

**WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH, 2017**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**BY THE**

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

**ON**

**ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION BY ALLEGED PATRIOTIC FRONT CADRES AT  
THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA IN LUSAKA**

Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the Illegal Demonstration by Alleged Patriotic Front (PF) Cadres at the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) offices.

Sir, however, with your indulgence, permit me to seize this opportunity to join the rest of the soccer-loving Zambians in congratulating the Under-20 Football Team for their historic success. I also thank you for your presence, Sir. We witnessed you going into prayer during the unusual activities on the pitch.

Mr Speaker, in the same light, allow me to thank and commend the Inspector General of Police, his deputies and all the commanders of all the units; Paramilitary, Mobile, Protective Unit (PU) and Traffic Management Section, for the exemplary service they rendered to the nation at its time of need.

Sir, you may wish to know that one of the coaches who mentored our goal-keepers is a Chief Inspector, Yona Phiri, of the Zambia Police, who we have since honoured.

Mr Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity, once again, to issue a ministerial statement on the point of order raised by hon. Jack Mwiimbu, Member of Parliament for Monze Central Constituency on the illegal demonstration carried out by alleged PF cadres at the LAZ offices in Lusaka on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017.

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Sir, while Part III of the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia and Article 2(b), to be specific, provide for the freedom of conscience, expression, assembly, movement and association, the said article ought to be read together with the Public Order Act Cap. 113 of the Laws of Zambia.

Mr Speaker, the Public Order Act provides the procedures that ought to be followed to hold public meetings, processions and demonstrations legally in this country. Any public meeting, procession and/or demonstration that do not meet the provisions of the Public Order Act are, therefore, a breach of the law and an act of illegality.

Sir, I must also underline that all organisations, associations and persons operating in Zambia are bound by the provisions of the Public Order Act. The Government is, therefore, extremely concerned by the apparent increase in the number of public demonstrations that have been carried out by some political parties, students, public service drivers and members of the community.

Mr Speaker, we have observed that illegal demonstrations by political parties tend to occur particularly, during election years. Opposition political parties, in fact, account for a bulk of the illegal demonstrations that took place in the election years of 2011, 2015 and 2016. Sadly, even the political parties in Government have equally contributed to the breaches of the law with regard to the Public Order Act.

Sir, my ministry, being responsible for the enforcement of the law and ensuring public order, does not condone illegal demonstrations. We, therefore, expect all political parties, whether in the Government or in the Opposition, to observe the law as there is no place for lawlessness in a democratic country like ours.

Mr Speaker, illegal demonstrations do not only contravene the provisions of the law, but often breach public order and peace in the country. The provisions of the Public Order Act are very clear. It requires any person intending to assemble or convene a public meeting, procession or demonstration to notify the Zambia Police Service of such intent at least seven days before holding such a meeting, procession or demonstration.