

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ON THE SUSPENSION OF KITWE, NDOLA AND LIVINGSTONE CITY COUNCILS**

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**Mr. Speaker**

I wish to submit on the floor of the house on the following issue which is:

- i. Suspension of the Kitwe, Ndola and Livingstone City Councils.

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Mr. Speaker my recent tour of selected Councils reviewed rampant illegal land allocation perpetuated by some of the elected Councillors and Officers from the Councils. The act of illegal land allocation resulted in members of the public losing confidence in selected local authorities, a situation that Government could not allow to continue unabated.

**Mr. Speaker**

In line with section **88(1)(b)(1)** of the Local Government Act Cap **281** of the Laws of Zambia through my issuance of Statutory Instruments **No. 4 of 2016, 5 of 2016 and No. 6 of 2016** published in the Government Gazette dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2016 I suspended Kitwe, Livingstone and Ndola City Councils respectively to pave way for investigations in illegal land allocations. The three Cities Councils were supposed to lead by example not only by conduct of Councillors and Officers but in service delivery and adherence to laid down procedures on land allocations.

**Mr. Speaker**

In view of the above I appointed Mr. Chazya Musukuma, Mr Charlston Hamulyata and Mr. Macloud Nyirenda Public Officers as Local Government Administrators for Kitwe, Livingstone and Ndola City Councils respectively, for

the initial period of Ninety (90) days in accordance with Section 88 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act Cap 281 of the Laws of Zambia.

Mr. Speaker I wish to inform the House that all the three Local Government Administrators have since taken over the operations and functions of these respective Councils as assigned in accordance with the stipulated Terms of Reference.

These Local Government Administrators will discharge all the functions of these respective Councils until such a time that the investigations instituted would have been concluded in these Councils.

**Mr. Speaker**

The three Local Government Administrators will be submitting progress reports on the Investigations to my office with copies to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Housing at the end of the First and Second months as well as a final report on the outcome of the investigations with recommendations of the team of investigators to the Government through the Ministry on the action to be taken to deter would be perpetrators of illegal land allocation.

**Mr. Speaker**

I wish to reiterate that, the Patriotic Front Government will not tolerate any misconduct from either the Councilors or Council Officials in the service delivery process. It is this type of illegality and abuse of office that has over the years led to the poor performance of Local Authorities. I want to urge all Councils; **I mean all Councils and Council Officials without exception**, that the PF Government will not lapse over the fight against land allocation. My Ministry's reactions to such illegal practices and underperformance by officials **shall** continue to be firm. To be forewarned is to be forearmed, and so those involved must prepare themselves against this fight. There will be no sacred cows in the fight against

any evil vices such as corruption, abuse of office, laziness or direct theft of public resources.

**Mr. Speaker**

The suspension of Livingstone, Ndola, and Kitwe City Councils must serve as a lesson to all those Councils and Senior Officials indulging in illegality and my timely advice to them is that the long-arm of the Law will eventually visit them, no matter how long it takes.

I will continue to encourage all the Councilors and Council Officers to comply with the provisions of the law in the running of the affairs of Councils. My Ministry will not condone any departure from the accepted norms, practices and procedures in the management of Local Authorities.

Let me also take this opportunity to once again warn the Officers at the said Councils and other Councils that I will not condone any indiscipline of any kind. The conduct of any officer must be exemplary both at work and outside work as it has direct impact on the performance of Councils.

**Mr. Speaker**

Finally let me take this opportunity to urge all the officers at Livingstone, Ndola and Kitwe City Councils to accord the necessary support and cooperation to the appointed Local Government Administrators to enable them discharge the functions of the Councils efficiently and effectively for enhanced service delivery to the residents in these respective districts. Similarly, I urge the Local Government Administrators to ensure that they do their best as they discharge Council functions and service delivery to satisfy the expectations of Government and the people in the respective districts.

I thank you.