

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

COMPLIANCE ON ANNUAL RETURNS BY REGISTERED SOCIETIES

THE HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR KAMPYONGO, MP

Mr Speaker, before I render my ministerial statement, allow me to be the first one to welcome the newly appointed hon. Minister of Finance, Dr Bwalya Ng'andu, to the House and congratulate him.

Sir, once again, let me thank you for according me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the obligation by registered societies to file annual returns in accordance with the law. The Societies Act, Cap. 119 of the Laws of Zambia, provides for registration, regulation and deregistration of societies.

Mr Speaker, I wish to remind this House that in March, 2019, I made a ministerial statement on the need for registered societies to be compliant with the rules and regulations of the Societies Act, Cap. 119 of the Laws of Zambia, especially on the filing in of annual returns. These returns are expected to be filed with the Registrar of Societies during the period 1st January to 31st March of each year.

Sir, out of the 22,000 societies registered with certificates of registration, 11,595 remitted their 2018/2019 annual returns and out of this figure, forty-one were political parties. It is of great concern that despite the statement I issued earlier encouraging registered societies to comply with the Societies Act, Cap. 119 of the Laws of Zambia, some societies have continued to operate in default.

In this regard, out of the fourteen political parties that were earmarked for deregistration in my earlier statement, the Department of the Registrar of Societies on 29th May, 2019, finally cancelled the registration of twelve of these political parties. Ten out of these were cancelled for

failure to comply with provisions of the Societies Act Cap. 119 of the Laws of Zambia. These parties are as follows:

- (a) People's Redemption Party;
- (b) National Alliance Party;
- (c) National Democratic Focus;
- (d) Untied Nationalist Party;
- (e) Party for Unity, Democracy and Development;
- (f) Movement for Democratic Process;
- (g) Zambia Conservative Party;
- (h) Zambia United Development Party;
- (i) Zambia Development Conference; and
- (j) Democratic Assembly.

Meanwhile, the cancellation of the registration of the other two political parties was based on the requests from the two parties to have their registration cancelled. These parties are the Heritage Party and Alliance for Better Zambia.

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform this august House and the nation that there is currently a total of sixty registered political parties of which forty-one successfully filed in their 2018/2019 annual returns. Meanwhile, fifteen political parties were found to be in default as at 31st March, 2019, due to non-remittance of returns. As such, these were served with default notices which gave a twenty-one day ultimatum for them to normalise their status, failure to which the process of cancellation was to be initiated. The affected political parties listed below were, therefore,