



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY
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**ON THE POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE MANYAMA
AREA, KALUMBILA DISTRICT, NORTH WESTERN
PROVINCE**

*Ministry of Home Affairs
LUSAKA
September, 2015*

TABLE OF ATTACHMENTS - MANYAMA RIOT (23/09/2015)

FOLIO	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS
1	A schedule of UPND Presidential Rallies approved by Police.
2	A uniformed Police officer injured during the riot
3	The Manyama Police officer injured during the riot
4	The outside view of Manyama Police Station with some damaged Police communication equipment
5	A Plain Clothed Police Officer injured during the riots
6	Damaged Police VHF radio inside Manyama Police Post
7	Damaged communication cables and stones inside Manyama Police Post

Mr Speaker

I rise to make a Ministerial Statement on the politically motivated riot that took place in the Manyama area of Kalumbila District in the North Western Province, on the 23'd September 2015. The riot involved United Party for National Development (UPND) members and supporters. The incidence happened between 16.00 and 21.00 hours at Munyama Primary School.

The UPND supporters began rioting after being advised that, they could not hold a public meeting at the school without prior authorization, and while the school's academic activities were underway.

Mr Speaker

The facts of this very unfortunate and uncalled for incidence are as follows:

- (1) The UPND Campaign Team earlier in the month provided the Zambia Police in North Western Province a schedule of their campaign programme for the Solwezi-West Bye-Election;
- (2) This programme included a public meeting in the Manyama area on September 23rd, 2015 at 14 00 hours;
- (3) The UPND Campaign Schedule was approved by the North Western Province Police Headquarters without any amendment.

Sir,

On 23rd September 2015 around 16.00 hours, UPND leaders, including some members of this house went to Manyama Primary School and sought authority of the School Administration to use the school premises for their public meeting. The School Authorities declined to authorize the holding of the public meeting at their school premises without prior notice, because the school programmes could not be disrupted abruptly.

The UPND leaders then went to the nearby Manyama Police Post and presented their schedule of meetings and demanded that, the police officers affirm Manyama Primary School as the venue of the public meeting in question. However, the police officers declined to affirm Manyama Primary School as the venue of the meeting, because the document presented to them was a photocopy and not the original.

Mr. Speaker, after the UPND leaders failed to force the police to affirm that Manyama Primary School was the venue of their public meeting, they returned to the school to insist on the School premises being the venue of their public meeting, even though 23rd September, 2015 was a school day and the school programmes were in session. At the school, the UPND leaders insisted on their meeting going on, because members of the public had already begun to assemble at the school. The School Authorities, however, declined to grant permission and urged the UPND leaders to leave the school premises and hold the public meeting elsewhere.

Mr Speaker

While the School Authorities and a few Police Officers that were present were asking the UPND leaders to leave the school premises, the UPND supporters that had accompanied their leaders to the school became unruly and started throwing stones at the police officers within the school premises. This volatile situation forced the Police Officers to use tear gas to disperse the riotous crowd and protect the school property, pupils and the teachers who were still in the school. The highly charged group then ran to the nearby Police Post and attacked the police officers manning the post. In the process they damaged the Police Communication Equipment and a Refrigerator, while two police officers also suffered head injuries. Mr. Speaker, I hereby lay on the table, pictures of the damaged communication equipment, refrigerator and injured police officers.

Sir, contrary to the report tendered by Hon. Jack Mwiimbu, MP., there is no record of anyone, let alone children having died during these riots. The only people treated at the hospital as a result of this public disorder were two police officers. Thus, none of the rioters reported any injuries. The only people injured were police officers and the only property destroyed during this riot was the police communication equipment and Refrigerator.

Mr. Speaker, what happened at Manyama Primary School could have been avoided by good political organisation, cool headedness and a peaceful orientation towards the resolution of disagreements. Had the UPND leadership sought permission of the School Authorities long before the day of the public meeting, they could have learnt in advance that the school would not entertain the disruption of its programmes on a regular working day. They could have accordingly identified a more appropriate venue for their campaign meeting. The riot was, therefore, primarily caused by poor planning on the part of the UPND leadership. I must therefore condemn the riotous behaviour of the UPND supporters who were in the Manyama Area. The riot was uncalled for, unnecessary and was caused purely by poor planning, lack of discipline and a growing tendency of UPND supporters insisting on having things their way.

Mr. Speaker; no political party has the right to use any property it chooses to use for public meetings without the prior permission of the owners of the property. Prior permission of the school management should therefore have been sought.

Mr. Speaker,

By Saturday 26th September, 2015, 18 of the 21 rioters that had been arrested and detained during the Manyama Area riots had been released upon payment of Admission of Guilt Fines, while 3 were still in police custody, because of failure to pay the admission of guilt fees. My Ministry has taken exception to the conduct of the UPND leadership in the Manyama Area. We are also investigating the apparent unprofessional conduct of the police officers involved.

Mr. Speaker, My Ministry, wishes to warn all political parties that riotous behaviour and breaches of peace will not be tolerated from any political party. All political parties have a duty to preserve peace and operate within the confines of the law. My Ministry, Mr. Speaker, shall not equally accept poor management of public order on the part of the police. I have, therefore, instituted an internal inquiry into the conduct of the police, especially with regard to how they handled those who rioted for no reason at all, and endangered the lives of innocent pupils, teachers and destroyed public property bought at great expense. Any police officers found wanting shall therefore be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Sir, my Ministry, however, remains committed to good governance, including upholding human rights, and the fundamental rights, such as the freedom of assembly and ensuring that, all political players campaign peacefully without any undue hindrance. All political leaders across the political spectrum should, therefore, commit themselves to peaceful conduct of politics. We must conduct our politics in a civil, peaceful and dignified manner, and promote national unity in diversity in line with our hard won independence and national motto: "One Zambia, One Nation".

I thank you, **Mr. Speaker.**