

TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

THE RECENT MURDERS IN LUSAKA PROVINCE

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr Kampyongo): Mr Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity that you have given me to render a ministerial statement on the recent murders reported in Lusaka Province, which prompted Hon. Elizabeth Phiri, Member of Parliament for Kanyama to raise a point of order.

Sir, allow me to take this opportunity to address the point of order by starting with an assessment of the prevailing security situation in the country over the last few years, before I address the specific point of order on the recent murders reported in Lusaka Province. It is important to place the recent murders within the overall security situation context prevailing in the Republic of Zambia to avoid inappropriate responses.

Mr Speaker, the security situation in the Republic of Zambia over the last four years has been stable and peaceful. A number of serious crimes have, however, occurred and most of them have been reported to the Zambia Police Service, which maintains records of reported crimes on a daily basis. Close examination of the crime statistics for the period, 2013 to 2016, shows that the crime trend remained the same in the sense that incidents of crime continues to decline though slowly and uneven. From 88,384 crimes reported in 2013 to 85,692 and 87,432 reported in the 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively.

Sir, the most serious crimes prevalent in the country also remain the same. They include; assaults occasioning actual bodily harm, thefts, aggravated robberies, stock theft, murders and thefts of motors vehicles in that order, respectively.

Mr Speaker, the prevalence of crime also continues to be closely related to the population distribution with the most populated districts and provinces recording incidents of crime more than the least populated districts and provinces. Overall, the incidents of crime are on the decline.