

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

BY THE

**HON. MINISTER OF HOMES AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY (MR
MWIIMBU), MP**

ON THE

TOLLGATE SECURITY FOLLOWING ATTACK ON KALENSE TOLLGATE

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you most sincerely for according me this opportunity to make two ministerial statements as directed by yourself. With your permission, allow me to make the statements as directed in the following manner. I shall start with my ministerial statement on the security at tollgates following the attack on a police officer and cashiers at Kalense tollgate in Kasama on 8th October, 2021. Thereafter, I shall proceed to issue another ministerial statement on the alleged escalating levels of violence countrywide.

Madam Speaker, as indicated, I now proceed to make my first ministerial statement. I thank you for according me this opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the point of order raised by Hon. Miles Sampa, hon. Member of Parliament for Matero Constituency, on the security at tollgates following the attack on a police officer and cashiers at Kalense tollgate in Kasama on 8th October, 2021.

Madam Speaker, facts of the matter are that on 8th October, 2021 in Kasama, Kasama Central Police recorded a murder case in which a Zambia Police officer was fatally shot whilst on duty at Kalense toll station, situated about 25 km from Kasama town between 02:00 hours and 04:00 hours by a lone bandit. The police also recorded a case of aggravated robbery in which cash amounting to K38, 425 and property worth K12, 288 were robbed from the officer and two tollgate cashiers. The police further recorded two cases of rape in which the two cashiers were allegedly raped by the same bandit.

Madam Speaker, the Government regrets the incidence and would like to send a message of condolences to the family of the deceased police officer. Let me also take this opportunity to wish the two cashiers a quick recovery.

Madam Speaker, in relation to the concerns raised by the hon. Member of Parliament, I wish to state the following:

- (a) the lives of our officers in that infrastructure and elsewhere are safe as we have increased manpower and intensified patrols in our toll stations;
- (b) no arrest has been made yet. However, investigations into the matter have reached an advanced stage and the nation will be informed about the outcome in due course; and
- (c) the two cashiers have since undergone counselling through the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit (VSU) and have been deployed to another place.

Madam Speaker, the incidence is a violation of human rights which should be condemned by all Zambians. The 'New Dawn' Government considers security as a magnet for investment to foster socio-economic development in the country. To avoid the recurrence of such incidences, the Zambia Police Service has put in place the following measures:

- (a) enhanced intelligence gathering;
- (b) increased surveillance patrols at all tollgates across the country; and
- (c) increased manpower levels at all toll stations.

Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to assure the nation that the Zambia Police Service has intensified security at all toll stations in the country and appeal to the general citizens to report any suspicious persons and activities to the Zambia Police Service. Further, I wish to warn the perpetrators of crime that they will be met with the full wrath of the law.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.

ALLEGED ESCALATING LEVELS OF VIOLENCE COUNTRYWIDE

Madam Speaker, with your permission, may I proceed to issue my second ministerial statement. This relates to the alleged escalating levels of violence countrywide. Let me thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a ministerial statement on the points of order raised by Hon. Brian Mundubile, Leader of the Opposition and hon. Member of Parliament for Mporokoso Constituency, and Hon. Davison Mung'andu, hon. Member of Parliament for Chama South Constituency, regarding the allegedly escalating levels of violence in the country.

Madam Speaker, let me assure the nation through this august House that the situation in the country is peaceful, contrary to the insinuations being portrayed by some political party. The 'New Dawn' Administration abhors violence. Violence regardless of the source and form is a vice which should not be condoned by all peace loving Zambians.

Madam Speaker, the Government has noted with great concern of isolated cases of violence being recorded in some parts of the country. Let me now address the specific incidences raised by the two hon. Members of Parliament. On 8th October, 2021, Hon. Christopher Shakafuswa was appearing before court over an election petition case. During the process, alleged United Party for National Development (UPND) supporters identified a person they suspected to have been involved in the murder case of a UPND supporter, which occurred on 19th July, 2021 in Mandevu. The alleged supporters manhandled the suspect, but quick action by the Zambia Police Service restored law and order. This was a violation of the sanctity of court from which we all look for justice. I wish to indicate that investigations in this matter are ongoing and the nation will be informed in due course on the outcome.

Madam Speaker, with respect to the violence that occurred in Kaumbwe Constituency in Petauke District where by-elections were taking place, I wish to inform this august House that the Zambian Police Service recorded a number of incidences during the campaign period. On 18th October, 2021, two vehicles registration numbers BAD 2385 and BAD 8730, which were in the convey of Patriotic Front (PF) vice-president, Hon. Given Lubinda, were damaged by a mob suspected to be UPND cadres. Investigations on this matter are still going on.

Madam Speaker, on Election Day, Thursday, 21st October, 2021, the Zambian Police Service impounded a motor vehicle registration number ACX 9847 found with offensive weapons and *chitenge* materials for the PF party. Five people have been arrested and charged for being in

possession of offensive weapons. They have since been released on police bond. Let me urge the Zambia Police Service to expeditiously bring all those involved to book, regardless of political affiliation.

Madam Speaker, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, made it clear during the Official Opening of the First Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly that the 'New Dawn' Government does not condone any form of violence. It is in this regard that His Excellency has directed all law enforcement agencies to be professional in the discharge of their duties. The Government of the UPND will not be kind to any form of violence. This is a clear demonstration that the Government is committed to ensuring that the people of Zambia fully enjoy their civil rights and liberties. We are indeed in control of the affairs of the country.

Madam Speaker, to prevent violence, the Zambia Police Service is implementing measures intended to ensure that violence in all its manner and form comes to an end. Some of these measures include the following:

- (a) enhanced co-operation and understanding amongst the members of the public, leaders of political parties as well as their party cadres;
- (b) enhanced crowd management control, particularly during by-elections;
- (c) discouraging political parties from ferrying cadres to areas where there are by-elections;
- (d) engaging stakeholders on the importance of unity, regardless of political, religious and ethnic grouping, to avoid loss of life and damage to property; and
- (e) sensitising the general public on the importance of upholding the rule of law and order.

Madam Speaker, let me warn all those perpetrating violence, specifically political party cadres, that they are not exceptional to the provisions of the law. Perpetrators of violence will be dealt within, regardless of political affiliation. Let me assure the nation through this august House that the 'New Dawn' Administration is anchored on the rule of law.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.