



**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE PUBLIC
ORDER ACT.**

**BY
HONOURABLE EDGAR C. LUNGU, MP,
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**

MR. SPEAKER,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ACCORDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT.

SIR,

THIS MATTER AROSE FROM THE DEBATE ON WHETHER HONOUABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT NEED TO SEEK AUTHORITY TO VISIT THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WOULD LIKE TO STATE HERE THAT OUR CURRENT CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES US ALL THE FREEDOM TO ASSOCIATE AND AS WELL AS THE FREEDOM TO ASSEMBLE.

NONETHELESS, IT IS ADVISABLE AND NECESSARY TO INFORM THE ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE

WHENEVER CITIZENS ASSEMBLE FOR A PUBLIC MEETING, A PUBLIC RALLY AND ANY OTHER PUBLIC GATHERINGS. THE LOCAL POLICE COMMAND NEEDS TO BE INFORMED WHENEVER SUCH ASSEMBLIES OR GATHERINGS ARE PLANNED FOR.

MR SPEAKER,

THIS IS PRIMARILY INTENDED AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE IN THE EVENT THAT THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IS COMPROMISED.

THIS MEASURE IS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO BE A PRE-CONDITION FOR HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO HOLD THEIR PUBLIC MEETINGS. LET ME HASTEN TO STATE HERE THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT MAY HOLD SUCH MEETINGS OR PUBLIC RALLIES WITHOUT INFORMING THE ZAMBIA POLICE AT

THEIR OWN PERIL IF TROUBLE SHOULD ARISE IN DISTANT PLACES WHERE THE ZAMBIA POLICE ARE NOT PRESENT AND AWARE OF SUCH PUBLIC MEETINGS OR PUBLIC RALLIES.

FURTHERMORE, I WISH TO STRESS THAT THE ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE IS A CARDINAL INSTITUTION FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ALL ZAMBIANS AND CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO MY COLLEAGUES NOT TO MISINTEPRETE THIS ISSUE. HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ARE FREE TO PROCEED TO THEIR CONSTITUENCIES ANYTIME, ANYDAY TO GO AND PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF THEIR OFFICES.

I THANK YOU MR SPEAKER.