



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**MINISTRY OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY  
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MINISTER OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ON THE CURRENT ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF PRIVATE  
AND PUBLIC LAND ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

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**Madam Speaker,** I wish to thank you most sincerely for giving me this opportunity to make a Ministerial Statement to this August House on the current illegal occupation of Private and Public land across the country.

**Madam,** the PF Government is concerned with the current rate of illegal land occupation, demarcation and allocation across the country by persons purporting to be cadres. This illegal trend has led to law abiding citizens being displaced from their lawfully acquired land. In some instances, landowners have been injured by these illegal land occupiers in the process of forcing them to legally vacate their land.

**Madam Speaker,** the illegal land occupation has been more pronounced in the cities where people masquerading as political cadres have indiscriminately invaded private and public land. In Lusaka, areas such as State Lodge, Silverest and Lusaka West have witnessed unprecedented levels of illegal land occupation.

**Madam Speaker,** the PF Government will not

sit idle and watch law abiding citizens being displaced from their legally owned land. As such, my Ministry working in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs will swing into action and evict as well as demolish all illegal structures that have been erected on land that belong to the law abiding citizens of this great country. In addition, anyone who will be found trespassing on land that does not belong to him or her will be arrested regardless of their political affiliation. The PF Government will not allow lawlessness. It is the duty of the Government to ensure law and order is maintained. The PF Government will therefore sternly deal with any illegal land occupiers.

**Madam,** I wish to inform members of the public through this August House that there is no land in this country that does not belong to anyone. Any land that has not been leased out by the President is held by the President on behalf of the people of Zambia. As Members of this August House may be aware, according to

Subsection 5 of Section 3 of the Lands Act, CAP 184 of the Laws of Zambia and I quote:

***"All land in Zambia is vested in the President and shall be Controlled and Administered by the President of Zambia for the Common good of all the people of Zambia"***. End of quote.

**Madam**, in addition, Section 7 of the same Lands Act, recognizes the existence of customary tenure, a basis upon which most of the rural communities draw their livelihood. It is a policy of the PF Government to ensure that no Zambian who has legally acquired land or given to them under our customary system is displaced or unfairly treated. **Madam**, I therefore wish to strongly advise the members of the public to make inquiries or conduct searches with my Ministry before engaging in any land transactions.

**Madam**, Government will not protect anyone who breaks the law of this country and will not tolerate any person to illegally settle on any land. I, therefore wish to urge all Zambians not

to illegally invade land, which is not theirs. While it is the Government's desire to ensure that every Zambian is protected, law-breakers will face the full strength of the law. I further wish to urge landowners to ensure that they develop the land within the stipulated time so that their pieces of land do not attract squatters.

**Madam Speaker**, in order to ensure that land is made available to all Zambians, Government through my Ministry has been working with Local Authorities across the country to open up new areas for development under the Land Development Fund Programme. **Madam**, about 50,000 plots has been created in the past two years by my Ministry in collaboration with the Local Authorities. I wish to urge members of this August House to sensitise people in their constituencies to apply for land in their respective Districts. It is the desire of this Government to ensure that Zambians benefit from these parcels of land that have been created.

As I conclude, **Madam**, I wish to reiterate that the PF Government will ensure that all illegal land occupiers are dealt with sternly. I further wish to urge members of the public through this August House to report any illegal land activities to the Task Force on Illegal Land Acquisition whose Secretariat is located at my Ministry or to the nearest Police. I wish to assure the public that my government will swiftly deal with any land invaders. Further, let me assure Zambians that there is a lot of land in the country but people should follow laid down procedures in acquiring land like what most Zambians are doing.

**Madam Speaker**, I thank you