

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON
**THE DEMOLITION OF MUNYAULE MARKET IN LUSAKA AND CHISOKONE MARKET
IN KITWE**
BY THE
**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR
NKOMBO), MP**

Madam Speaker, as I issue this statement, it would have been my desire for Hon. Kafwaya to be in his seat because he had addressed this same matter as a matter of urgent public importance.

Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for the opportunity to deliver a statement on the demolitions that were undertaken at the Munyaule Market Lusaka as well as the Chisokone Market in Kitwe by the respective local authorities. The Government has noted the various media reports and responses indicating diverse statements and sentiments on the two issues. Madam, this statement therefore is being issued to provide clarity on the status and upraise the House as well as the nation on these two matters.

Madam Speaker, on the demolition of Munyaule Market in Lusaka's Central Business District, I wish to report as follows:

With a little historical perspective that on the 31st of December 2017, the then Minister of Local Government, as it was called then, Hon. Vincent Mwale issued a statement which ordered the demolition of the Munyaule Market. The Minister had stated that the Munyaule Market had been identified by the Ministry of Health as one of the sources of cholera hence the need to demolish it and then the Government to move towards finding an alternative trading space for the traders. The minister then insisted that the situation was a crisis and that there would be no negotiation no would there be compromise.

Madam Speaker, during the cholera outbreak period, forty two lives were lost. This led to the invoking of the provisions of Statutory Instrument (SI) No.79 to reinforce the statement by the Minister of Local Government. The provisions of the SI were issued by the then Minister of Health Dr. Chatalu Chilufya. When the New Dawn Government under the leadership of His Excellency Mr. Hakainde Hichilema took the administration of this Government, the demolition had still not taken place at the trading place called Munyaule and this unsanitary trading condition only worsened under the disorderly conditions. This is

despite the various emphatic pronouncements to move the traders and restore sanity in order to meet the aspirations of the administration then.

Madam Speaker, the brief background of Munyaule is that the trading area was originally a temporary market made to accommodate the traders from the City Centre Market during its re construction after it had been gutted. During this time, 220 traders were allocated temporary trading places by the local authority, Lusaka City Council, with the understanding that they would vacate the premises when the City Market was completed

Upon completion of the City Market, Madam Speaker, the traders at Munyaule Market relocated to the new market as it was in the initial arrangement. However, some traders opted to stay at Munyaule Market and the number since then has grown to 900 traders to this date, and not the 4000 traders as has been reported by some sections of the media. Again, for purposes of emphasis the affected traders, who were trading in Munyaule soar from 220 back then in 2017 to 900 this time around.

Madam Speaker, in 2019, the Lusaka City Council decided to modernize the market and to provide the requisite facilities, i.e. sanitary provisions. To this end the Council resolved to lease out Munyaule Market during a full council meeting that was held on the 29th of June 2019 and as recorded under Minute Number C/23/06/19. The resolution was a 15-year lease that was to be entered between Lusaka City Council and Kaddoura Construction Limited– a privately owned company, to construct the modern Munyaule Market.

However, the construction works after so many years did not commence as there was continuous resistance to vacate the premises by the traders in that particular area, despite several engagements with them. Subsequently, the Council resolved to demolish the market stalls pursuant to Urban Regional Planning Act No.3 of 2015. In line with the Act, the traders were issued the various notices and instructed them to relocate to an alternative premise that was identified, by the Council and the Ministry that I am privileged to run, where they would be there temporarily to allow for the construction of this market to go on.

I want to confirm here, Madam Speaker, that ever since I took office and found this arrangement we have engaged into protracted discussions back and forth negotiations with the traders in my office until we were satisfied that the move was necessary. I want to put this on record that among the few things that we think PF did right, this was one of them.

This Government has made it priority also to modernize Munyaule Market and provide a safe and health facility for our traders to operate in the wake of cholera. The move to relocate the traders, Madam Speaker, from this market, therefore, was to pave way for the construction of a modern market and aims to enhance the market's infrastructure and create a more conducive and trading environment for the traders and shoppers alike. This means, sorry Madam Speaker, this measure is meant to prevent the outbreak of various diseases in the future.

To accommodate these affected traders, Madam Speaker, the Council has taken following step:
The council has secured space behind BH and New Soweto Markets –

- (a) secured space behind BH and Soweto Markets for traders to temporarily conduct business as they await the completion of the modern market at Munyaule;
- (b) Some traders have already been accommodated along Lumumba Road, just before the main Lumumba Bus Station and they are 120 of them;
- (c) another 120 have been taken to the main City Market; and
- (d) Once the modern market is done at Munyaule, priority will be given to the traders who were trading at this place. To normalise this, Kaddoura Construction Limited, through the engagement the company had with the ministry, has delivered some offer letters to the same traders in order to avoid confusion when that time comes.

Madam Speaker, these are the measures that we have taken in order to ensure the security of the traders when they return.

Madam Speaker, with regards to the demolition of stalls at the Chisokone Market in Kitwe, which was undertaken on 13th February, 2024, hon. Members of the House may wish to know that the Kitwe City Council is currently implementing a programme to provide green shelters for markets in the city. Under this programme, Chisokone Market was identified as one of the

markets that required the provision of a green market shelter, as its traders have been operating in an open area for the past twenty years.

Madam Speaker, in line with the Government's policy for community engagement, the local authority held five consultative meetings with the traders between May and November, 2023, in order to discuss the way forward on the construction of the green market shelter as well as shops that would also be constructed to replace the makeshift metal shops bordering the market area.

Madam Speaker, during these meetings, the local authority assured the traders that 535 traders along Chisokone Road and eighty-nine makeshift stall owners that they would be prioritised in the allocation of the new infrastructure that is coming up in Kitwe.

Madam Speaker, the Kitwe City Council has since put the following measures in place:

- (a) stand spaces measuring 2.5 x 3 metres have been allocated to all eighty-nine affected traders;
- (b) A sixty foot container for storage has been procured by the council for the traders to put their merchandise; and
- (c) one trader who has refrigerators has been offered a council owned shop in the green market for rent.

Madam Speaker, as I end, I wish to reassure this august House and the Zambian people in general that the Government is committed to ensuring that all our traders operate in safe and healthy environments with water and sanitation facilities. While it is the Government's responsibility to ensure that our people are provided with the means of livelihood, I wish to reiterate that it will not, as a matter of fact, condone illegality and disharmony at these places for the wellbeing of our larger population of the Zambian people and avoiding the risk of disease outbreaks due to unsanitary trading spaces.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.
