

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**ON THE**  
**SECURITY OF THE NATION IN LIGHT OF THE ALLEGED STATEMENT BY THE**  
**FORMER PRESIDENT, MR EDGAR LUNGU THAT CITIZENS WOULD RISE**  
**AGAINST THE PRESIDENT BEFORE 2026**

**BY THE**

**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY (MR MWIIMBU), MP**

Madam Speaker, before I make my ministerial statement, I would seek your indulgence to congratulate the United Party for National Development (UPND) for winning four by-elections out of five.

Madam Speaker, I am made to understand that the funeral in the other camp has not yet ended and our friends are still mourning.

Madam Speaker, let me thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a ministerial statement on the matter of urgent public importance that was raised by Hon. Kasauta Michelo, Member of Parliament for Bweengwa Constituency. The matter of urgent public importance is on the security of the nation in light of the alleged statement by the former Republican President, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu that citizens will rise against the President of the Republic of Zambia before 2026.

Madam Speaker, Zambia is a democratic society. The New Dawn Administration formed Government to avoid many issues and ensure that we foster a better democracy and restore the rule of law, order and respect for human rights, including liberties and freedoms. By creating a good governance environment, we have seen our citizens enjoy liberties and freedoms as well as more economic investment than before. This situation has secured for us the co-operation of our peace-loving citizens who have trust in the visionary leadership of our President, His Excellency Mr Hakainde Hichilema.

Madam Speaker, the Government has performed well on the governance scale and there is no known or latent action from the Government to warrant citizens to force the President to give up power and call for early elections before 2026. We are safe and secure. The state of the nation is strong.

Madam, we are not, however, going to dismiss as exaggeration the alleged pronouncement by the former President indicating that people will rise and force the President to give up power. Being former Head of State, perhaps there could be something he knows which the Government is not aware of. Coincidentally, similar statements have been made by some senior members of the clergy and other political leaders. As such, security wings should take interest in the matter. There could be some covert operations being undertaken.

Madam Speaker, we are not going to fold our arms and lament. This is because we have seen situations where a few careless politicians have convinced a whole nation that it is on the brink of a civil war. We, as a responsible Government, shall ensure that there is law and order in the country.

Madam Speaker, in the recent past, the Government has noted with great concern manoeuvres by former leaders aimed at attracting undue attention from sympathisers. This attention seeking has resorted to desperate means. Unfortunately, some of the activities are repulsive. It is not right to mock citizens by faking being amazed at prices of goods or faking being kind to the people when in actual fact the previous Government defrauded and even made careless pronouncements that had the potential to endanger public security. This is unfortunate and careless behaviour from former leaders.

Madam Speaker, we are particularly concerned with the behaviours of leaders as manifested on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. This is because the recent behaviour is part of the history of a peculiarity of a political party that was involved in violence and gassing members of the public. During that period, members of the public were living in fear. Sadly, through such behaviour, countless Zambians suffered human rights abuse.

Madam Speaker, we must read the times. This is not time to fan and perpetuate violence. Rather, it is time for the New Dawn Administration to heal the divisions that were created by the Patriotic Front (PF) when our hon. Colleagues were in power and rebuild the economy that their regime left, for lack of a better word, in a mess, but I withdraw the term 'mess'. Today, many opposition leaders in Zambia talk as if they are enemies of the Government engaged in war. This should stop. They must contribute to the rebuilding of the nation through positive checks and balances.

Madam Speaker, the former leader's behaviour and those of cadres are an extra ordinary phenomenal: Pure destructive and unpatriotic. They are not politicians with genuine concerns to grow the economy or to improve livelihoods. They do not wish to take reigns or power legally or foster development. They seek to destroy even the little they left which the New Dawn Administration seeks to mend. They do not aim to help any particular section of society. They delight in the suffering of citizens because they think the citizens will support them. Some of them even advocate violence to advance their selfish desires. Even if they seem to champion the word patriotic, they seldom practice patriotism in their undertaking. They try to disguise who they really are with the veneer of sympathetic political vocabulary. However, we know them, the peace loving Zambians know them.

Madam Speaker, the New Dawn Government shall uphold the supremacy of the rule of law and maintain law and order for our citizens so that they enjoy liberties and freedoms. Similarly, we shall uphold national security which is essential for our citizens. Livelihoods, access to goods and services, as well as the free exercise of civil political social and economic rights. We shall, I repeat, we shall not condign any activities that undermine national security. I urge all peace loving Zambians to refrain from any act that may bring our cherished peace and national security into jeopardy.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.

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