



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE MAZABUKA
STAMPEDE OF 2ND MARCH 2011

The Honourable Mr. Speaker,

I thank you most sincerely for allowing me to make this Ministerial Statement at short notice.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House, with regret, that in the early hours of this morning at around 00:25 hours, in Mazabuka, two lives, namely that of Ms Nasilele Kwalombota aged 21 years, and Mr. Masauso Nyirenda aged 22 years were lost. This happened at a social club in Kaunda Square Stage II, Mazabuka, when Police Officers who were on a routine operation of closing up bars operating beyond the stipulated hours, ordered the closure of the social bar which was found operating at the time. When the patrons refused to have the bar closed, police officers decided to throw teargas canister into the bar. There was a stampede with people trying to rush out of the bar. Later the Bar owner reported to the Police that two people were found dead at the bar.

Mr. Speaker, I wish on behalf of the Government, and on my own behalf as Minister of Home Affairs, to apologise to the Nation in general, and the members of the bereaved families in particular, for this unfortunate incident. Pending the outcome of the Post Mortem which will be conducted, the officers concerned will be charged accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, the Government in general and I as Minister of Home Affairs cannot and will not tolerate this kind of unprofessional conduct by any of our over zealous police officers. The Government will deal firmly with such officers.

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate our Government's resolve that people entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that the lives of the Zambian citizens are secure and protected, discharge their duties professionally all the time. Those who fail to do so will face the wrath of the law.

Mr. Speaker,

I thank you.