

TUESDAY, 20 JUNE, 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
SECURITY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY
BY THE
HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR KAMPYONGO**

Mr Speaker, let me start by thanking you most sincerely for giving me the opportunity to present this ministerial statement to the House on the security situation in the country.

Sir, the Ministry of Home Affairs is charged with the responsibility of providing internal security in order to promote sustainable social economic development for the people of Zambia. Security entails protection of life and property of the Republic.

Mr Speaker, our law enforcement institutions continue to operate within the law in the maintenance of law and order in the country. However, despite the generally stable security situation in the country, there have been incidences of lawlessness which have resulted in six suspects being arrested for treason and four for arson. The suspects are currently appearing before the courts of law.

In this regard, it should be noted that my Government upholds the independence of the three arms of Government. This entails that the Executive does not, in any way, interfere with the due process of the law. The cases before the courts will, therefore, be determined independently by the courts of law.

Mr Speaker, after the arrest of suspects for treason in April, there has been a sustained and deliberate campaign to paint the country as a dictatorship. However, democracy neither means lawlessness nor anarchy and failure to deal with those who break the law. My Government will, therefore, continue to uphold the law and apply it fairly, but firmly.

Sir, despite the negative campaign against our country, the security situation remains calm. The citizens are going about their business peacefully. The country also continues to be an attractive destination for both local and foreign investment. Further, the country continues to host major international and regional meetings and events. For example, the country successfully hosted the

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Confederation of African Football (CAF) Under-20 Tournament which was held in March, 2017, the Ease of Doing Business Conference which took place in May, 2017, and the Meeting of Ministers responsible for Youth Affairs from the Great Lakes Region which was held in June, 2017.

Sir, allow me to urge all those who are peddling falsehood about our country to desist from doing so because this is, indeed, unpatriotic and uncalled for. All citizens have a responsibility to help maintain law and order, and promote the good image of our country.

Sir, my Government has a responsibility of ensuring that law and order is upheld in the country. To that end, my Government has continued to provide law enforcement institutions with necessary logistics support aimed at modernising their operations. Further, my Government continues to provide opportunities to law enforcement agencies to enhance their skills to ensure effective operations and the attainment of a peaceful Zambia for all.

Mr Speaker, to ensure that our country remains peaceful, security institutions are alert and conducting patrols as well as collaborating with members of the public to ensure that no criminal element escapes the net of law enforcement.

Sir, I would like to conclude by stating that the rule of law demands that we are all equal before the law. It is our duty as citizens, to promote peace, as sustainable development can only come and occur in a peaceful environment. Let me urge all citizens to be patriotic and uphold our motto, “one Zambia, one nation.”

Finally, Mr Speaker, I wish to end by conveying my sincere condolences on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Police Service, to the family of one gallant Sergeant Bwalya, who lost his life two days ago in gruesome circumstances under the hands of criminals. I want to assure his family and, indeed the nation that these criminals will be pursued and made answerable to the law.

I thank you, Sir.