

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE SUSPECTED
RITUAL KILLINGS AND LOOTING IN THE HIGH
DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF LUSAKA
BY HON. DAVIS MWILA, MP., MINISTER OF
HOME AFFAIRS**

MR. SPEAKER,

**I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT, ON THE SUSPECTED
RITUAL KILLINGS AND LOOTING IN THE HIGH
DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF LUSAKA, THAT WE
HAVE HAD OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS.**

BACKGROUND

**SIR, ON 17TH MARCH, 2016 FOUR BODIES OF MALES
AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 40 YEARS WERE FOUND IN
GEORGE COMPOUND WITHOUT SOME BODY PARTS.
THREE OF THE BODIES HAVE SINCE BEEN
IDENTIFIED, AS BODIES OF RESIDENTS OF GEORGE
COMPOUND, WHILE ONE BODY IS YET TO BE
IDENTIFIED.**

**ON 7TH APRIL, 2016 ANOTHER BODY OF A MALE WAS
DISCOVERED WITHOUT SOME BODY PARTS IN
GEORGE COMPOUND. SIMILARLY, ON THE MORNING**

OF 16TH APRIL, 2016 ANOTHER BODY OF A MALE AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS WAS FOUND WITH SOME BODY PARTS MISSING TOO. THIS BODY WAS IDENTIFIED AS THAT OF A RESIDENT OF GEORGE COMPOUND.

~~MR. SPEAKER, BY 18TH APRIL 2016 GEORGE AND ZINGALUME COMPOUNDS IN LUSAKA HAD RECORDED A TOTAL NUMBER OF SIX BODIES FOUND WITH SOME BODY PARTS MISSING. ON THE SAME DAY, A FALSE ALLEGATION TO THE EFFECT THAT, THE POLICE AT MATERO POLICE STATION HAD RELEASED A SUSPECTED FOREIGN NATIONAL INVOLVED IN THE "SUSPECTED RITUAL MURDERS" SPARKED ATTACKS ON SHOPS PREDOMINANTLY OPERATED BY FOREIGN NATIONALS. HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN NATIONAL IN QUESTION, HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON 17TH APRIL 2016 FOR THE OFFENCE OF CONDUCT LIKELY TO CAUSE A BREACH OF THE PEACE. HE WAS THEREFORE ACCORDINGLY RELEASED UPON PAYING THE ADMISSION OF GUILT FINE.~~

SIR, ATTACKS ON THE SHOPS IN THE HIGH DENSITY AREAS BEGUN IN ZINGALUME AND GEORGE COMPOUNDS ON 18TH APRIL, 2016, AROUND 0930HRS. THEY INITIALLY APPEARED TO HAVE TARGETED SHOPS OPERATED BY FOREIGN NATIONALS. ~~HOWEVER, THEY SPREAD VERY QUICKLY TO OTHER~~ HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN PARTS OF THE CITY. AS THE ATTACKS SPREAD TO OTHER HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN PARTS OF THE CITY, THEY BECAME MORE GENERALISED. THUS, EVEN SHOPS OPERATED BY ZAMBIANS AND INDIVIDUAL ZAMBIANS HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF THESE BARBARIC ATTACKS.

BY THE MORNING OF 19TH APRIL, 2016 SIXTY TWO (62) SHOPS IN THE AFFECTED RESIDENTIAL AREAS PREDOMINANTLY BELONGING TO FOREIGN NATIONALS HAD BEEN LOOTED. ONE PERSON HAD ALSO BEEN BURNT BEYOND RECOGNITION IN KANYAMA COMPOUND, WHILE THREE ZAMBIAN NATIONALS WERE SEVERELY BEATEN AND WERE

ADMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL. SADLY, ONE OF THE THREE ZAMBIAN NATIONALS THAT WERE SEVERELY BEATEN IN KANYAMA HAS DIED.

~~SIR, THE POLICE HAVE SO FAR APPREHENDED TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY SIX (256) SUSPECTED LOOTERS. THEY HAVE ALSO RECOVERED SOME OF THE LOOTED PROPERTIES AND HAVE BEEN PROVIDING SECURITY TO FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES.~~

MR. SPEAKER, THE POLICE HAVE BEEN WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK TO FIND THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS BEHIND THE SUSPECTED RITUAL MURDERS THAT HAVE CAUSED FEAR AND INSECURITY AMONG OUR PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY, IN THE HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF LUSAKA. TO THAT EFFECT, THE POLICE HAVE IN THEIR CUSTODY A NUMBER OF SUSPECTS HELPING THEM WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE SUSPECTED RITUAL MURDERS. THE POLICE ARE, THEREFORE, COMMITTED TO FINDING THE

CRIMINALS BEHIND THE MURDERS THAT HAVE ROCKED OUR CAPITAL CITY. THESE CRIMINALS SHALL BE HUNTED DOWN AND BE MADE TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR EVIL ACTIONS.

~~I WOULD BE FAILING IN MY DUTY, SIR, IF I DID NOT~~
BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE HOUSE THE HEROIC AND ADMIRABLE CONDUCT OF SOME OF OUR COMPATRIOTS EVEN IN THE MIDST OF EVIL AND GENERALISED BARBARISM. SOME RESIDENTS OF GEORGE COMPOUND HAVE BEEN HEROIC. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING AND SUPPORTING THE POLICE TO PROTECT THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD AND POLICE POST. THEY HAVE PROTECTED THEIR POLICE POST FROM BEING DESTROYED BY THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS THAT ARE NOT ONLY LOOTING THE SHOPS AND ATTACKING PEOPLE IN THE HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS, BUT ALSO TRYING TO DESTROY POLICE POSTS IN THE VAIN HOPE OF DRIVING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM THESE RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

THE CONDUCT OF SOME OF THE PATRIOTIC RESIDENTS OF GEORGE COMPOUND IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW ZAMBIANS OUGHT TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES. IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE, MR. SPEAKER THAT MORE AND MORE OF OUR PEOPLE SHALL ~~EMULATE THE CONDUCT OF THE PATRIOTIC~~ RESIDENTS OF GEORGE COMPOUND.

MR. SPEAKER, THE ATTACKS ON PEOPLE AND PROPERTY, REGARDLESS OF THE NATIONALITY OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED IS CRIMINAL AND CANNOT BE CONDONED IN OUR DEMOCRATIC DISPENSATION. THE CRIMINALS BEHIND THESE ATTACKS HAVE DENTED THE REPUTATION OF OUR COUNTRY, AS A HAVEN AND SANCTUARY FOR THOSE WHO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRIES ON ACCOUNT OF INSECURITY AND PERSECUTION. MY GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE, DOING EVERYTHING TO ENSURE THAT THESE CRIMINAL AND BARBARIC ACTIVITIES COME TO AN IMMEDIATE END.

SIR, I MUST TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TO OUR PEOPLE TO REMAIN CALM AND PEACEFUL. THE

SITUATION IS CURRENTLY CALM. THE POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY AND DEFENCE AGENCIES SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND ENSURE THAT LIFE IN OUR HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF LUSAKA, IN PARTICULAR, RETURNS TO NORMAL. WE MUST ALL BE AGENTS OF PEACE MR. SPEAKER, BECAUSE PEACE AND SECURITY ARE ZAMBIA'S MOST PRIZED ASSETS. MY GOVERNMENT SHALL, THEREFORE, NOT SPARE ANY EFFORT IN ENSURING THAT OUR COUNTRY REMAINS A HAVEN OF PEACE AND A SANCTUARY FOR PEOPLE THAT FLEE THEIR HOMELANDS ON ACCOUNT OF INSECURITY OR PERSECUTION.

LET US ALL UNITE AND GUARD PEACE AND SECURITY. IT IS THE VERY FOUNDATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

I THANK YOU SIR.