

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### VIOLENCE RECORDED DURING THE FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr Kampyongo):** Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the violence that occurred during the Parliamentary and Local Government by-elections held in Sesheke Parliamentary Constituency and seven wards across the country. The Local Government Elections were specifically in Anoya Zulu Ward in Chililabombwe District, Munyama Ward in Kabwe District, Mkomba Ward in Lundazi District, Chidwale Ward in Katete District, Chinkutula Ward in Chifunabuli District, Nkombwa Ward in Isoka District and Sewe Mungole Ward in Chavuma District. The election period for these by elections begun on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, after the nominations and ended with the announcement of the election results on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Sir, my statement seeks to set the record straight by presenting the facts surrounding the violence experienced during the by-elections in question. This is essential to allay the speculation and false information and propaganda circulated by some interest groups and stakeholders. The role of the Zambia Police Service officers, in politics in general and elections in particular, also came to the fore. I shall therefore, clearly state my Government's position on the role of the police in politics and the position of my Government on electoral violence. It is my sincere hope that this statement shall put to rest the falsehoods, propaganda and alarming statements promoted by some of our compatriots who persistently seek the involvement of foreign institutions in the politics of our country.

Mr Speaker, having stated the focus of my statement, allow me to present the violent incidents recorded by the Zambia Police Service during the just ended Parliamentary and Local Government by-elections. The violence incidents recorded by the Zambia Police Service during the January 10<sup>th</sup> to February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 By-election were as follows:

- (a) Arson, one incidence;

- (b) Malicious damage to property, one incidence;
- (c) Assault occasioning actual body harm, twenty-five incidences;
- (d) Possession of offensive weapons, two incidences;
- (e) Unlawful wounding, one incidence;
- (f) Threatening violence, one incidence;
- (g) Theft, two incidences
- (h) Conduct likely to cause breach of peace, one incidence; and
- (i) Police brutality on citizens

Sir, assault occasioning actual bodily harm was by far the most prevalent violence recorded at 73 per cent of all the cases reported followed by possession of offensive weapons at 7.5 per cent of the incidents reported. Malicious damage to property and theft were at 5 per cent each.

Mr Speaker, the incidents of violence were most predominant in Sesheke as it accounted for 83 per cent of all the cases recorded. This was followed by Isoka at 13 per cent of the cases. Lundazi and Chililabombwe were at 2 per cent each of violent incidents recorded by the police. It should be noted that there were no acts of violence recorded during the election periods in Chavuma, Kabwe, Katete and Chifunabuli Districts.

Sir, the majority of places that held by-elections on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 therefore, passed peacefully. This is how it ought to be.

Sir, in Sesheke and Isoka, the violence was driven by people closely associated with candidates of the United Party for National Development (UPND) while some supporters of the Patriotic Front (PF) were responsible for the incidents recorded in Nkombo Ward of Lundazi. In Isoka, Lundazi and Chililabombwe, effective professional and ethical policing prevented the isolation incidents of violence from getting out of control. In Sesheke, however, neglect of duties by those