

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

STATUS OF THE 2020 MOBILE NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARD REGISTRATION

BY THE

HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (MR KAMPYONGO), MP

Madam Speaker, let me start by thanking you for giving me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement to update this august House and the nation at large on the status of the 2020 Mobile Issuance of National Registration Cards. The 2020, Mobile Issuance of National Registration Cards is intended to provide increased access to the acquisition of national registration cards, by citizens who have attained the age of Sixteen (16) and above, especially those who cannot easily reach District National Registration Offices. The exercise is meant to empower citizens with National Registration Cards (NRC) to enable them participate in the economic activities and the electoral process of the country.

Madam Speaker, on the 25th June, 2020, you, Madam, allowed me to issue a ministerial statement on the 2020, Mobile Issuance of National Registration Cards. In my address, I informed this august House that Government through the Department of National Registration Passport and Citizenship under the Ministry of Home Affairs was to conduct mobile registration in all the ten provinces of this country in a two-phased approach. I now wish to report that the first phase started on the 1st August, 2020 in the five provinces namely; Northern, Luapula, Copperbelt, North Western and Eastern provinces. The second phase was scheduled to commence on 1st September, 2020, in the following five provinces; Muchinga, Central, Lusaka, Southern and Western Provinces. The target for the 2020 Mobile National Registration Exercise is to issue a total of 1,500,000 NRCs, comprising 770,000 under phase I and 730,000 under phase II.

Madam Speaker, let me thank the hon. Minister of Finance for releasing an amount of K200 million for the exercise. I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Home Affairs through the department on National Registration Passport and Citizenship commenced phase 1 of the Mobile Issuance of National Registration Cards on 1st August, 2020 in the five provinces as planned. However, I wish to inform this august House that during the first ten days, registration teams did not operate at full capacity due to delays in the delivery of key equipment. The delay was as a result of the late receipt of key equipment from countries of origin due to lock downs and reduced number of flights. I am glad to report that after receipt of the equipment, phase I of the exercises was implemented at full scale in all the said provinces and was scheduled to end on the 9th of September, 2020.

Madam Speaker, the second phase which was initially scheduled to commence on the 1st September, 2020, had to be postponed to 20th September, 2020. The reason for postponement was to avoid an overlap of phase I into phase II since the same equipment being used under phase I was to be used in phase II of the exercise. Further, to compensate for time lost, under phase one in most districts, the ministry extended the registration period by ten days resulting in phase one ending on the 19th of September, 2020.

Madam Speaker, the issuance of NRCs in phase I progressed well. The NRCs issued under phase I are now being counted and validated and at an appropriate time I will come back to this august House and give final statistics. The House may wish to note that the ministry projected to register a total of 770,000 under phase I of the exercise like I have stated earlier. I wish to appeal through august House and to the nation and indeed to my fellow colleagues in this august House, to urge all eligible citizens to take advantage of the 2020, National Mobile Registration to obtain NRCs.

Madam Speaker, allow me to address some concerns raised by certain sections of society with regard to issuance of NRCs to non-eligible persons. The issuance of NRCs is a right of all eligible citizens in line with the provisions of the National Registration Act Cap. 126 of the Laws of Zambia. All citizens who have attained the age of sixteen and above are entitled to obtain NRC. NRCs are not only for elections, but an identity document used for all services such as