



**ZAMBIA  
NATIONAL  
BUDGET 2017**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>BUDGET OVERVIEW</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2017</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Direct Taxes	2
2.2	Value Added Tax	2
2.3	Customs and Excise	2
<b>3.0</b>	<b>DIRECT TAXES</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Personal Tax Rates	3
3.2	Rental income received by statutory bodies	3
3.3	Advance Income Tax (AIT)	3
3.4	Change of motor vehicle ownership	3
3.5	Restructuring of the Turnover Tax regime	4
3.6	Capital allowances for plant equipment and machinery - farming and agro-processing sectors	4
3.7	Introduction of specific penalties on late submission of Turnover Tax returns	4
3.8	Bank account holders required to obtain a Tax Payer Identification Number	5
3.9	Amendment of the Income Tax Act Section 33(3)	5
3.10	Amendment of due dates for filing of the returns and making of tax payments	5
3.11	Provision for the use of the average Bank of Zambia mid rate	5
<b>4.0</b>	<b>VALUE ADDED TAX ACT</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	Rate of VAT	6
4.2	VAT group registration scheme to be abolished	6
4.3	Due date for filing of VAT returns and making payments	6
4.4	Removal of input VAT	6
4.5	Reduction of the validity period of documentation for VAT claims	6
4.6	Extension of intending trader period for exploration	6
4.7	VAT compliance for oil marketing companies revised	7
4.8	Definition of transportation services in the VAT exemption order	7
4.9	Clarity that fish seed and fish feed are exempt for VAT purposes	7
4.10	Copper concentrates and ores to be included on the import VAT deferment schedule	7
4.11	Mandatory use of electronic fiscal devices for all VAT registered operators	7
4.12	Appointment of tax agents to collect VAT at source on behalf of the government	7
<b>5.0</b>	<b>CUSTOMS AND EXCISE</b>	<b>8</b>
5.1	Increase of excise duty on air time	8
5.2	Increase of customs duty on spare parts of various machinery and equipment	8
5.3	Increase in excise duty on cigarettes and removal of the ad-valorem rate	8
5.4	Incorporate presumptive rates in the excise duty collected on opaque beer	8

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

5.5	Introduction of import duty on copper concentrates	8
5.6	Upwards revision of motor vehicle carbon tax	8
5.7	Surtax on imported goods introduced	8
5.8	Increase of customs duty on semi processed edible oils	8
5.9	Suspension of customs duty on various aquaculture implements	9
5.10	Removal of customs duty on articles of plastics, tubes, pipes, hoses and fittings used in irrigation	9
5.11	Increase of customs duty on plastic shopping bags	9
5.12	Removal of customs duty on lifting, handling and loading machinery	9
5.13	Removal of duty on various inputs used in the shoe industry	9
5.14	Introduction of maize export duty	9
5.15	Reduction of customs duty from 5% to 0% on acrylic or modacrylic synthetic fibres	10
5.16	Reduction of customs duty from 25% to 5% on sausage casings made from plastic and edible collagen	10
5.17	Increase of customs duty to 15% on acrylic yarn	10
5.18	Duty rates on timber	10
<b>6.0</b>	<b>HOUSEKEEPING MEASURES</b>	<b>11</b>
6.1	Introduction of transaction monitoring devices for excisable goods and services	11
6.2	Amendment of due dates for filing returns and making payments	11
<b>7.0</b>	<b>NON-TAX MEASURES</b>	<b>12</b>
7.1	Introduction of Skills Development Levy	12
7.2	Introduction of fees on all motor vehicles exiting and entering Zambia	12
7.3	User fees and charges for public services	12
7.4	Update on the harmonised commodity description and coding system	12
7.5	Prescribed penalty for late clearance of goods on removal in bond moved	12
7.6	Goods in transit	12
7.7	Exemption of export duty on goods reimported in their unused state	13
7.8	Advance rulings on imports	13
7.9	Electronic applications for licensing clearing agents to be mandatory	13
7.10	Increase in minimum penalty provisions	13
7.11	Definition of the terms in the Customs and Excise Act	13
7.12	Tariff Codes amendments	13
<b>8.0</b>	<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>14</b>



“ Restoring fiscal fitness for...

## ▶ 1.0 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Minister of Finance, Honourable Felix C. Mutati, MP, presented a K64.5 billion 2017 National Budget to the National Assembly on Friday 11 November 2016.

The theme for this year's budget is

**"RESTORING FISCAL FITNESS FOR SUSTAINED INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT"**

It has been a testing decade for the Government's development agenda. Five presidential elections have been held with the most recent taking place three months ago. As a result, continuity of long-term policies and economic stability and growth have proved to be challenging.

Economic recovery is likely to be challenging with the expected subdued growth in the global economy. In order to restore economic stability, the Government has designed a cost cutting Economic Recovery Programme dubbed "Zambia Plus". It will be complemented by external support from Co-operating

Partners, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This programme is aimed at ensuring sustained and inclusive growth.



The exchange rate has remained relatively stable through the year and inflation rates continue to reduce from year to year, with a single digit figure projected for the end of 2016.

A national development plan has been introduced with the intention to promote diversification and job creation through four key sectors including agriculture, industrialisation, tourism and mining. Government has introduced several economic and fiscal incentives, including the introduction of development funds and tax exemptions, to encourage small and medium businesses to participate in these sectors.

Government remains committed to providing social protection to all Zambians and realigning Zambia's economic and financial position to allow for sustainable and economic growth.

...sustained inclusive growth & development ”



## ▶ 2.0 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2017

### 2.1 DIRECT TAXES

- PAYE threshold to increase from K3,000 to K3,300
- PAYE top rate to increase from 35% to 37.5%
- Advance Income Tax to increase from 6% to 15%
- Turnover Tax regime to be revised
- Increase in capital allowances for farming and agro-processing
- Introduction of skills development levy

### 2.2 VALUE ADDED TAX

- Non-claimable VAT list extended
- Input VAT tax invoices to be valid for three months
- Period to claim input VAT extended for exploration
- Change in VAT compliance for Oil Marketing Companies
- Definition of transport services revised
- Copper concentrates and ores to be included on import VAT deferment schedule
- VAT Group registration to be abolished
- Electronic fiscal devices introduced

### 2.3 CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

- Excise duty on airtime to be increased
- Customs duty on spare parts for machinery and equipment to be increased
- Import duty to be introduced on copper concentrates
- Increase in carbon tax
- Surtax on imported goods to be introduced
- Customs duty on aquaculture implements to be suspended
- Customs duty on fittings used for irrigation to be removed
- Duty on plastic shopping bags to be increased
- Export duty to be introduced on maize

# THE BUDGET IN DETAIL

## ▶ 3.0 DIRECT TAXES

All of the following measures will take effect from 1st January, 2017.

### 3.1 PERSONAL TAX RATES

The Pay As You Earn (PAYE) exempt threshold to be increased from K3,000 to K3,300 per month, to be in line with the social protection pillar under the Economic Recovery Programme. The income bands will also be adjusted and the top marginal tax rate will increase from 35% to 37.5%. *Note: The allowable pension contribution remains unchanged at K255 per month.*

Income Bands Per Annum	Income Bands Per Month	Tax Rate %
First K36,600	First K3,300	0
Next K9,600	Next K800	25
Next K25,200	Next K2,100	30
Balance over K74,400	Balance over K6,200	37.5

### 3.2 RENTAL INCOME RECEIVED BY STATUTORY BODIES

All statutory bodies will be required to pay tax on rental income at the rate of 10%. Previously, all statutory bodies were exempt from paying income tax.

### 3.3 ADVANCE INCOME TAX (AIT)

Advance income tax on importation of goods to be increased from 6% to 15%. *Note: Advance income tax is not a final tax. It is refundable at the end of the year upon proof of a person being a compliant taxpayer.*



### 3.4 CHANGE OF MOTOR VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

Every person changing ownership of a motor vehicle will be required to obtain a tax clearance certificate from the Zambia Revenue Authority.

▶ **TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE REQUIRED FOR CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OF A VEHICLE**

“ **PAYE exempt threshold to be increased to K3,300** ”



### 3.5 RESTRUCTURING OF THE TURNOVER TAX REGIME

The current turnover tax regime is to be restructured by introducing bands and presumptive amounts as shown in the table below:

Monthly Turnover Category	Regime
K1 – K4,200	K100 per month + 3% of monthly turnover above K3,000
K4,201 – K8,300	K225 per month + 3% of monthly turnover above K4,200
K8,301 – K12,500	K400 per month + 3% of monthly turnover above K8,300
K12,501 – K16,500	K575 per month + 3% of monthly turnover above K12,500
K16,501 – K20,800	K800 per month + 3% of monthly turnover above K16,500
Above K20,800	K1,025 per month + 3% of monthly turnover above K20,800

### 3.6 CAPITAL ALLOWANCES FOR PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY - FARMING AND AGRO-PROCESSING SECTORS

Capital allowances for plant, equipment and machinery used in farming and agro-processing to be increased from 50% to 100%.

### 3.7 INTRODUCTION OF SPECIFIC PENALTIES ON LATE SUBMISSION OF TURNOVER TAX RETURNS

Penalties for late submission of turnover tax returns to be introduced at the rate of 500 penalty units (K150) per month or part of the month thereof.





“ All bank account holders to obtain a Taxpayer Identification Number (TPIN)

**3.8 BANK ACCOUNT HOLDERS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TPIN)**

Financial institutions registered under the Banking and Financial Services Act to instruct all their bank account holders to obtain a Taxpayer Identification Number (TPIN).

**3.9 AMENDMENT OF THE INCOME TAX ACT SECTION 33 (3)**

The Income Tax Act to be amended on indexation of capital allowances to correct the wording in section 33 (3) by replacing the word "loss" with the words "capital allowance".

**3.10 AMENDMENT OF DUE DATES FOR FILING OF THE RETURNS AND MAKING OF TAX PAYMENTS**

The due dates for filing of returns and making of payments to be amended as follows:

Tax Return & Payment	2016 Due Dates	2017 Due Dates
PAYE	14th of the following month	10th of the following month
Provisional tax	14th of the month following the end of the quarter	10th of the month following the end of the quarter
Final annual income tax return & balance of tax	30th June	21st June

**3.11 PROVISION FOR THE USE OF THE AVERAGE BANK OF ZAMBIA MID RATE**

An entity carrying out mining operations will be expected to use the average Bank of Zambia mid-rate of the Kwacha/USD in the translation of accounts maintained in foreign currency. This aligns with the current measures which apply only to the indexation of losses and capital allowances.



“ Input VAT on petrol will not be claimable except when for resale



**▶ 4.0 VALUE ADDED TAX ACT**

All of the following measures will take effect from 1st January, 2017.

**4.1 RATE OF VAT**

The VAT rate remains unchanged at 16%.

**4.2 THE VAT GROUP REGISTRATION SCHEME TO BE ABOLISHED**

VAT registered suppliers will no longer be permitted to submit VAT returns under group registration.

**4.3 THE DUE DATE FOR FILING OF VAT RETURNS AND MAKING PAYMENTS**

The due date for filing of the VAT returns and making payments has been moved from the 21st to the 16th of every month for VAT.

**4.4 REMOVAL OF INPUT VAT ON:**

- a) **ALL SUPPLIES ACQUIRED BY AN ENTITY PRIOR TO VAT REGISTRATION**  
Input VAT on supplies acquired by an entity prior to VAT registration is now non-claimable.
- b) **PETROL**  
Input VAT on petrol is now non-claimable (claimable threshold of 20% to 0%).
- c) **DIESEL LIMITED TO A THRESHOLD OF 90%**  
Input VAT on Diesel has been limited to a claimable threshold of 90%.

Input VAT on Diesel restricted to a threshold of 90%

**d) DOMESTIC REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT, AIR CONDITIONERS, MOBILE PHONES, MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS, DIGITAL SATELLITES, TV SETS, DECODERS, VIDEO PLAYERS, CURTAINS, WINDOW BLINDS AND CONSTRUCTION OF DWELLING HOUSES**

Input VAT on all the above listed items is now non-claimable. However, where the products are meant for resale or are a main input in the business, then input VAT can be claimed.

**4.5 REDUCTION OF THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF TAX INVOICES FOR VAT CLAIMS**

The validity period of tax invoices for input VAT claims has been reduced from 6 months to 3 months.

**4.6 EXTENSION OF INTENDING TRADER PERIOD FOR EXPLORATION**

A person carrying on exploration will be able to claim input VAT refunds for 10 years (previously 7 years). This aligns the intending trader period with the maximum period for which an exploration licence is valid.



**Mandatory use of Electronic Fiscal Devices for all VAT registered operators**

**4.7 VAT COMPLIANCE FOR OIL MARKETING COMPANIES REVISED**

Oil marketing companies are now to submit three VAT returns and payments per month on fuel uplifts to align with the Customs and Excise (General) Regulations.

**4.8 DEFINITION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN THE VAT EXEMPTION ORDER**

The definition of transportation services in the Exemption Order clarifies that the exemption of transportation services excludes transportation in sporting and leisure related activities.

**4.9 CLARITY THAT FISH SEED AND FISH FEED ARE EXEMPT FOR VAT PURPOSES**

The measure is intended to provide clarity with regard to the VAT treatment of fish seed (hatchlings) and fish feed.

**4.10 COPPER CONCENTRATES AND ORES TO BE INCLUDED ON THE IMPORT VAT DEFERMENT SCHEDULE**

This is an effort towards the promotion of local mineral processing and to provide cash flow relief to the mining sector.



**GOVERNMENT TO APPOINT AGENTS TO COLLECT VAT AT SOURCE FROM SUPPLIERS**

**4.11 MANDATORY USE OF ELECTRONIC FISCAL DEVICES FOR ALL VAT REGISTERED OPERATORS**

It will be mandatory in 2017 for all VAT registered suppliers to use Electronic Fiscal Devices which monitor business transactions as they occur.

**4.12 APPOINTMENT OF TAX AGENTS TO COLLECT VAT AT SOURCE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The government will appoint some companies and government agencies to collect VAT at source from suppliers.

**Excise duty on airtime to be increased from 15% to 17.5%**



**5.0 CUSTOMS AND EXCISE**

All of the following measures will take effect from 1st January, 2017.

**5.1 INCREASE OF EXCISE DUTY ON AIR TIME**

Excise duty on airtime to be increased from 15% to 17.5%.

**5.2 INCREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON SPARE PARTS OF VARIOUS MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT**

Customs duty on spare parts of various machinery and equipment to be increased from 5% to 15%.

**5.3 INCREASE IN EXCISE DUTY ON CIGARETTES AND REMOVAL OF THE AD-VALOREM RATE**

Excise duty on cigarettes to be increased from K200 per mille to K240 per mille. The ad-valorem rate of 145% has been removed.

**5.4 INCORPORATE PRESUMPTIVE RATES IN EXCISE DUTY COLLECTED ON OPAQUE BEER**

Modification of the excise duty on opaque beer to incorporate presumptive taxes. The amendments will exclude manufacturers with turnover above K800 000 who will continue to pay at 14.5 ngwee per litre.

**5.5 INTRODUCTION OF IMPORT DUTY ON COPPER CONCENTRATES**

Import duty of 7.5% has been introduced on copper concentrates.

**5.6 UPWARDS REVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE CARBON TAX**

Rates are in the table below.

Engine Capacity	Current Rates (K)	Proposed Rate (K)
Less than 1500cc including motor cycles	50	70
1501CC- 2000CC	100	140
2001CC- 3000CC	150	200
3001CC- and above	200	275

**5.7 SURTAX ON IMPORTED GOODS INTRODUCED**

A surtax of 5% has been introduced on selected imported goods which are also produced locally. This is in a bid to protect the local industry.

**5.8 INCREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON SEMI PROCESSED EDIBLE OILS**

Customs duty on semi processed edible oils has been increased from 5% to 15%.



“ 10% duty on the exportation of maize introduced

“ Specific rates introduced on export of unprocessed & semi-processed timber products



**5.9 SUSPENSION OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON VARIOUS AQUACULTURE IMPLEMENTS**

Customs duty on various aquaculture implements has been suspended for a period of three years. This is intended to promote the fish industry.

**5.10 REMOVAL OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON ARTICLES OF PLASTICS, TUBES, PIPES, HOSES AND FITTINGS USED IN IRRIGATION**

The 25% customs duty on fittings used for irrigation has been removed. This is intended to promote agriculture and utilisation of the water resources.

**5.11 INCREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS**

Customs duty on plastic shopping bags has been increased from 25% to 40%.

**5.12 REMOVAL OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON LIFTING, HANDLING AND LOADING MACHINERY**

The 15% customs duty on lifting, handling and loading machinery has been removed.

**5.13 REMOVAL OF DUTY ON VARIOUS INPUTS USED IN THE SHOE INDUSTRY**

This is intended to promote growth in the leather industry.

**5.14 INTRODUCTION OF MAIZE EXPORT DUTY**

A 10% duty on the exportation of maize has been introduced.

**CUSTOMS DUTY ON PLASTIC BAGS INCREASED**

**REMOVAL OF VARIOUS INPUTS USED IN SHOE INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO PROMOTE GROWTH IN LEATHER INDUSTRY**



**5.15 REDUCTION OF CUSTOMS DUTY FROM 5% TO 0% ON ACRYLIC OR MODACRYLIC SYNTHETIC FIBRES**

This is to promote the growth of local industries that use the products as inputs in their production processes.

**5.16 REDUCTION OF CUSTOMS DUTY FROM 25% TO 5% ON SAUSAGE CASINGS MADE FROM PLASTIC AND EDIBLE COLLAGEN**

This is an effort towards the promotion of agro-processing in order to accelerate diversification of the economy and the creation of employment.

**5.17 INCREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTY TO 15% ON ACRYLIC YARN**

Customs duty has been increased from zero to 15% for single and 5% to 15% for multiple yarn.

**5.18 SPECIFIC DUTY RATES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED ON THE EXPORT OF UNPROCESSED WOOD AND SEMI PROCESSED WOOD**

Specific rates have been introduced on the export of unprocessed and semi-processed timber products at the rate of K10 per kg and K5 per kg respectively.



“ **Amendment of laws for transaction monitoring devices or systems**

## ▶ 6.0 HOUSEKEEPING MEASURES

### 6.1 AMENDMENT OF THE LAWS TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTALLATION, CONNECTION, FIXING AND MOUNTING OF TRANSACTION MONITORING DEVICES, EQUIPMENT OR SYSTEMS TO SUPPLIERS DEALING IN EXCISABLE GOODS AND SERVICES

This will enable ZRA to have an interface with the suppliers of excisable goods and services and have direct access to the transaction data with the intention of easing tax administration.

### 6.2 AMENDMENT OF DUE DATES FOR FILING RETURNS AND MAKING PAYMENTS

Due date amended from the 20th to the 15th of every month for Excise Duty, to align with changes made under the Mines and Minerals Development Act, the Tax Appeals Tribunal Act and the National Pension Scheme Act.

VARIOUS TAX AND OTHER ACTS HAVE BEEN AMENDED AND ALIGNED



“ **Fee on all vehicles exiting & entering Zambia introduced**



## ▶ 7.0 NON-TAX MEASURES

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT LEVY

Employers will be mandated to contribute a skills development levy computed at 0.5% of the employers' total emoluments towards the Government Skills Development Fund.

### 7.2 INTRODUCTION OF FEES ON ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXITING AND ENTERING ZAMBIA

Fees are in the table below.

Motor Vehicle Description	Prescribed Fee (US\$) or Kwacha equivalent
Trucks with abnormal loads laden or empty	75
Commercial truck laden or empty	60
Passenger buses	40
Passenger vehicles	20

### 7.3 USER FEES AND CHARGES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

In a bid to ensure that charges to access public services are at cost recovery levels, Government intends to adjust various user fees and charges upwards.

### 7.4 UPDATE ON THE HARMONISED COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND CODING SYSTEM

The intention is to align the description of goods with World Customs Organisation updates of the Harmonised Tariff Schedule structure that is updated every five years.

### 7.5 PRESCRIBED PENALTY FOR LATE CLEARANCE OF GOODS ON REMOVAL IN BOND MOVED

The intention is to move the penalty fees on Removal In Bond (RIB) from the Customs and Excise Act to the Customs and Excise (General) Regulations where other penalties are contained.

### 7.6 GOODS IN TRANSIT

The commencement date for the five-day period for goods in transit has been moved from the date of entry

to the date of release of goods from customs control.



### 7.7 EXEMPTION OF EXPORT DUTY ON GOODS REIMPORTED IN THEIR UNUSED STATE

The intention is to align regulations with the provisions of the Revised Kyoto Convention, to which Zambia is a party.

### 7.8 ADVANCE RULINGS ON IMPORTS

Advance rulings to be available on goods originating from countries with which Zambia has trade agreements.



### 7.9 ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSING CLEARING AGENTS TO BE MANDATORY

The measure is intended to streamline the Clearing Agents licensing processing and also promote the uptake of implemented ICT platforms for customs administration.

### 7.10 INCREASE IN MINIMUM PENALTY PROVISIONS

- a) To 20 000 fee units from 10 000 fee units for failure to avail records for inspection;
- b) To 2 000 fee units from 1 000 fee units per record for failure to provide missing records within time stipulated in the Act; and

- c) To 20 000 fee units from 8 000 fee units for offences where there are no special penalties provided for in the Act. This measure is intended to make the penalty regime more punitive as a deterrent and encourage compliance.

### 7.11 DEFINITION OF THE TERMS IN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ACT

The intention is to introduce the definitions of 'currency notes' and 'bearer negotiable instruments' in the Customs and Excise Act.

### 7.12 TARIFF CODES AMENDMENTS

The intention is to ease the monitoring of exports of minerals under the Mineral Value Chain Mechanism.

GOODS  
REIMPORTED  
IN THEIR  
UNUSED  
STATE ARE  
EXEMPT FROM  
DUTY

## ▶ ABOUT US

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The information contained in this document and the enclosed bookmark is based on the Budget Address presented by the Minister of Finance and National Planning, Honourable Felix C. Mutati MP. This document provides an overview of the announcements made in the speech and information provided by the Zambia Revenue Authority. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, we are unable to accept responsibility for errors and omissions. It should be noted that the measures as introduced by the Budget Address are subject to Parliamentary approval. No financial decisions should be made based solely on the information contained herewith and no liability will be accepted for decisions based on its contents without further consultation with an official representative of BDO Zambia Tax Limited.