



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY PRIOR TO,  
DURING AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS

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MR. SPEAKER, I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THIS STATEMENT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PREPAREDNESS TO CONDUCT FAIR AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS THIS YEAR; 2011.

MR. SPEAKER, ZAMBIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR FREE AND FAIR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO BE VOTED FOR, FORM PART OF THE BODY OF POLITICAL RIGHTS ENJOYED BY ZAMBIAN CITIZENS.

ZAMBIA HAS FOR A LONG TIME ENJOYED PEACEFUL ELECTIONS THAT EARNED HER THE TITLE OF BEING AN OASIS OF PEACE AND A SHINING BEACON OF HOPE FOR MANY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND AFRICA AS A WHOLE. CREDIT, MR. SPEAKER, IS GIVEN TO ALL ZAMBIANS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ACHIEVEMENT.

THIS IMAGE HOWEVER, RISKS BEING DENTED IF CITIZENS ENGAGE IN ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE DURING THE FORTH COMING TRIPARTITE ELECTIONS.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED LACK OF BROTHERHOOD BY ENGAGING IN VIOLENCE AS

EXPERIENCED PRIOR TO AND DURING BYE-ELECTIONS HELD IN THE RECENT PAST.

GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE FOREGOING AND SHALL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT VIOLENCE DOES NOT MANIFEST ITSELF IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, MR. SPEAKER, GOVERNMENT HAS LINED UP PROGRAMMES RANGING FROM RE-TRAINING OF SECURITY OFFICERS, SENSITIZATION OF THE PUBLIC TO PROCUREMENT OF OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT.

MR. SPEAKER, ALLOW ME TO STATE THAT THE ZAMBIA POLICE MOTTO FOR THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS IS "VIOLENCE FREE 2011 ELECTIONS". IN LINE WITH THIS MOTTO, THE ZAMBIA POLICE HAS COME UP WITH A PROGRAMME TO RE-TRAIN POLICE OFFICERS COUNTRY WIDE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY. IN ADDITION, THE POLICE WILL CARRY OUT COUNTRYWIDE PUBLICITY OF THE DANGERS OF VIOLENCE AND EXCESSIVE <sup>BEER</sup> DRINKING DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD. IT IS A WELL KNOWN FACT THAT UNCONTROLLED INTAKE OF ALCOHOL WHICH IS A DEPRESSANT, COMPROMISES ONE'S SENSE OF JUDGMENT AND THIS STATE OF MIND COMPOUNDED WITH WRONG JUDGMENT, MAY LEAD ONE TO RESORT TO VIOLENT

BEHAVIOR. PEOPLE ARE THEREFORE, BEING ENCOURAGED TO REFRAIN FROM ALCOHOL ABUSE DURING POLITICAL GATHERINGS INCLUDING THE ACTUAL DAY OF VOTING TO ENSURE THAT CITIZENS VOTE WITH A SOUND MIND FOR GENUINE, FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER, IN ADDITION TO RE-TRAINING OF POLICE OFFICERS AND STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE, THE SECURITY INSTITUTIONS ARE THIS YEAR ENGAGING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY DIRECTLY IN A CAMPAIGN TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF VIOLENCE FREE ELECTORAL PROCESS. THIS IS BEING DONE THROUGH THE MEDIA AND OTHER GRASS ROOT SENSITIZATION MECHANISMS.

MR SPEAKER I AM PLEASED TO INFORM THE HOUSE AND ALL THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME ZAMBIA WILL ESTABLISH A COMMUNICATION CENTRE UNDER THE POLICING ELECTIONS PROJECT. THE CENTRE WILL ACT AS A CENTRAL POINT FOR RECEIVING ALL ELECTORAL RELATED REPORTS OR COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON SECURITY ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS COUNTRY WIDE.

THE CENTRE SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH TOLL FREE NUMBERS FOR OUR CITIZENS TO REPORT COMPLAINTS SO THAT APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS OR STAKEHOLDERS ARE INFORMED TO ENABLE THEM DEAL WITH THE CONCERNS EXPEDITIOUSLY.

MR. SPEAKER, ALLOW ME TO MENTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT IN THE SUM OF US\$1.8 MILLION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM'S DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID) THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) FOR SUPPORT TO THE POLICING ELECTIONS PROJECT TO ENSURE THAT THE 2011 ELECTIONS ARE HELD IN A PEACEFUL AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT.

MR. SPEAKER,

OTHER MEASURES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

i. INTENSIFIED ROAD BLOCKS:

MR. SPEAKER, OUR SECURITY INSTITUTIONS HAVE INTENSIFIED ROADBLOCKS AND HIGH WAY PATROLS IN ALL PROVINCES IN ORDER TO CURB CRIMINAL ENDEAVORS

INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING. FURTHERMORE, INSTITUTIONS HAVE WIDENED INFORMATION GATHERING BASES AND HAVE ALSO INTENSIFIED OPERATIONS COUNTRY WIDE.

ii. INTENSIFIED SCREENING AT BORDERS

MR SPEAKER, ALL THE OFFICERS MANNING BORDERS ENTRY POINTS AT OUR BORDERS ARE ALSO ON ALERT AND HAVE INTENSIFIED SCREENING OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

iii. REVOCATION OF PERMITS OF PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE

IN LINE WITH THE IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION LAWS, THE GOVERNMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT PERMIT HOLDERS WHO ARE FOUND TO BE PERPETUATING VIOLENCE OR FANNING VIOLENCE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS WILL HAVE THEIR PERMITS REVOKED SPEEDILY. IT IS A WELL KNOWN FACT THAT FOREIGNERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN PARTISAN POLITICS.

iv. CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

MR. SPEAKER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ARE AWARE THAT THE ELECTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT PROVIDES FOR A MECHANISM OF RESOLVING ELECTORAL DISPUTES THROUGH CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEES.

THE POLICING ELECTIONS PROJECT HAS PROVIDED FUNDING TO RE-TRAIN ALL NATIONAL AND DISTRICT MEMBERS OF THESE COMMITTEES TO EFFECTIVELY HANDLE THE DISPUTES THAT MAY ARISE. THIS MECHANISM IS EXPECTED TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AMONG THE ELECTORAL STAKEHOLDER SHOULD NEED ARISE.

v. PROCUREMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND OTHER OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT

MR. SPEAKER, GOVERNMENT HAS GONE FURTHER TO PROCURE MOTOR VEHICLES AND OTHER OPERATIONAL REQUISITES WHICH ARE NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED TO POLICE STATIONS COUNTRY WIDE TO ENABLE THE POLICE SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTE THEIR MANDATE DURING THE 2011 ELECTION PROCESS.

vi. PREVENTION AND PROHIBITION OF MONEY LAUNDERING

MR. SPEAKER, MONEY LAUNDERING HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND PREVALENT WHITE COLLAR CRIMES IN THE COUNTRY AFFECTING BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. IF NOT PROPERLY HANDLED, THE VICE HAS THE CAPACITY TO PARALYZE INSTITUTIONS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CRIPPLE THE ECONOMY AMONG OTHER EFFECTS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS POSITIONED ITSELF TO EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY TACKLE THIS PROBLEM AND ENSURE THAT ONLY DRUG FREE MONEY CIRCULATES IN THE ECONOMY.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON ALL THOSE INTENDING TO USE DIRTY MONEY FOR CAMPAIGNING IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION OR INDEED FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES

MR SPEAKER, AS I CONCLUDE I WISH TO REITERATE THAT GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE 2011 ELECTIONS ARE FREE AND FAIR AND DEVOID OF VIOLENCE. PEOPLE MUST BE FREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE ELECTIONS WITHOUT FEAR. OUR NUMBER ONE STRATEGY IS TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS. I URGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND MEMBERS



OF THE PUBLIC TO REPORT ALL ELECTIONS RELATED COMPLAINTS TO THE POLICE AND OTHER RELEVANT AUTHORITIES RATHER THAN TAKING THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. THE COOPERATION OF EVERY ZAMBIAN IS NEEDED TO ENSURE A FREE, FAIR AND SUCCESSFUL ELECTION.

I THANK YOU!