

**TUESDAY, 21 MARCH, 2017**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
BY THE  
HON. MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE, REV.  
SUMAILI,  
ON THE  
MUSHROOMING OF FALSE CHURCHES AND PROPHETS, AND MEASURES  
BEING PUT IN PLACE**

Mr Speaker, I thank you most sincerely for giving me this opportunity to make a statement to this august House, and through this House, inform the nation on the steps the Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Guidance has taken in curbing the mushrooming of false churches and prophets.

Sir, let me begin by stating that, as a country, we have publicly acknowledged the supremacy of God Almighty over the nation's affairs. We have further declared Zambia as a Christian nation while upholding a person's right to freedom of conscience, belief or religion.

Mr Speaker, before I proceed, allow me to remind this august House the mandate of my ministry. On 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2016, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, announced the creation of the new Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Guidance and was consequently ratified by Parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2016. The mandate of the ministry is to actualise and translate the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation into practical, workable and realistic interventions. Therefore, my ministry will provide overall policy and legal framework in all matters pertaining to Zambia as a Christian heritage.

Further, the mandate is to facilitate the mainstreaming of the national, biblical and cultural values and principles in our day to day life and the country's programmes. The portfolio functions were published in the Government Gazette dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, and are stated as follows:

- (a) Christian affairs;

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- (b) interdenominational dialogue;
- (c) national guidance;
- (d) national values, principles and ethics;
- (e) public religious celebrations;
- (f) preservation of Christian and religious sites; and
- (g) religious affairs.

Mr Speaker, the address by His Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, on the progress made in the application of national values and principles on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, gives a clear direction to my ministry. In line with the mandate, my ministry is working directly with the churches and religious groups.

Mr Speaker, it would be an omission on my part if I do not acknowledge the great contribution of the Church in national development. The churches are involved in spiritual transformation through their preaching and outreach activities and have invested in education, health, agriculture, skills training and entrepreneurship development, governance, environmental and climate change programmes, gender and child protection activism among many things. In health, they are involved in running hospitals and clinics, implementing Tuberculosis (TB) treatment programmes and malaria and Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) prevention and care programmes for the chronically ill patients. They care for orphans and vulnerable children and provide support for livelihoods and nutrition. They have invested in schools aimed at promoting holistic development in our country. In addition, they have built colleges and universities thereby strengthening tertiary education for the growing population. This contributes to poverty eradication and hence uplifts the living standards of our people.