

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

CONCERNS RAISED BY HON. JACK MWIIMBU THROUGH A POINT OF ORDER RELATING TO THE SLOW PACE OF REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA (ECZ)

BY

HER HONOUR THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to respond to the point of order raised by Hon. Jack Mwiimbu on the concerns relating to the slow pace of registration of voters by the **Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ). In accordance with Article 229 2(c) of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act, No.2 of 2016 and Section 7 of the Electoral Process Act, N0.35 of 2016, The ECZ is mandated to register voters.**

Mr Speaker, in view of this constitutional and statutory mandate, the commission commenced the process of registration of voters on Monday, 9th November, 2020. The process of registration of voters is expected to run for a period of thirty days, from 9th November, 2020 to 12th December, 2020. During this period, the commission has targeted to register a total number of 9 million voters.

Sir, since the exercise commenced, the commission has received an overwhelming response from eligible citizens turning up to register as voters. This is indeed, commendable of all Zambians.

Mr Speaker, in order to achieve the intended target, the commission has taken into account the concerns raised by the general public on the ongoing voter registration exercise, including the

issue raised on the point of order by Hon. Jack Mwiimbu on the slow pace of registration of voters. The commission has taken the following actions to address the public concerns.

Duration of Registration and Slow Pace of Registration of Voters

Mr Speaker, the commission is grateful that members of the public have come out in numbers to register as voters. The commission has therefore, started deploying additional staff and registration kits to the registration centres, which have recorded high numbers of people so that the voter registration exercise can be efficiently and expeditiously done. It must be noted that not all centres have recorded a high number of persons intending to register and it is for this reason that extra kits will be deployed to only those that have a huge turnout.

Online Pre-Application

Mr Speaker, in order to ensure that eligible citizens who have and may wish to use the online pre-application platform to submit their details spend less time at registration centres, the commission will be publishing designated collection centres, specifically for those who submitted their details online. It will be indicated at these centres that designated queues will be available for those who registered online. This will give them priority as the process will be quicker. Once those citizens who pre-registered are complete with the process, other members of the public can be attended to on those queues.

Recruitment of Additional Staff

Mr Speaker, as an immediate measure to address the congestion at registration centres, the commission has started deploying additional staff to supplement the registration process. This is intended to ensure that citizens applying to be registered as voters are processed quickly. Positive results of this are already being witnessed in other centres as has been reported in the media.

Extension of Registration Hours