



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY
HONOURABLE CHRISTABEL NGIMBU, MP,
MINISTER OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON THE CLARIFICATION ON THE POINT OF ORDER
RAISED BY HON. SYLVIA MASEBO, MP, ON THE
ALLEGED DISPLACEMENT OF 400 PEOPLE IN
CHIPALESA AREA, CHONGWE DISTRICT**

DELIVERED ON TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 2016

Office of the Minister
Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and
Environmental Protection
Mulungushi House
P.O. Box 50694
LUSAKA

April 2016

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank you most sincerely for giving me this opportunity to make a Ministerial Statement and clarify on the Point of Order that was raised on the floor of this House on Tuesday 12th April 2016 by the Honourable Member of Parliament for Chongwe Constituency. This is with regard to the purported demolition of houses and the subsequent displacement of over 400 people by Police Officers and cadres armed with guns in an area called Chipalesa in Chongwe Constituency of Chongwe District.

Sir, I wish to inform this August House that the land in question was initially Farm No. 2021 and had a total extent of 2,214.44 hectares. The said farm was owned by a company called Njolwe Farms Limited. In March 1999, this farm was repossessed by the State and subsequently replanned and subdivided into seven (7) farms. These farms were later offered to successful applicants, among them, Farm No. 9819, land upon which

the part the 400 people illegally settled.

Mr. Speaker, further, in 2003 five of the seven farms that were created in 1999 were repossessed and replanned and subdivided into 14 farms. **Sir**, in 2004, 273 squatters approached Government and claimed to have been displaced as a result of the creation of the 14 farms. Government constituted a team comprising of officials from Chongwe District Council and my Ministry. The team that included the Area Member of Parliament, who was by then Honourable Sylvia Masebo, was tasked to establish the status on the ground. **Sir**, the Honourable Member can bear witness that from the inspection on the ground, it was established that there were only 46 genuine cases. Consequently, two of the farms were further replanned in 2006 to accommodate the 46 families and the matter of squatters was closed.

Sir, of the seven farms, Farm No. 9819

was further subdivided by the owner, Riverdale Estate Limited into subdivisions “A” to “G”. Two of the subdivisions “A” and “E” have since been transferred to different owners. The other subdivisions remained in the name of the company and are part of the land that has been illegally occupied. The company sued the squatters and won the case. Subsequently, the company obtained a court order from the High Court to remove the squatters from this land.

Mr. Speaker, on 1st March 2016, the Office of the Sheriff requested the Police to provide security to ensure the execution of the court order on Farm No. 9819. **Sir**, it is in the execution of the said court order that the 47 households and not the reported 400 people, were removed from Farm No. 9819 on 28th March 2016. It is very unfortunate for the Honourable Member of Parliament of Chongwe Constituency to stand and mislead in this August House by stating that 400 people were

displaced.

Sir, it is important to point out that some of squatters who have been evicted from the land owned by Riverdale Estates Limited were part of the people that were earlier given land by the government in 2006 but decided to sell the allocated pieces of land. The close relatives of these people are listed as part of the people who have illegally occupied the land in question. Surely, any responsible Government cannot tolerate such disorderly behavior. However, PF being a caring Government and Zambia being a party to the Kampala Convention on the protection of the internally displaced persons undertook a social survey in the area in question to establish the number of people who illegally settled on the land for the purpose of collecting data that will enable the government take appropriate measures on genuine cases.

Mr. Speaker, Government will not protect anyone who breaks the law of this country. No

Member in this House would tolerate any person to illegally settle on his or her land. I, therefore wish to urge all Zambians not to illegally invade land, which is not theirs. While it's 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.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay on the Table of this August House, copies of the list of 46 people that were identified and subsequently allocated land in 2007 signed by their representatives, the 2016 list of 400 squatters prepared by the squatters and the map showing the squatters on the land in question as per social survey.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you