



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT,
WORKS, SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATIONS,
HONOURABLE CHRISTOPHER B. YALUMA, MP
ON THE MIS-HAP BY EMIRATES FLIGHT EK714 TO DUBAI ON
21ST OCTOBER, 2012

Mr. Speaker Sir;

I wish to thank you for this opportunity to present a Ministerial statement on the unfortunate mis-hap by Emirates Flight EK 714 to Dubai on 21st October, 2012. We believe that this matter has raised a lot of concern and that the public deserves to be given the right information on the same.

Mr. Speaker Sir;

Zambia as a contracting state to the International Civil Aviation Organization has made provisions for the control, regulation, supervision and orderly development of aviation to ensure provision of safe, secure, efficient air travel by operating airlines within and outside Zambia.

The DCA which is now being transformed from a Department under my Ministry into an Autonomous Authority has been mandated by Law to ensure safe operating practices by all operating airlines through regulatory compliance.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

That said, on October, 22nd, 2012, Government received press reports and a deluge of inquiries from the public concerning Emirates Flight EK 714 to Dubai, that U-turned to Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, with 131 passengers on board.

Preliminary investigations carried out by the Department of Civil Aviation, have confirmed that the turn back to Lusaka of the Airbus 330-200 was caused by failure of the Left Hand (No. 1) Engine, whose fan blade sheared off causing severe internal damage to the engine. The shearing off of the blade caused a loud bang and severe vibrations experienced by the crew.

This occurrence, in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 13 on "Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigations," has been classified as a "Serious Incident" which mandates the Zambia DCA, as state of occurrence, to report to the Aircraft State of Registry, State of Operator, State of Design, State of Manufacturers and the International Civil Aviation Organization for

further evaluation and analysis. All the organisations concerned with the aircraft have been notified. These are as follows:

- i. Engine Manufacturers (Rolls-Royce) of UK
- ii. Accident Board of UK
- iii. Accident Board of France
- iv. Plane Manufacturer (Airbus); and
- v. Aeronautical Authorities of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Speaker Sir;

We, However, wish to point out that the Airbus 330-200 twin engine aircraft, like the one used by emirates, is designed while in flight, to operate with one engine inoperative and land safely at an airport where defect rectification can be carried out. In addition, the crew is also regularly trained for single engine operation of such aircrafts in such cases as suffered by Emirates. The aircraft engine has since been replaced and the plane left for Dubai on 31st October, 2012.

A detailed report has since been completed and submitted to my office by the Department of Civil Aviation.

Mr. Speaker Sir;

I Beg to Move