

FRIDAY, 9 NOVEMBER, 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ISSUES SURROUNDING ZAFFICO

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR KAMPYONGO

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity given to the Ministry of Home Affairs to deliver a ministerial statement on the riots that took place in Kitwe on Monday, 5th November, 2018.

Sir, allow me to also thank the hon. Member of Parliament for Mazabuka Central Constituency, Mr Garry Nkombo, who rose on a point of order on Tuesday, 6th November, 2018, seeking a statement on this unfortunate incidence. The Hon. Member of Parliament for Chama South Parliamentary Constituency, Mr Davison Mung'andu equally raised a point of order on Wednesday, 7th November, 2018. Mr Speaker, you ordered that we combine the responses to these two points of order through the ministerial statement, which I am about to do.

Mr Speaker, before I go into the details and events of the riots, I would like to just set the record straight as regards the issues surrounding the Zambia Forestry and Forests Industries Corporation Limited (Zaffico).

Mr Speaker, hon. Members will recall that in his previous address to the House, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, directed that all state owned enterprises should ultimately be listed on the Lusaka Stock Exchange (LUSE) with the view to improve their performance and governance and give Zambians an opportunity to own shares in these companies.

Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House will also recall that during the hon. Minister of Finance's 2019 Budget address, she announced to the House and to the nation that as part of the transformation agenda, the state owned enterprises, the Industrial Development Corporation,

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(IDC) would, among other interventions be listing state owned enterprises such as Zaffico on the LUSE.

Mr Speaker, the Government has been very consistent and clear on what it intends to do with Zaffico and other state owned enterprises. Sir, to respond to the concerns of the hon. Members of this august House and, indeed, the nation at large, I shall present the facts and sequence of events that culminated into the riots in the Kitwe townships with large numbers of households that depend on the forestry industry for their livelihoods.

Facts and sequence of events surrounding the riots witnessed in Kitwe are as follows:

On Friday 2nd November, 2018, the President of the United Party for national Development (UPND), Mr Hakainde Hichilema during a radio interview on Sun Radio Station of Ndola made a number of slanderous and untruthful statements against the Government including a statement to the effect that the Government of Zambia had sold Zambia Forestry and Forestry Industries Corporation Limited (Zaffico) to the Chinese. In his own words the UPND President said and I quote:

“Ifya Zaffico nombwa, filyafine bashitisha Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC), nabashitisha Zaffico nombaline tulelanda nabashitisha Zaffico kuma Chinese. Twakana mukwai. We are going to reverse those decisions when we come in.”

In English, this statement says, with regard to Zaffico, just like they sold ZNBC, they have sold Zaffico to the Chinese as we talk.

On Saturday, 3rd November, 2018, the Zambia National Association of Millers notified Mindolo Police Station of the intention to hold a public process on the 10th November, 2018 to petition or oppose the purported sell of Zaffico to the Chinese by the Government. However, on Monday, 5th November, 2018, the saw millers assembled in Buchi, Chimwemwe, Kawama and Race Course townships in Kitwe and staged illegal protests which involved blocking of roads,