



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY HON. DAVIES MWILA, MP MINISTER
OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**ON THE ALLEGED CURFEW IN CHOMA AND TRAINING OF
MILITIAS IN LUSAKA**

Mr. Speaker

I thank you for giving me yet another opportunity to issue a Ministerial Statement on the points of order raised by, Honourable Cornelius Mweetwa, Member of Parliament for Choma Central Constituency, on the alleged curfew imposed in Choma by the Police and the training of Militias in Lusaka raised by Honourable Musonda, Member of Parliament for Kapiri Mposhi Constituency.

To put my statement in context Sir, let me deal with each of these incidences one by one.

1. Alleged Curfew in Choma

Mr. Speaker,

Let me state from the beginning that, there is no curfew in Choma or any where else in the Republic of Zambia.

Mr. Speaker,

I have in the recent past delivered ministerial statements on the deployment of police officers to some parts of our country. Sir, contrary to the views of the Honorable Member of Parliament for Choma Central Constituency, the police deployment in Choma and other parts of the country are normal. They are part of the continued police efforts to ensure that Zambia as a whole remains

peaceful. The deployments are aimed at preventing breaches of peace and good order. This is an internationally recognized practice.

To sum up sir, the deployment of additional police officers to Choma has been misunderstood and politicized by some sections, because of the recent political violence that happened in Bweengwa and Choma. The Police are mandated by Law to prevent crime wherever it occurs. Mr. Speaker, there is no Curfew in Choma or any where else in Zambia.

2. Training of Militias in Lusaka

Sir, allow me to now address the point of order raised by Hon. Musonda, the Member of Parliament for Kapiri Mposhi Constituency, regarding the training of Militias in Lusaka.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday 27th February, 2016 the Police conducted a search at a building situated along Luanshya Road in Lusaka. The said building belongs to Mr. Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba, the UPND Vice President for Administration. It should be noted that the search was conducted after obtaining a search warrant from the Magistrate's court.

Sir, the search was necessary, because the police had intelligence information to the effect that, there were suspected UPND cadres conducting military training at the premises, with a view to use the skills imparted to disrupt the General Elections scheduled for August 11, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the search therefore was to look for weapons and other military materials used during the suspected military training.

Sir, the officers found the following offensive items at the premises:

- 1. Seven (7) machetes; (2) One Nine (9) millimeter Pistol; (3) One Golf stick; (3) a number of Catapults; and (5) Pairs of Boxing gloves.**

The Police also found three motor vehicles at the premises, which had Cannabis, suspected Steroids and eight rounds of ammunition. UPND branded Caps and T- Shirts, Training Equipment and Weights were also found in a Hall used as a training room. A Training Register with names of people who had participated in the training exercise, code named 50% Plus One was also found in the Training Hall.

Mr. Speaker, Twenty One (21) people were also found on the premises. These were arrested and charged with the offence of Unlawful Drilling. They have since appeared in court.

Sir, May I take this opportunity to urge all Political Players in our Country to conduct themselves in a peaceful and civil manner, to avoid actions that may unsettle the peace our country is well known for. All political parties therefore must conduct their campaigns peacefully.

Mr. Speaker, the Zambia Police is mandated by law to maintain law and order. In line with that mandate, it is the duty of the police to ensure that, law and order prevails throughout Zambia. The Police shall not therefore allow anarchy and disorder to take root in our country.

I thank you sir.