

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BUS STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE BY HON. STEPHEN KAMPYONGO MP MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING**

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**MR. SPEAKER**

I WISH TO SUBMIT THE STATUS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BUS STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE

**MR. SPEAKER**

A LOT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE MEDIA ON THE STATE OF AFFAIRS CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF BUS STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE. AND SPECIFICALLY, THE HON MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SENANGA, MR LIKANDO MUFALALI ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016 RAISED A POINT OF ORDER ON THE FLOOR OF THIS HOUSE CONCERNING THE BLOCKING OF JOHABIE BUSES IN CHIPATA AND LUSAKA BY ALLEGED CADRES.

**MR. SPEAKER**

FOLLOWING THE POINT OF ORDER, YOU DIRECTED ME TO PROVIDE THE STATUS REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUS STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE.

**MR. SPEAKER**

IN LINE WITH YOUR DIRECTIVE, ALLOW ME TO REPORT THAT INDEED JOHABIE BUSES IN CHIPATA WERE BLOCKED FROM OPERATING AT KAPATA BUS STATION. THIS WAS REGRETABLY DONE BY OVERZEALOUS PERSONS OR GROUPINGS OF PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO TAKE THE LAW IN THEIR OWN HANDS.

**MR. SPEAKER**

FOLLOWING THIS INCIDENT, THE ZAMBIA POLICE DEPLOYED ITS OFFICERS TO CALM THE SITUATION AND THE MATTER HAS SINCE BEEN NORMALISED. THE BUS OPERATOR, THAT IS, JOHABIE BUS SERVICES, IS BACK AT THE BUS STATION AND CONDUCTING ITS BUSINESS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM ANY PERSONS OR GROUPINGS OF PEOPLE.

**MR. SPEAKER**

PURSUANT TO THE MARKETS AND BUS STATIONS' ACT OF 2007 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA, THE MANAGEMENT OF BUS STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE IS A PRESERVE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THIS LAW IS STIL IN FORCE. IT HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED OR AMENDED. THERFORE, WHOEVER

INTERFERES OR BARS ANY BUS OPERATORS OR USERS FROM OPERATING AT ANY BUS STATION DO IT ILLEGALLY AND WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TO STRESS THE POINT, LET ME QUOTE PART II OF THE SAID ACT UNDER SECTION (5) AND IT READS IN PART:

“ALL MARKETS AND BUS STATIONS SHALL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY HAVING JURISIDICATION IN THE AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE SITUATED.”

**MR. SPEAKER**

THIS IS ENOUGH CONFIRMATION THAT THERE IS NO ONE WHO IS AUTHORISED UNDER THE LAW TO MANAGE BUS STATIONS OTHER THAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES. AS I SPEAK TODAY, THIS IS WHAT IS OBTAINING IN THE COUNTRY.

**MR. SPEAKER**

IN CASE OF LUSAKA, AND PARTICULARLY INTERCITY BUS TERMINUS WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN THE POINT OF ORDER, I WISH TO REPORT THAT THE ZAMBIA POLICE HAS PERMANENT PRESENCE OF THEIR OFFICERS 24 HOURS EVERYDAY TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL CONDUCTS ITS MANDATE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM ANY QUARTERS, AND ALSO TO ENSURE THAT THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AND BUS OPERATORS ARE NOT INCONVENIENCED IN ANY WAY.

**MR. SPEAKER**

THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, MY MINISTRY IS AWARE THAT THERE ARE A FEW POCKETS IN THE ISOLATED AREAS WHERE OVERZEALOUS PEOPLE ARE ATTEMPTING TO VIOLATE THE SAID MARKETS AND BUS STATIONS ACT. I WISH, THEREFORE, TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WARN THOSE WHO INTEND TO VIOLATE THE ACT CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS AND BUS STATIONS THAT THEY WILL BE VISITED BY THE LAW. THERE WILL BE NO SACRED COWS. THOSE WHO WILL BE FOUND BREAKING THE LAW WILL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS. THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE THE LAWS THAT ARE MADE BY THIS HOUSE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS, IN THIS CASE, THE OPERATORS AND USERS OF THE BUS STATIONS.

**MR. SPEAKER**

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO REPORT THAT I HAVE DIRECTED THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES COUNTRYWIDE, INCLUDING CHIPATA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

TO ENSURE THAT THEY ENFORCE THE MARKETS AND BUS STATIONS ACT NO. 7 OF 2007 WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR AND TO REPORT ANY PERSONS OR GROUPING OF PEOPLE DISREGARDING THIS INSTRUCTION TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. IT IS OUR GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SANITY, ORDERINESS AND OBSERVANCE OF RULES AND THE LAW IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR BUS STATIONS.

IN AREAS WHERE SOME COUNCILS MAY NOT BE IN FULL CONTROL, LIKE KAPIRI MPOSHI DISTRICT COUNCIL, I DIRECT SUCH COUNCILS TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE FULL CHARGE OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE BUS STATIONS IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS IN ORDER TO BROADEN THEIR REVENUE BASES.

**MR. SPEAKER**

I THANK YOU.