

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
ON THE  
RISING CRIMINAL GANGS AND ACTIVITIES, FIRING RANGE IN CHALALA, AND  
ALLEGED SHOOTING OF STUDENT  
BY THE HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR KAMPYONGO

Mr Speaker, I am grateful to you for according me the opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the rising number of gangs in some parts of the country. Allow me to also comment on the firing range in Chalala area of Lusaka District, and the alleged shooting of a student at Lusaka Apex Medical University.

Sir, my Government is extremely concerned with the rising number of criminal gangs and crime in some parts of the country, especially in the Copperbelt Province in general, Kitwe in particular. Criminal gangs have largely been formed by young people aged between nineteen and thirty-four years. In the last few months, gangs have been attacking innocent citizens, injuring them and stealing their personal properties such as hand bags, money and cell phones. To contain the situation, the Zambia Police Service put in place a number of measures including the following:

- (a) established a taskforce to deal with the rising number of gangs and criminal activities in Kitwe;
- (b) intensified motorised and foot patrols; and
- (c) put public sensitisation programmes , especially through Radio Ichengelo , on the dangers of criminal gangs, importance of reporting crimes to the police and encouraging members of the public to identify and report to the police, youths involved in criminal activities and suppliers of illicit drugs in their communities. Members of the public have also been encouraged to form and participate in crime-prevention committees and associations within their communities.