



Republic of Zambia

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DORA SILIYA, MP, MINISTER OF
EDUCATION ON THE DEMISE OF MR. LANCE MATE, A ZAMBIAN STUDENT
WHO WAS ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Ministry of Education
June, 2010

MR. SPEAKER,

I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR ACCORDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE DEMISE OF MR. LANCE MATE, A ZAMBIAN STUDENT WHO WAS ON A RUSSIAN FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP.

MR. SPEAKER,

ON MONDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2009 THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECEIVED A FAX FROM THE ZAMBIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA INFORMING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MISSING OF MR LANCE MATE.

THE FACTS OF THE MATTER WERE THAT MR. LANCE MATE WENT MISSING ON FRIDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2009 WHICH PROMPTED THE ZAMBIAN STUDENT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP IN KAZAN, RUSSIA, TO FILE IN A MISSING PERSON REPORT TO THE KAZAN MILITIA (POLICE) ON SATURDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2009.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, THROUGH THE BURSARIES COMMITTEE, UPON RECEIPT OF THIS INFORMATION EMBARKED ON LOCATING THE NEXT OF KIN, MR SHAKUMBILA MATE, THE FATHER TO THE LATE MR LANCE MATE.

THE INFORMATION ON THE STUDENT'S FILE INDICATED THAT HIS NEXT OF KIN WAS IN MAZABUKA. HOWEVER, UPON MAKING INQUIRIES IN MAZABUKA, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT MR SHAKUBILA MATE HAD RELOCATED TO LUSAKA.

THE BURSARIES COMMITTEE FINALLY MADE CONTACT BY PHONE WITH MR SHAKUMBILA MATE ON SUNDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2009 AND ON

TUESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER 2009, HE WAS FORMALLY INFORMED ABOUT THE MISSING OF HIS SON IN KAZAN, RUSSIA.

MR SPEAKER,

ON TUESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2010, OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW SENT AN OFFICIAL NOTE TO THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE TO LOCATE THE STUDENT AND ON THURSDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2010 TWO (2) EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE SENT TO KAZAN ON A FACT FINDING MISSION.

MR. SPEAKER,

MR. LANCE MATE, AGED 20 YEARS, WAS AWARDED A RUSSIAN SCHOLARSHIP BY THE BURSARIES COMMITTEE IN JULY, 2007. IN SEPTEMBER, 2007 HE COMMENCED HIS RUSSIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION COURSE WHICH HE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED IN JULY, 2008. AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, MR. MATE WAS IN HIS SECOND YEAR STUDYING POWER GENERATION SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS DEGREE AT KAZAN STATE POWER ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY IN KAZAN, RUSSIA.

MR SPEAKER,

ACCORDING TO THE INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES IN KAZAN AND CONFIRMED BY THE ZAMBIAN TEAM WHICH WENT TO KAZAN, MR. MATE LEFT THE UNIVERSITY IN THE EVENING OF THURSDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2009, ESCORTING A KENYAN COLLEAGUE TO THE RAIL STATION WHO WAS TRAVELLING TO MOSCOW. WHEN THEY REACHED TAHDEM SHOPPING MALL, THEY MET TWO KNOWN ZAMBIAN STUDENTS AND MR MATE PARTED COMPANY WITH THE KENYAN COLLEAGUE TO JOIN HIS ZAMIBAN COLLEAGUES.

AROUND 22 00 HOURS, MR LANCE MATE AND THE TWO ZAMBIAN STUDENTS HAD SOME BEERS AT "ZOLOTAYA VOBLA" CLUB AT TAHDEM SHOPPING [MALL. MR](#) MATE'S ROOMMATE (A FELLOW ZAMBIAN STUDENT) JOINED THE TRIO BUT SHORTLY AFTERWARD, HE LEFT FOR A NIGHT CLUB "ARENA".

ABOUT 23 00 HOURS, THE TRIO TOOK A TAXI TO BAUMANA STREET WITH A VIEW TO JOINING THEIR COLLEAGUE WHO HAD LEFT EARLIER. FROM BAUMANA STREET, AS THEY WALKED TO "ARENA" CLUB, ON THE WAY THEY MADE A STOP AT A KIOSK TO BUY SOME BEERS WHICH THEY DRUNK. WHEN THEY REACHED "ARENA" CLUB, THEY COULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN SINCE THE CLUB WAS ABOUT TO CLOSE. FROM "ARENA" CLUB THEY PROCEEDED TO "CAFE CUBA LIBRI" WHERE THEY HAD A FEW MORE BEERS. FROM "CAFE CUBA LIBRI" THEY PROCEEDED TO CAFE 50/50, ANOTHER NIGHT CLUB ON BAUMANA STREET. THE CLUB WAS REPORTED TO BE FULL OF PATRONS. AFTER TAKING A FEW BEERS, THEY DECIDED TO DO THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES INDEPENDENT OF THE OTHER SUCH AS DANCING, DRINKING AND TALKING TO OTHER PERSON(S).

ACCORDING TO INVESTIGATIONS DONE BY THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES, WHICH WERE ALSO CONFIRMED BY THE ZAMBIAN TEAM, MR MATE AND HIS COLLEAGUES SEPARATED WITHIN THE CLUB SUCH THAT HIS TWO COLLEAGUES WERE UNAWARE OF HIS LEAVING THE CLUB. AT THE TIME OF THEIR DEPARTURE, THE TWO COLLEAGUES ASKED THE DOOR BOUNCER ABOUT MR MATE AND THEY WERE INFORMED THAT HE HAD LEFT THE CLUB AROUND 04:00 HOURS IN THE MORNING OF FRIDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2010. WE HAVE CCTV FOOTAGE SHOWING MR. MATE IN A SCUFFLE AND BEING FORCEFULLY EJECTED FROM THE CLUB.

MR SPEAKER,

CONSEQUENTLY, THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES CONDUCTED SEARCHES AND INTERVIEWS. BULLETINS RELATING TO MR MATE'S MISSING WERE PUT IN BOTH ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA. SOME OF THESE FEATURED ZAMBIAN STUDENTS APPEALING TO THE KAZAN COMMUNITY WITH ANY INFORMATION ON MR MATE'S POSSIBLE WHEREABOUTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE ZAMBIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW CONTINUED UPDATING BOTH THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION ON THE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE MATTER AND THE NEXT OF KIN WAS BEING INFORMED, ACCORDINGLY.

MR SPEAKER,

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT FROM RUSSIA, ON SUNDAY, 4TH APRIL 2010 ABOUT 09 50 HOURS A PASSER-BY FOUND A BODY OF MR. LANCE MATE IN THE KAZANKA RIVER, UNDER THE LENINSKAYA DAMBA BRIDGE. THE PERSONAL EFFECTS FOUND ON THE BODY (A MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICY IN THE NAME OF LANCE MATE AND A BANK CARD) ASSISTED IN HIS INITIAL IDENTIFICATION. SUFFICE TO MENTION THAT THE OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION WAS DONE BY HIS PARTERNAL UNCLE, MR GODFREY CHIKAMBA ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH MAY, 2010 IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ZAMBIAN TEAM.

FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF MR LANCE MATE'S BODY, THE ZAMBIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW INFORMED THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ON TUESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 2010 WHICH WAS THE FIRST WORKING DAY AFTER THE EASTER WEEKEND. THE NEXT OF KIN, MR SHAKUMBILA MATE, WAS INFORMED OF THE NEWS OF THE DEATH AND DISCOVERY OF HIS SON'S

BODY BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BURSARIES COMMITTEE IN PERSON (THE IN CHARGE OF THE BURSARIES COMMITTEE) ON THE SAME DATE.

MR SPEAKER,

ON TUESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 2010, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HON KABINGA J PANDE AND I, MET THE SISTER TO MR SHAKUMBILA MATE IN THE COMPANY OF TWO OTHER RELATIVES TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES AND REQUEST THE FAMILY TO NOMINATE A REPRESENTATIVE TO ACCOMPANY THE GOVERNMENT TEAM TO KAZAN, RUSSIA. ON THE SAME DAY, THE NATION WAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THE DEATH OF MR LANCE MATE AND GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISHING THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.

ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH APRIL, 2010, THE THEN DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HON RICHARD TAIMA, ALSO MET MR AND MRS MATE AND OTHER BEREAVED FAMILY MEMBERS TO ASSURE THE FAMILY OF GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO REPATRIATE THE REMAINS OF MR LANCE MATE AS WELL AS ENSURE THAT HIS CAUSE OF DEATH WAS INVESTIGATED.

MR SPEAKER,

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA SENT A TEAM COMPRISING THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, A FORENSIC EXPERT, DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE BURSARIES COMMITTEE AND TWO (2) FAMILY MEMBERS TO KAZAN, RUSSIA, ON A FACT FINDING MISSION.

THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM WITH THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DROWNING. HOWEVER, CIRCUMSTANCES

LEADING TO HIS DROWNING ARE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATIONS. SELF HARM (SUICIDE) HAS BEEN RULED OUT BY OUR FORENSIC EXPERT AND WE NOTE THAT THE FINAL FORENSIC REPORT FROM THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES DOES NOT MAKE MENTION THAT MR MATE COMMITTED SUICIDE AS EARLIER REPORTED.

MR. SPEAKER,

ALLOW ME TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE TO LIAISE WITH THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE CIRMUSTANCES LEADING TO THE DEATH OF MR. LANCE MATE.

MR SPEAKER,

THOUGH THE TEAM WHICH TRAVELLED TO KAZAN, RUSSIA ON 1ST MAY 2010 HAD INTENDED TO COME BACK WITH THE BODY OF MR MATE, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO BRING BACK THE BODY BY THE 13TH OF MAY 2010 WHEN THE TEAM WAS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL BACK TO ZAMBIA BECAUSE THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS THAT WERE BEING CARRIED OUT WERE NOT CONCLUDED WHICH DELAYED THE ISSUANCE OF THE DEATH CERTIFICATE. WHEN DOCUMENTATION FOR THE SHIPMENT OF THE BODY WAS READY, THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WAS UNABLE TO SECURE CARGO SPACE IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THERE WAS CONGESTION OF CARGO IN EUROPE DUE TO THE RECENT VOLCANIC ASH.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WISH TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT MR. LANCE MATE'S REMAINS WERE FINALLY RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH JUNE, 2010. THE FAMILY WAS JOINED BY MANY WELL WISHERS, INCLUDING HONOURABLE MEMBERS

OF PARLIAMENT. THE GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY THE ACTING MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HON BRIG-GEN, DR BRIAN CHITUWO, (RTD), GCDS, MP.

MR MATE WAS EVENTUALLY PUT TO REST ON THURSDAY, 17TH JUNE, 2010 AT THE NEW LEOPARDS HILL CEMETERY IN LUSAKA AND AGAIN MANY ZAMBIANS TURNED OUT TO MOURN WITH THE FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HON KABINGA J PANDE, MP.

MR. SPEAKER,

IN CONCLUSION, ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA AND INDEED ON MY OWN BEHALF, OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO MR. AND MRS. MATE AND THE ENTIRE BEREAVED FAMILY ON THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF MR. LANCE MATE.

TRULY, OUR PEOPLE, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD, FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, HAVE JOINED THE MATE FAMILY IN THIS TIME OF MOURNING AND GRIEF.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.

I THANK YOU,

MR. SPEAKER,