationalisation of the Animal Disease Control Fund.**

Cabinet also approved channelling of all fees collected under Statutory Instrument No. 22 of 2018, “The Animal Health (Veterinary Services Fees) Regulations, 2018,” into the Animal Diseases Control Fund.

The direct funding through the Animal Diseases Control Fund from the fees collected under SI No 22 of 2018 will ensure availability of funds to enable the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to respond rapidly to any disease outbreaks and also enable the implementation of measures that will prevent the diseases breaking out in the first instance. This development will reduce the cost of disease control, as outbreaks will be eradicated before they fester.

## **3. The Citizens Economic Empowerment (Amendment) Bill, 2020.**

Cabinet approved in principle to the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to amend the Citizens Economic Empowerment (CEE) Act in order to provide for mechanisms for empowerment of a company where 100 percent equity is owned by citizens. This is meant to direct empowerment efforts towards wholly owned Zambian companies.

Currently, there is no specific provision to empower companies where citizens own 100 percent of its equity while enforcement of such initiatives is weak. The amendment, therefore, seeks to introduce mechanisms for empowering companies where 100 percent equity is citizen owned.

Cabinet, however, further guided that, the CEEC Act being an important piece of legislation in ensuring citizens participation in the affairs of the economy, it is important that the amendment should comprehensively address all the issues affecting citizens’ participation.

## **4. The Veterinary and Veterinary Para-Professions (Amendment) Bill, 2020.**

Cabinet also approved in principle to introduce a Bill in Parliament to amend the Veterinary and Veterinary Para-Professionals Act No. 45 of 2010 in order to clarify roles and functions of the Veterinary Council of Zambia (VCZ) and the Veterinary Association of Zambia (VAZ).

Cabinet agreed that the Act must be amended to make it easier to implement so that the country can have a vibrant veterinary profession that can address the many animal health challenges and help the livestock sector as well as related fields to thrive.

Cabinet indicated that as Zambia moves towards increasing its participation in global trade and embracing trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the country will, among other things, raise the bar in Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Standards which are vital in accessing export markets.

#### **5. The Postal Services (Repeal) Bill, 2020.**

Cabinet gave approval in principle, to the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to repeal and replace the Postal Services Act No. 22 of 2009 in order to provide a mechanism that will develop the Postal and Courier Service Sector.

In its current form, the Postal Services Act does not adequately cover various aspects of the Postal and Courier Sector. The law will provide for improvement of coverage for universal postal services, economic regulation, enhancement of consumer protection, improved compliance in the sector, and promotion of sector development and innovation through progressive legal provisions.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
CABINET OFFICE  
**LUSAKA.**

14TH DECEMBER, 2020