

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT on the Breakdown of Public
Order at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International
Airport, Choma Town Centre and the MMD
Secretariat in LUSAKA**

BY

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MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to issue a Ministerial Statement on the point of order raised by Honourable Garry Nkombo, Member of Parliament for Mazabuka Central Constituency. The point of order Sir, is basically on the breakdown of public order that occurred at the Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport on 23rd January 2016, Choma Town Centre on 26th January 2016 and at the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy Secretariat in Lusaka on 8th February 2016.

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

1. The Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport Incidence

Mr. Speaker,

On 23rd January, 2016, the Police Command on the Copperbelt received a report from the Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport that, a group of suspected Patriotic Front (PF) supporters were at the airport with the mission of preventing Mr. Miles Sampa

from disembarking from a Proflight Plane Registration Number 9J-PJY, which was scheduled to land at the airport at 1230 hours.

The Zambia Police Command mobilized officers and dispatched them to the airport to reinforce the officers and ensure that law and order were not breached. Upon arrival at the airport, the Police found the Plane had already landed, but was parked on the runway. They also found that some suspected PF supporters had forced their way on to the apron to prevent Mr. Sampa and his entourage from disembarking.

The Police officers immediately secured the Plane and escorted passengers to the arrivals hall, while Mr. Miles Sampa decided to remain on the Plane and returned back to Lusaka.

Prior to the arrival of the reinforcements, two security guards who had tried to stop the suspected PF supporters from getting on to the apron were assaulted. The confusion which followed only ended when the Police reinforcements arrived. Dockets were opened and investigations instituted.

Five Suspects have been warned and cautioned pending further investigations.

2. The Choma Incidence

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday 26th January, 2016 between 0900 hours and 2300 hours suspected members of the United Party for National Development (UPND) disrupted traffic, while waiting for their party President, who was scheduled to hold an indoor meeting the following day at Choma Sports Club. They blocked the main road and threatened motorists who refused to flash the UPND party symbol.

Mr. Speaker,

The Police moved in to control the situation. However, the suspected members of the UPND refused to cooperate with the Police. The situation deteriorated when the suspected UPND supporters started to throw stones at the Police and the motorists. This forced the Police to use the anti-riot smoke grenades to disperse the unruly crowds and restore order in the town centre.

During the operation, Two (2) Zambia Police and Three (03) Private Motor Vehicles were damaged. The Police, however, apprehended twenty one (21) suspects. Eleven (11) suspects were charged for conduct likely to cause a breach of peace and were released upon payment of the Admission of Guilty fines. Ten (10) suspects were charged for riotous behaviour and were released on Police Bond. They have since appeared in court.

Sir, the Police did not shoot any citizen during the Choma riots of 26th January 2016 as alleged by the Honorable Member of Parliament. Mr. Benson Sibwaya who has been identified as the victim does not have a bullet wound. According to the Medical Experts who have attended to Mr. Sibwaya, he sustained a blunt wound.

3. The Lusaka Incidence

Mr. Speaker, let me now address the Lusaka Incidence.

Mr. Speaker,

On Friday 8th February, 2016, Woodlands Police station received a report to the effect that, two factions of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) had clashed at the Secretariat.

By the time the police reached the Secretariat, they found that, the window panes for the Secretariat had been damaged, as well as Five (5) Motor Vehicles which were parked at the premises.

Sir, the police restored order and apprehended four suspects, who have been charged with Malicious Damage to Property.

4. Conclusions

Mr. Speaker,

Let me conclude by observing that in all the three incidents of the breakdown of public order, there has been non-compliance with the provisions of the Public Order Act. Failure to conduct political activities within the confines of the law would no longer be tolerated. I therefore appeal to all political players to promote the rule of law and peace in our country. We must all commit to peaceful co-existence in words and deeds.

Mr. Speaker, I Thank you.