

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

VICE-PRESIDENT'S EXHIBITION OFFICIAL OPENING

BY

THE HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR KAMPYONGO, MP

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for according me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the exhibition that is currently taking place at the National Archives of Zambia under the theme “Zambia’s First Female Vice-President and the Role of the Office”.

Sir, the National Archives of Zambia through the statutory provisions of the National Archives Act Cap 175 of the Laws of Zambia and the Printed Publications Act Cap 161 of the revised laws of Zambia, collects, manages and preserves public records, archives and printed publications. It also ensures that they are accessible to Government institutions and the public for research and decision making. The Government, through the Ministry of Home Affairs, is committed enhancing security and accessibility of records at the National Archives of Zambia. To that end, major strides in modernising the department as evidenced by what is currently prevailing have been made.

Mr Speaker, on 26th June, 2019, Her Honour the Vice-President officially launched the exhibition at the National Archives of Zambia. The department has been having different exhibition themes from the collection it holds. This particular one, however, is one of its kind as it is showcasing Zambia’s first female Vice-President’s family, education, community and political life. It also educates the public on the various departments under the Office of the Vice-President and her predecessors from the time Zambia got its independence in 1964.

Sir, this exhibition is a great historical milestone as it will help the general public to appreciate the history of our country through Her Honour the Vice-President and the various works she has executed before and during her tenure of office. Furthermore, the House should note that the National Archives of Zambia is the memory of the nation. It holds information from pre-colonial

independence to-date. The National Archives of Zambia, therefore, has a rich collection of our national documentary heritage.

Mr Speaker, I wish to appeal to my fellow hon. Members of this august House to recognise and use the National Archives of Zambia as a national reference and information centre for study and research on all facets of public life. As a nation, we need to have a reading culture to keep us well informed of what happened in the yester years and today. Our information should, however, be authentic and verified. I use the records in the National Archives as well.

Sir, the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) highlights a poor reading culture as being detrimental to achieving rapid progress in development. It is, therefore, cardinal that we embrace the initiatives being brought out by this department. Accordingly, I urge all hon. Members of this august House to take time to visit the exhibition which will run up to 21st December, 2019.

Mr Speaker, I also appeal to the general public, including hon. Members of this august House, to deposit books that they publish and all other materials that have historical value in the National Archives of Zambia. This is to enrich its collection as demonstrated by Her Honour the Vice-President.

Sir, in conclusion, I must register that I feel sad when I see many good publications written about Zambia by non-Zambians, when we as Zambians should tell our own stories through written publications. We need to take up this challenge for the sake of posterity. The Government is accordingly taking serious measures to address the constraints that impede the work of the National Archives of Zambia. The department in the meantime continues to collect public and private records, which become archives accessed by the general public and from time to time exhibited.

Mr Speaker, allow me to thank the Office of the Vice-President, and private and public institutions that have rendered support to the ongoing exhibition. I once again appeal to hon. Members of this august House to take time to visit the exhibition gallery at the National Archives of Zambia.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.