



**Republic Of Zambia**

**Ministry Of Agriculture**

**Statement**

**By**

**Dr. Kenneth K. Msiska, Director**

**Plant Quarantine And Phytosanitary Service**

**National Plant Protection Organization Of Zambia**

**On The Occasion Of The**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Phytosanitary Conference**

**Held On 13<sup>th</sup> To 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

**Kephis, Nairobi, Kenya**



**Chairperson,**

**The Director, Au-Inter-Africa Phytosanitary Council,**

**The Managing Director-Kephis, Professor Theophilus Mutui,**

**Representatives Of Regional Economic Communities,**

**Representatives Of The Food And Agriculture Organization,**

**The Heads And Representatives Of Heads Of Nppos Present,**

**Representatives Of Research Bodies Present,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**May I Simply Say All Protocol Observed,**

It Is A Great Honour And Privilege To Be Among You All Today At This Very Important Event Which Is The Third International Phytosanitary Conference Themed **Enhancing Phytosanitary Systems For Health Plants, Safe And Sustainable Trade.**

Let Me Thank The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (Kephis) And The Managing Director, Professor Theophilus Mutui, For The Gracious Invitation To Deliver A Key Note Speech At This Conference.

**Ladies And Gentlemen,**

This Third International Phytosanitary Conference Forms Part Of Celebrations Of The International Year Of Plant Health Which Started At The Beginning Of 2020. The Theme Of This Conference

Therefore Appropriately Speaks To The Objective Of The International Year Of Plant Health. Further, The Thematic Areas Which Are: International Year Of Plant Health Itself; Pest Surveillance In Phytosanitary Systems; Import Control And Export Certification In Phytosanitary Systems; Pest Diagnostics In Phytosanitary Systems; Emerging Innovations In Phytosanitary Systems; The Industry Role In Implementation Of Successful Phytosanitary Systems; And Capacity Building, Regulatory Framework, Trade Negotiations And Communication In Phytosanitary Systems All Augment Efforts To Achieve A Comprehensive And Well Functioning Phytosanitary System For Our Nations, Regions And The Globe At Large.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

The Negative Impact Of Plant Pests And Their Quick Spread Especially As Exacerbated By Increased Global Trade And The Effects Of Climate Change, Cannot Be Overemphasized. It Is Therefore Imperative That Nations, Regions, And The Globe Take Necessary And Appropriate Actions To Ensure That We All Keep Pace With These Unavoidable Evolutions In The World We Live In. The Necessary And Appropriate Actions Refer To Those That Will Promote And Enhance Phytosanitary Systems And Their Effective Implementation The World Over.

Awareness Creation On The Importance Of Plants To Various Forms Of Life On Earth Including The Environment And The Need To Protect These Plants From Pest Is A Key Starting Point. Support To Implement Or Operationalize Sound And Effective Phytosanitary Systems Can

Only Be Obtained From Well Informed And Convinced Governments, Institutions And Cooperating Partners. It Is Therefore Important For Parties That Lobby For Support To Know How To Package And Present Their Message To These Potential Collaborating Institutions In Order To Get The Much Needed Support To Enhance Phytosanitary Systems.

**Chair Person, Ladies And Gentlemen,**

We Are Alive To The Real Impact Of Covid 19 Globally And The Negative Impact It Caused On The Smooth Celebration Of The Iyph 2020, Which Among Them, Were Cancellation Of Physical Meetings, Conferences And Workshops As Well As Field Days, Shows, Expos And Trade Fairs Meant To Raise Awareness On Plant Health And Related Matters. I However, Wish To Salute The Fao, Ippc, Rppo, Nppos And Many Other Actors In The Plant Health Fraternity For The Initiatives They Embarked On In The Wake Of Covid 19 To Still Progress Initiatives And Activities Meant To Celebrate The Iyph.

Zambia Was Not Left Out In The Celebration Of This Very Important Noble Cause. Like Many Other Member States And Partners, Zambia Came Up With A Number Of Initiatives And Embarked On A Number Of Activities To Celebrate This Important Year. These Included The Production Of Various Awareness Materials Such As Caps, T-Shirts, Posters, Brochures, Holding Of Stakeholders Awareness Meetings And Workshops. Further, At Government Level, Zambia Elevated The Portfolio Of The Plant Quarantine And Phytosanitary Service (Pqps), Which Is The Designated National

Plant Protection Organization (Nppo) Of Zambia, From A Unit Under The Ministry Of Agriculture To A Fully-Fledged Department With Additional Staff In Order To Enhance Phytosanitary Work.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

Furthermore, Its A Delight To Share With You That The Government Of Zambia, Under The Auspices Of The International Year Of Plant Health (Iyph) International Steering Committee (Isc), Proposed The Establishment Of The Observance By The Un System Of **12th May** As The International Day Of Plant Health (Idph). So Far, This Proposal Has Received Overwhelming Support From The Ippc Community And Its Cooperating Partners. As I Speak, The Resolution Is At Its Final Stage And Only Awaits Presentation To United Nations General Assembly Later This Year For Endorsement. Zambia Is Therefore, Proud To Be Part Of These Celebrations.

**Ladies And Gentlemen,**

I Have No Doubt That Many Initiatives And Activities Implemented So Far Have Made Some Significant Impact Towards Realization Of The Objective Of The International Year Of Plant Health. Similarly, The Holding Of Seminars, Workshops, Meetings And Conferences By The International Plant Protection Convention (Ippc), Regional Plant Protection Organizations (Rppos) And National Plant Protection Organizations (Nppos) Around The Theme Of The International Year Of Plant Health 2020 Have Yielded A Significant Impact On Realizing The Objective Of The Iyph 2020.

I Do Believe That The Outcomes Of These Activities Undertaken In 2020 And In 2021 Will Trigger Further Reflections On The Status Of Plant Health Around The World And Stress The Importance Of Plant Health In Contributing To Achieving Some Of The Sustainable Development Goals. Further, The Activities Undertaken Will Also Enhance Cooperation By Relevant Stakeholders In Tackling Invasive Plant Pest Species.

**Chair Person, Distinguished Delegates,**

As I Conclude, I Wish To State That While The Iyph Celebration May Have Been For A Stipulated Period, Awareness Creation On Protecting Plants And The Environment And The Importance Of This Effort In Fighting Hunger And Poverty, Will Live On And Should Be Perpetuated By Everyone Globally.

I Therefore, Implore All Partners To Join Fao, Ippc, Rppos, Nppos And Various Public And Private Research Bodies To Share Best Practices And Work Hand-In-Hand At Global, Regional And National Level, And Encourage All Stakeholders From All Sectors To Work Together To Sustain Plant Health And Achieve The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

With These Remarks, I Wish All Of You An Enjoyable Conference As We Together Continue To Fight Plant Pest Species For Sustainable Agriculture, The Environment And Economic Development.

**Thank You And May The Good Lord Bless You All.**