State ponders revision of tender procedure for agricultural inputs

By NKOLE CHITALA

GOVERNMENT says it is likely to change the tendering process on the acquisition of agricultural inputs from the private sector.

Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives Brian Chituwo said there is need for Government to change the process as it contributes to late delivery of inputs to farmers.

In an interview in Lusaka recently, Dr Chituwo, however, said the current process was not in place by accident but came in through planning.

"But anyway, we are changing this next year. We want the private sector to bring in the tender and bring in these commodities without Government going to tender. We shall come in at last to pay for inputs through the voucher system," Chituwo said.

Dr Chituwo said Government was also working hard with cooperating partners in the area of beneficiary identification.

He said there is need for district agriculture committees to include traditional and religious representation in identifying input beneficiaries.

"These people we know stand for transparency and fairness and devoid of corrupt practices, and then we shall see that these inputs would go to the intended people," he said.