

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

**MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO CURB THE ESCALATING CRIME IN LUSAKA
BEING ALLEGEDLY PERPETUATED BY CRIMINALS MASQUERADING AS BUS
DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS**

BY THE

**THE HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY (MR
MWIIMBU) MP**

Madam Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the Matter of Urgent Public Importance raised by Hon. Francis Kapyanga, hon. Member of Parliament for Mpika Central Constituency on the measures being taken to curb the escalating crime in Lusaka being allegedly perpetrated by criminals masquerading as bus drivers and conductors.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by stating that the crime statistics in Lusaka has almost remained the same. In 2020, third quarter, the Zambia Police Service recorded 3,784 cases compared to 3,802 recorded during the same period in 2021. Government, in the recent past has noted with great concern that some criminals masquerading as bus drivers and conductors have been attacking and robbing unsuspecting members of the general public.

Madam Speaker, for example, on 16th August, 2021, Zambia Police Service received a report that a lone 24-year old woman boarded a bus at Cosmopolitan Shopping Mall to Kafue. On the way, the woman was allegedly raped, robbed of a phone and K600. She was later dumped near York Farm in Makeni. Zambia Police Service have since instituted investigations into this barbaric act. Once investigations are completed, the public will be informed of the outcome.

Madam Speaker, in another case, Chawama Police Station received a report of aggravated robbery. The briefs of which are that on 5th November, 2021, at around 2030 hours, a male student aged 25 years old of National Institution of Public Administration (NIPA) boarded a mini bus at University Teaching Hospital (UTH) which had four occupants and was heading to Lusaka Central Business District. Along the way, the occupants of the mini bus attacked the male student and robbed him of a phone, laptop and a camera. He was later dumped in Chawama. No arrests have since been made and investigations are ongoing.

Madam Speaker, to curb these criminal acts in Lusaka, the following are some of the measures being implemented by the Zambia Police Service:

- (a) heightened foot and motorised patrols particularly in highly prone areas;
- (b) enhanced intelligence information gathering
- (c) undertaking various sensitization programmes; and
- (d) engaging stakeholders on crime prevention measures.

Madam Speaker, Government has noted with great concern that unscrupulous people are using military uniforms to waylay innocent citizens. This must come to an end. Let me warn all those with criminal minds that the law will soon catch up with them. The law enforcement officers will not relent to bring culprits to book and all those who commit crimes.

Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to announce through this House that Government has also continued with the firearms amnesty programme. The programme will end on 31st December, 2021 and all those with illegal firearms are encouraged to surrender them to Zambia Police Service. The state will show a token of appreciation to all those surrendering their illegal firearms during this amnesty. Once the amnesty is over, law enforcement agencies will embark on operations to confiscate all illegal firearms. All those found wanting will face the full wrath of the law.

Madam Speaker, the New Dawn Government is anchored on law and order to foster social-economic development. It detests criminality in any form. Crime has devastating consequences. It does not only affect victims of crime, but also impedes local and foreign direct investment. Let me urge the general citizenry to report any suspicious persons to law enforcement agencies. Together, we can make Zambia a crime free country.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.
