



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY HON. DAVIES MWILA, MP  
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF MORE POLICE OFFICERS TO  
SOUTHERN PROVINCE

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Mr. Speaker,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a Ministerial Statement on the recent deployment of more police officers to Southern Province.

Arising from the point of order raised by Member of Parliament for Monze Hon. Jack Mwiimbu, on Tuesday this week alleging that a state of emergence has been declared in Monze.

I wish to inform this house that, no state of emergency has been imposed or declared in Monze or anywhere else in Zambia.

Sir, I have in the recent past delivered two Ministerial Statements on Political Violence that has occurred in Choma and Bweengwa in the Southern Province. In these statements, my Government appealed for peaceful conduct of political activities.

Mr. Speaker, My Government's appeals for peace and peaceful co-existence in the political arena, have not, however, been appreciated in some quarters. The

Bweengwa violence, for example, was planned and executed by political elements bent on intimidating people with different political opinions from their own.

Sir, to prevent any further breaches of peace and good order, the Zambia Police Service decided to deploy 83 Police Officers to Southern Province to reinforce the officers based in the province. This measure, sir, is not unusual or unique to Southern Province, because it is a common law enforcement practice. It is aimed at ensuring that, the police contain any elements bent on disrupting the peace and good public order.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to conclude by making yet another appeal for peaceful conduct of politics in Zambia as a whole, and Southern Province in particular. The Police in line with their mandate shall deal very firmly with all cases of political violence without fear or favor.

Sir, it is in the interest of all political players to promote peace and peaceful co-existence, because violence makes people lose interest in public affairs. It undermines political participation, and cannot therefore be tolerated in a country based on the rule of

law, such as Zambia. Mr. Speaker, all of us, therefore, must work and support the police in their noble duty of protecting lives and property, and indeed maintaining peace and good public order.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.