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Republic of Zambia

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN
NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST DELIVERED TO
PARLIAMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HON
KABINGA J. PANDE, MP.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
LUSAKA

FEBRUARY, 2011

HONOURBLE MR. SPEAKER,

I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPRISE THIS HOUSE ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL AND IN PARTICULAR NORTH AFRICA. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS REGION HAS BEEN ENGULFED BY CIVIL STRIVE DUE TO POLITICAL FACTORS UNIQUE TO THE COUNTRIES AFFECTED. OUR PRIME CONCERN AS GOVERNMENT IS THE FACT THAT SOME ZAMBIAN NATIONALS ARE RESIDENT IN SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES.

MR. SPEAKER

THE COUNTRIES SO FAR AFFECTED INCLUDE EGYPT, JORDAN, YEMEN, ALGERIA, BAHRAIN, LIBYA AND MOROCCO. ZAMBIA HAS HAD VERY WARM AND CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH ALL THESE COUNTRIES AND THUS OUR INTEREST IN FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

THIS AUGUST HOUSE MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS BEING ADVANCED FOR THE CIVIL STRIFE. THIS IS CLEAR FROM MEDIA REPORTS.

MR. SPEAKER,

THROUGH OUT OUR HISTORY, ZAMBIA HAS UPHELD THE PRINCIPLE OF NON INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN VIEW OF THE SECURITY SITUATION EXPLAINED ABOVE, MANY COUNTRIES WITH NATIONALS IN THESE COUNTRIES HAVE STARTED EVACUATING THEIR NATIONALS TO SAFETY PARTICULARLY FROM LIBYA. THE GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE, CONSTANTLY ASSESSING THE SITUATION AND PUTTING IN PLACE MEASURES TO EVACUATE FORTY-TWO (42) ZAMBIANS FROM LIBYA. CURRENTLY, ALL ZAMBIANS IN LIBYA AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE SAFE AND WE ARE IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH OUR MISSIONS.

**SO FAR WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED REPORTS OF ANY
CASUALTY OR INJURY AMONG ZAMBIANS LIVING IN
ANY OF THE COUNTRIES AFFECTED.**

I THANK YOU.