

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

ON

**POLICE SHOOTINGS IN LUSAKA AND NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND PHASE  
II OF MOBILE ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS**

BY THE

**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (MR KAMPYONGO), MP**

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for this opportunity you have given me to issue a ministerial statement on incidences involving police shootings in Lusaka and the North-Western Province. I also want to take advantage of this opportunity to give a brief updates to the House and the nation on Phase II of the mobile issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs).

Sir, let me bring to your attention the background of the events that led to the violence which occurred at Kamanga Police Post. The public may wish to note that the riot started in the early hours of 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. This was triggered by an attempt by some police reserve officers and members of the neighbourhood watch, who went to close Flavour Night Club which was reported to have been operating beyond the stipulated hours.

The brief facts of the matter are that in the early hours of 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 around 0100 hours, a night club operating under the name Flavour Night Club in Kamanga Compound was reported to have been operating contrary to the Presidential directives that bars should only open from Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1800 hours to 2300 hours.

Sir, as a combined team of police and reserve officers and the neighbourhood watch tried to close the premises, patrons rose against them and in the process of restoring order, a stray bullet caught Timothy Zulu aged 17 years of Kamanga Compound, who later died. This unfortunate

incident resulted in riotous behaviour by the angry mob, which later damaged Kamanga Police Post and two police motor vehicles. One officer who had been assigned to pick up the body of the deceased was also injured in the process.

Further, the rioters facilitated the escape of eleven suspects; ten males and one female, who were facing various criminal charges. Out of the eleven escapees, two have since been re-arrested and detained at Chelstone Police Station. Investigations were immediately instituted. The police reserve officer involved in the shooting of the juvenile has since been arrested and charged with murder. Six rioters have also been arrested and they will also appear before the courts of law. Investigations in this matter are ongoing.

Mr Speaker, with regards to the shooting incident, which occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020, in Mwinilunga District, I wish to inform this august House that prior to the shooting incident on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020, the Zambia police Service in Mwinilunga District received a report of theft from a salesman at a place called 'Just Chris Enterprise' in Mwinilunga District. Brief facts of the matter are that on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, a male suspect aged 21 of Kabanda Compound in Mwinilunga District allegedly stole one crate of castle lager beer valued at K286 from Just Chris Enterprise outlet located at Mwinilunga Town Centre.

Sir, the following on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020, the suspect was apprehended by the owner of the Just Chris Enterprise who handed him over to his salesman so that he could be taken to the police station. The suspect appeared to be in a drunken state and when they arrived at the police station, officers opted not to detain the suspect. Instead, the suspect was made to rest on the front desk bench until he could sober-up. A wife to the complainant who is also a police officer requested that the suspect be released and asked to pay back the money later. Around 1700 hours, the suspect was allowed to go home and subject was seen walking towards the main road along Lunga River Bridge.

Mr Speaker, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2020 around 0500 hours, the police officer, who was walking towards the police station from guard duties in town saw a man lying down on the road side near the police station. He quickly alerted officers at the front desk, who identified the man

as Mr 'Mr Felix Mang'watu,' unfortunately, the man dead. Officers picked up the body and deposited it at Mwinilunga District Hospital Mortuary. The police have since instituted investigations into the suspicious death of Mr Mwang'watu and so far, one suspect is in police custody helping with investigations. Further, the post-mortem was conducted and the results have been released in readiness for the court process.

Mr Speaker, on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020, after the post-mortem was conducted and in the process of winding up the post-mortem procedure, an irate mob from Kabanda Compound storms the mortuary and picked up the body for burial. The unruly mob dragged the coffin towards the market, where 'Just Chris Enterprise and Guest House' belonging to the same businessman are allocated. The mob damaged and looted the properties. The police fought running battles with the mob.

Sir, the action taken by the members of the public to forcefully grab the body from the mortuary culminated in two serious confrontations between members of the public and the police. This break-down of order put the lives of innocent members of the public and that of the police officers at risk. In the quest to restore order as per operation procedure, police fired warning shots to try and restrain the uncompromising rioters, who were also wielding all sorts of weapons. Despite the warning shots, the rioters continued with their aggressive behaviour which prompted the police to fire at their aggressive ring leaders with intent to name. Regrettably, a man by the name of Davis Ifota Kuwema aged 18 of Kabanda Compound in Mwinilunga District was caught by a bullet and lost his life.

Mr Speaker, in order to prevent further loss of life during such occurrences, the Government is implementing the following certain measures. With respect to Mwinilunga, the Zambia Police Service in Mwinilunga District is:

- (a) in the process of expanding its establishment following the growth of the district due to mining activities;