



PRESIDENT ORDERS QUICKER SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROBE

Lusaka, (Tuesday, 18th September, 2018) -- His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia has given Secretary to the Cabinet Dr. Roland Msiska one week to take decisive action to curb all malpractices in the administration of the Social Cash Transfer programme.

President Lungu has further directed that the Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Hon. Emerine Kabanshi and Minister of Finance Hon. Margaret Mwanakatwe must continue with their engagements with donors to assure them of the remedial measures Government has been undertaking since suspected cases of misuse surfaced earlier this year.

Four months ago, the President ordered an administrative inquiry into suspected misuse of the Social Cash Transfer funds but regrets that a comprehensive report was only submitted to his office on 14th September 2018. The Head of State now wants all remaining actions and remedial measures to be availed to him within one week.

"I want a speedy and decisive investigation into the matter to establish the status of the disbursement of the Social Cash Transfer programme. Wherever cases of abuse requiring criminal investigations may arise, such cases must be reported to relevant agencies and where administrative action is required I want to see prompt action taken," the President said.

The President is gravely concerned with the reported breaches in the administration of the Social Cash Transfer because they were hurting the poor who survive on this vital safety net.

The President says he is as frustrated as the donors financing the programme because his priority in this regard is the plight of the poor. The President is not satisfied with the pace of the ongoing administrative measures and so he wants quicker forensic audits by the Auditor-General and other relevant Government internal audit systems.

On instructions from the President, the Secretary to the Cabinet led a government team to a meeting with donors on 5th September 2018, and shared with them the measures being undertaken to address the problems encountered in the Social Cash Transfer programme.

The President has been informed that preliminary information indicates that a total of K43, 819,164 remains outstanding to beneficiaries in Luapula, Northern, North-Western, Muchinga, Western and Copperbelt provinces. The President has directed that the Secretary to the Cabinet takes appropriate action in line with all the provisions of the Joint Financing Agreement between government and the Cooperating Partners.

Issued by:

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