

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

SHOOTING INCIDENT IN LUSAKA DISTRICT RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF TWO
CITIZENS

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (MR KAMPYONGO),

Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the shooting incident which occurred in Lusaka District on 23rd December, 2020 resulting in the death of two citizens.

Madam, let me bring to your attention, and through you, this august House and the nation at large, the background of events that led to the violence which occurred near the Zambia Police Service Headquarters. The public may wish to note that the shooting was triggered by unruly United Party for National Development (UPND) sympathisers who went show solidarity to their leader against police warning.

Madam Speaker, the brief facts of the matter are that on Wednesday, 23rd December, 2020, the leader of the UPND, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, was required to report to police headquarters for an inquiry. Prior to his appearance on 22nd December, 2020, the Inspector General of Police, Mr Kakoma Kanganja, issued a warning to UNPD sympathisers on the need to follow the laid down procedures with regard to public gatherings as well as the public health guidelines regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

However, on the material date, the UPND leader was escorted by a group of sympathisers who used about thirty buses. I must emphasize that the leader was summoned in his personal capacity and the allegations were personal in nature without any casual link to his political party.

Madam, the convoy of motor vehicles carrying sympathisers were obstructing the smooth flow of traffic along the Ring Road which prompted police officers to move in and intercept the convoy at the junction of the Ring Road at the Mosi-o-Tunya Traffic Lights. The passengers were advised to avoid moving in a long convoy as it disrupted the smooth flow of traffic and also endangered the lives of other innocent members of the public. However, the convoy diverted into other alternative by-pass routes in order to elude other police snap checkpoints which were mounted along the way.

Madam Speaker, after realising that there was adequate police presence, the UPND sympathisers disembarked from the vehicles with a view of escorting their leader to the police service headquarters on foot along Independence Avenue. Alert police officers stopped and advised them to disperse and only a few vehicles were allowed to proceed. Nonetheless, this advice infuriated the UPND sympathisers who became unruly and began throwing objects at police officers with a view of forcing their way into the Zambia Police Service Headquarters grounds. It was at this point that police responded by discharging tear smoke canisters at the UPND sympathisers. Despite the resistance, the police managed to disperse the unruly UPND sympathisers resulting in the security situation being brought under control and calm restored.

Madam, about thirty minutes later, information was received that two bodies had been spotted lying down between old Cabinet Office building and the National Prosecutions office building. Police quickly rushed to the scene of the crime where they found two bodies laying on the ground. One body later identified as that of Mr Nsama Nsama Chipyoka aged 44, a state prosecutor, was found lying at the entrance of Lafe Restaurant while the other body identified as that of Mr Joseph Kaunda, aged 26 from Kafue District, was found lying along access road into the Ministry of Works and Supply.

Madam Speaker, following the unfortunate incidence which resulted into the death of two citizens regrettably, investigations were instituted which included summoning and interviewing commanders and officers who were on the ground on the material day, identifying witness who could have seen what transpired, crime scene visitation, and subjecting firearm used during the operation for ballistic examinations, as while as subjecting the two dead bodies of the deceased

persons to a post-mortem which established that the two deceased persons died of fatal bullet wounds.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that the team tasked to investigate this matter has already concluded its investigations and the suspect who is alleged to have fired the gunshots that led to the death of Mr Nsama Nsama Chipyoka and Mr Joseph Kaunda has since been identified and the report has been forwarded to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu who has studied the report and handed it over to the Director of Public Prosecutions for further action, at the sometime the Zambia Police Service has forwarded the docket of the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Madam Speaker, further, the police managed to arrest twenty-one suspects who were detained in police custody and later charge for the offence of conduct likely to cause the breach of peace. They were released after paying the admission of the guilty fine. Further, three busses were impounded on suspicion that they were used to ferry UPND sympathisers. On this score, I wish to strongly discourage the practice of moving with crowds when one is summoned before law enforcement agencies, a trend which has proved to be a recipe for lawlessness and chaos.

Madam Speaker, in order to prevent further loss of life during such occurrences, the Government is implementing the following measure;

- (a) retraining of officers on the recently acquired specialised equipment for effective crowd management.
- (b) conducting routine station lectures on the use of fire-arms and parades to assess the ability of officers to handle firearms before being assigned duties.
- (c) through the community crime prevention unite the Zambia Police Service has continued to sensitise the public on the importance of maintaining law and order.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to warn perpetrators of lawlessness that the Zambia Police Service will deal sternly with them and will not allow criminals to dare the institution with impunity. I wish to remind all the citizens of the republic of Zambia to respect democratic processes and the rule of law. The democratic process cannot be allowed to be subverted through unlawful protests.

Madam Speaker, to the Zambia police officers, I wish to equally warn you that no one is above the law. The Government will not shield you from justices when you choose take the law into your own hands. You will face the consequences individually. The long arm of the law will visit you regardless of your position or status in the service. As officers you are expected to follow led down procedures at all time when discharging your duties. Further, you are requested to exhibit high levels of professionalism and discipline when dealing with members of the public.

Madam Speaker, once again on behalf of his Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu and indeed on my own behalf and the entire Government, I would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to both families may their souls rest in eternal peace .

Madam Speaker, I thank you.
