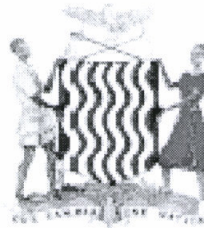


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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY
HONOURABLE GIVEN LUBINDA, MP, MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE INDISCIPLINED
BEHAVIOUR OF COUNCILLOR SAMUEL CHIKUTANO
NKOMA FROM LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL WHILE ON
DUTY IN ADDIS ABABA**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
LUSAKA**

December, 2012

MR. SPEAKER,

GOING BY THE POINT OF ORDER RAISED ON THURSDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2012, BY HONORABLE MIYUTU, MP FOR LUKULU WEST CONSTITUENCY CONCERNING THE MATTER OF COUNCILOR CHIKUTANO'S UNCLEARED BILLS IN ADDIS ABABA, AND FOLLOWING THE RULING BY THE HONORABLE DEPUTY SPEAKER THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL ATTEND TO THE MATTER I WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ENJOYS CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT. THESE RELATIONS THAT DATE AS FAR BACK AS PRE INDEPENDENCE DAYS HAVE BEEN GROWING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH OVER THE YEARS.

THIS AMONG OTHERS, IS EVIDENCED BY THE CLOSE COLLABORATION OF THE TWO LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NAMELY LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL AND ADDIS ABABA LOCAL AUTHORITY,

THROUGH DIFFERENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES. IT IS ALSO ENVISAGED THAT THROUGH THIS COLLABORATION, THE COUNCILORS OF RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WILL LEARN AND EXCHANGE BEST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

MR. SPEAKER,

IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THAT THE ADDIS ABABA LOCAL AUTHORITY INVITED A DELEGATION OF THREE (3) OFFICIALS FROM THE LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL TO ATTEND THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXISTENCE OF ADDIS ABABA AS A LOCAL AUTHORITY.

THESE OFFICIALS ARRIVED IN ADDIS ABABA ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 2012 AND THE ADDIS ABABA CITY GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATED THEM AT THE SHERATON HOTEL. HOWEVER, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ADDIS ABABA LOCAL AUTHORITY EXTENDED COURTESIES BY PAYING FOR ACCOMODATION AND

MEALS, FOR THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION, MR. SAMUEL C. NKOMA EXCEEDED THE GIVEN CEILING BY 2,000 US DOLLARS.

MR. SPEAKER,

THIS BILL OF 2,000 US DOLLARS WAS ACCUMULATED IN A SPACE OF FIVE (5) DAYS BETWEEN 20TH AND 25TH NOVEMBER, 2012. ON 26TH NOVEMBER, WHEN THE MISSION WAS INFORMED, THE ACCOUNTANT AT THE EMBASSY INFORMED THE TOWN CLERK AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LUSAKA OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED WITH THEIR OFFICIAL AND ASKED FOR DIRECTION ON HOW TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

MR. SPEAKER, S

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FORMALLY APOLOGIZED TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SHERATON HOTEL THROUGH OUR MISSION IN ADDIS ABABA AS WE REGRET THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT.

IMMEDIATELY THE INCIDENT HAPPENED, I WROTE TO THE COUNCILOR TO REQUEST HIM TO PROVIDE WITHIN FORTY EIGHTY HOURS A FULL REPORT OF THE INCIDENT.

IN ADDITION, THE LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL HAS SET UP AN AD HOC DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE WHICH IS ANALYZING THE MATTER AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

MEANWHILE, THE LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO REIMBURSE THE SAID AMOUNT TO THE ADDIS ABABA LOCAL AUTHORITY, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

MR. SPEAKER,

THIS INCIDENT HAS CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT TO THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE ZAMBIANS.

MY APPEAL TO MY FELLOW COUNTRY MEN AND WOMEN TRAVELLING ABROAD, IS THAT THEY OUGHT TO CONDUCT

THEMSELVES HONOURABLY AND EXHIBIT EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR AS THEY DO NOT ONLY REPRESENT THEMSELVES BUT ALSO SERVE AS FLAG BEARERS OF OUR COUNTRY.

FOR CIVIL SERVANTS TRAVELLING ON GOVERNMENT DUTY, IT IS THEIR OBLIGATION TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES WITHOUT REPROACH.

FURTHER, FOR THOSE TRAVELLING ON GOVERNMENT DUTY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT MISSIONS ARE INFORMED THROUGH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

MR. SPEAKER, I THANK YOU.