



TOBACCO BOARD OF ZAMBIA

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- TO:**
- ☐ **ALL TOBACCO GROWERS IN ZAMBIA**
 - ☐ **ALL TOBACCO BUYING COMPANIES IN ZAMBIA**
 - ☐ **ALL TOBACCO SPONSORS**
 - ☐ **ALL THE TBZ MEMBERS OF STAFF**

TOBACCO MOVEMENT TO LUSAKA MAIN SALES FLOOR FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE

In light of the approaching 2018/19 Tobacco Marketing Season, whose actual opening date will be announced soon for sometime in April 2019, Tobacco Board of Zambia (TBZ) has in the past one week, received a number of requests owing to the limited storage space on the Tobacco Growers' farmsteads, on whether transportation of graded tobacco to the Lusaka Main Sales Floor can commence.

Notwithstanding that this practice has been a norm from previous seasons, TBZ is unable to grant the movement of tobacco to the Lusaka Main Sales Floor for the following reasons:

The issue of the operations of the Lusaka Main Sales Floor is the subject under a dispute between Tobacco Association of Zambia (TAZ) and TBZ and is currently in court. The court action has been instigated by TAZ due to refusal by TBZ to renew TAZ tenancy agreement as it stands now, the Courts of Law are yet to determine and resolve the matter. Therefore until the matter in court is resolved there is currently no legally appointed Lusaka Sales Floor Operator to take custody of the tobacco once it is transported to the Lusaka Main Sales Floor for storage.

Subsequent to the point above, it should be noted that before a Sales Floor can be designated for operation in a given marketing season, a number of pre-requisites are necessary for granting of a Sales Floor License to a particular Sales Floor. Some of the requirements are as enshrined in the Tobacco Act Cap 237 of Laws of Zambia and Statutory Instrument 84 of 2018. Furthermore it should be known by all tobacco growers that Sales Floor hygiene is one of the important requirements of all the Tobacco Sales Floor, but as the situation stands now the issues surrounding the hygiene have not been addressed due the current impasse between TAZ and TBZ.

In this regard, for instance and as provided for under the law before commencement of receiving new or fresh tobacco it is mandatory that the Sales Floor is fumigated and inspected to ensure no presence of the tobacco beetles. This is part of the requirements of all approved licensed Sales Floor Managers before they can be allowed to start receiving tobacco

Tobacco growers are therefore advised to look for alternative storage space in their regions so as not to delay or disrupt the grading process which is currently underway on their farms.

The Tobacco Board of Zambia therefore advises that **NO TOBACCO MOVEMENT PERMIT** will be issued until all procedures for marketing are put in place. We humbly request that all growers hold on to the crop and look for alternative storage facilities in their respective provinces.

By order of the Board.



JAMES C. KASONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
TOBACCO BOARD OF ZAMBIA

Cc. The Permanent Secretary- Ministry of Agriculture

Cc. The Deputy Director (Crops) Ministry of Agriculture

Cc. File