



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

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15th March, 2019

The Executive Director
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The General Manager
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The General Manager
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The General Manager
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The General Manager
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The General Manager
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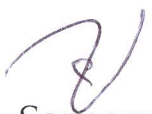
The General Manager
Western Tobacco Leaf Association
P/A Nkeyema
Kaoma

**RE: MEASURES TAKEN TO BRING HARMONY TO THE TOBACCO
INDUSTRY**

Following consultations with stakeholders in the tobacco industry, the Ministry of Agriculture is convinced that there is disharmony among key stakeholders in the tobacco industry. To bring normacy to the tobacco industry, please be informed that the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Michael Katambo, MP has taken the following measures:

1. The old laws governing the tobacco industry, that is the Tobacco Act and the Tobacco Levy Act Cap 237 and 238 of the laws of Zambia, will be reviewed with the aim of repealing them and coming up with laws that suit the current times. The new laws must also ensure that the weakest players in the industry, who are mainly small-scale farmers, are adequately protected. The Ministry is aware that a proposed draft bill is in place but it is the Ministry's view that the draft bill be subjected to further consultations.
2. To allow the process of reviewing the outdated laws to take place in a cordial and consultative manner, the Ministry will embark on a process of reviewing Statutory Instruments (SIs) 67, 84 and 85 in full consultation with all stakeholders. These SIs have been the major source of disharmony in the tobacco industry.
3. The Ministry is in the process of putting together an appropriate Board of Directors at the TBZ.
4. Tobacco Board of Zambia has been directed to immediately take appropriate action and ensure that the tobacco marketing season is opened without any further delay. To ensure that the 2019 tobacco marketing season runs smoothly, the Ministry of Agriculture will facilitate an administrative Memorandum of Understanding between TBZ, tobacco growers and tobacco buyers.
5. The Ministry has directed the tobacco buyers who collected the tobacco levy on behalf of government in the 2017/2018 marketing season to remit the levy with immediate effect.

It is our hope that these measures will result into a tobacco industry where stakeholders treat each other as strategic partners.



Songowayo Zyambo
Permanent Secretary

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Cc. Hon. Michael Z. J. Katambo, MP
Minister of Agriculture