

**Response to a question asked by Hon. Jack Mwiimbu on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 during the Vice President's question time.**

Mr speaker, on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017, during the Vice Presidents question time, Hon. Jack Mwiimbu wanted to find out and I quote “ of late there has been unprecedented labour and tribal xenophobia in the civil service where a number of civil servants and workers in parastals who are perceived to be supporters of the UPND and who hail from North Western, Western, Southern and Central Provinces have been dismissed in National Interest. I would like to find out whether it is Government Policy to punish people based on where they come from and what measures will be taken by perpetrators?”

Mr. Speaker,

Following that question, I promised this August House that I would investigate the issue of civil servants being retired in National Interest and that I would come back with comprehensive response. The following is my response:

**Mr. Speaker,**

May I start by reminding this August House and through this House, the Nation at large, that Public Service Management Division (PSMD) under the Office of the President has the mandate to transfer, reshuffle and in some instances retire Civil Servants as part of the reorganisation of the Public Service in order to ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services to the people of Zambia.

In re-organising the Civil Service, a number of recruitments, transfers, promotions and appointments into various positions including the Foreign Service have been made.