

**THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 2017**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

ON THE

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, FASTING, REPENTANCE  
AND RECONCILIATION

BY THE HON. MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE, REV.  
SUMAILI

Madam Speaker, I thank you most sincerely for giving me this opportunity to make a statement to this august House and inform the nation on the preparations underway towards the National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Reconciliation ...

**Hon. UPND Members:** Question!

**Hon. PF Members:** Hear, hear!

**Rev. Sumaili:** ... which is scheduled to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

Madam Speaker, before I proceed, allow me to remind this august House why my ministry exists. The mandate of this newly created ministry is to actualise the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation by finding practical, workable and realistic interventions. It also seeks to actualise our national values, principles and ethics.

The mandate of this ministry is also to facilitate the mainstreaming of the national and biblical values and principles in our day to day life and country's programmes. The specific portfolio functions as published in the Government Gazette include national guidance, Christian affairs, religious affairs and coordination of public religious celebrations.

Madam Speaker, allow me to remind this august House and the nation that this country continues to publicly acknowledge the supremacy of God almighty over its affairs.

**Hon. PF Members:** Hear, hear!

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**Rev. Sumaili:** Madam Speaker, this is through, among others, the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation and officially putting it in the preamble of the Constitution of Zambia.

Madam Speaker, as part of actualising the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation, on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, our founding father and First Republican President, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, blessed and released the nation from negative forces and submitted it to the lordship of Jesus Christ. In the same year, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, announced that 18<sup>th</sup> October, shall be a national day of prayer and fasting. The day was also declared a public holiday, commencing in 2016. The purpose is to dedicate the day to prayer, fasting, repentance and reconciliation.

**Hon. PF Members:** Hear, hear!

**Rev. Sumaili:** The day would also be used to pray and forgive each other so that we remain united.

**Mr Ng'onga:** Hear, hear!

**Rev. Sumaili:** Madam Speaker, this country is year about to observe this very important day under the theme 'Repentance, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation, Consolidating National Unity in Diversity.'

Madam Speaker, the preparatory works being coordinated by my ministry in collaboration with the National House of Prayer and the church in Zambia have reached an advanced stage. Logistics are also being taken care of by the Standing Committee of Permanent Secretaries on State Functions.

Madam Speaker, the national prayers will be held in Kitwe at Nkana Stadium. However, the observance of the day will be in all the provinces and districts of Zambia. Further, communications to missions abroad has been done to encourage them to observe this day.

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Madam Speaker, allow me to implore hon. Members of this august House to ensure that they encourage all members of the public, in their respective constituencies, to come out in numbers and pray together on this special day.

Madam Speaker, allow me to remind this august House that the National Day of Prayer is not unique to Zambia only. Great Britain recently held its National Day of Prayer on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. The British people were praying for their Prime Minister, Britain's exit from the European Union (EU), also known as Brexit, unity in the United Kingdom (UK) and the nation to turn back to God and his holy word.

**Hon. Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Rev. Sumaili:** The United States of America (USA), since time in memorial, has set aside the first Thursday of May every year to pray, meditate and repent.

Madam Speaker, we are blessed as a nation. We are a covenant people. So it is our time to once again turn to our God in fellowship and repentance. It is time for us to turn to God to pray for the promotion of peace, reconciliation at all levels and consolidation of national unity in diversity.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.