



# FARMERS' DAY: INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Economic transformation is required to improve the quality of economic growth, generate jobs, and reduce poverty over time in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Inclusive economic transformation refers to a process of sustainable and equitable economic growth that benefits all segments of society. It goes beyond mere economic expansion to ensure that the benefits of development are shared among various social groups, including marginalized populations and vulnerable communities. This year, Zambia celebrates Farmers' Day under the theme **"Inclusive Economic Development"**. This theme acknowledges the indispensable role played by our hardworking farmers in propelling our nation's progress and ensuring a sustainable future for all.

The foundation of Zambia's economic growth rests on the unwavering dedication of our farmers who, with resilience and determination, cultivate the land and produce abundant food and raw materials. They are the backbone of our agricultural sector, providing nourishment to our citizens and supporting various industries, from agribusiness to manufacturing.

Inclusive economic development is at the core of our national vision and our farmers play a pivotal role in realizing this vision. Their efforts extend beyond the boundaries of their farms, positively impacting rural communities and stimulating economic growth across the country. By empowering

our farmers with modern agricultural practices, advanced technologies, and access to markets, we are fostering a conducive environment that promotes prosperity and reduces poverty. Moreover, recognizing the specific roles of women in agriculture is essential to achieving true inclusivity. Women farmers play a significant role in food production and agricultural activities. We can unlock their potential as catalysts for change and progress by empowering them with equal access to resources and opportunities.

The Government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has been working diligently to ensure that our farmers have the necessary resources and support to thrive. **Initiatives such as improved irrigation systems, agricultural training programs and financial assistance have been implemented to empower farmers and enhance their productivity.** Through these measures, we aim to create a more equitable and sustainable agricultural sector that uplifts all members of our society. As Zambia prepares to migrate from the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) to the Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Programme (CATSP), we must aspire to increase agricultural production and productivity.

On this occasion, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to every farmer, their families and their support networks for their unyielding dedication and commitment to their craft. Their hard work and perseverance exemplify the spirit of our nation.

As we commemorate Farmers' Day under the theme of inclusive economic development, let us collectively pledge to prioritize the well-being of our farmers, **protect their interests and create an enabling environment that promotes prosperity and growth for all. Let us also remember that inclusive economic development encompasses not only agricultural advancement but also the well-being of our rural communities. Investing in education, healthcare and infrastructure in rural areas is vital to create an environment where farmers and their families can flourish.**

As we embark on the journey towards inclusive economic development, let us pledge to strengthen the agricultural sector, protect our natural resources and ensure that no farmer is left behind. Together, we can build a stronger and more resilient agricultural sector that serves as a catalyst for broader economic development, providing opportunities for all Zambians to thrive.

Best wishes to all of Zambia's farmers, and a fruitful Farmers' Day Commemoration.



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