



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
LEAKAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH
ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIFTH
SESSION OF THE 11TH NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

Office of the Vice President
Cabinet Office
LUSAKA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT BY HER HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT, MRS INONGE WINA, MP ON THE LEAKAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE 11TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker,

I would like to thank you for granting me this opportunity to issue a ministerial statement to this august House on the leakage of the Presidential Speech for the official opening of the fifth session of the 11th National Assembly. This follows a point of order raised by Chadiza Member of Parliament Honourable Allan Mbewe on the floor of this House on 22nd September, 2015

Mr. Speaker,

The question of leakage of classified information in Government institutions is of grave concern and a really saddening situation. You may wish to note that Public Officers in Ministries, Provinces and other Spending Agencies shoulder heavy responsibility for the welfare of the people of Zambia by helping to maintain the security of the nation. This is done by, among other things, the safe custody of all information and documents relating to Government operations, negotiations and decisions.

Public Officers are bound by the provisions of the Security Instructions document, which set out the guidelines to be observed and the practical steps which must be taken by Public officers to ensure that classified information is not disclosed to unauthorized persons.

Mr. Speaker,

The State Security Act, which is imbedded within the Security Instructions for Government Ministries, is an important piece of Legislation on issues of National Security. The Act states that it is the duty of Permanent Secretaries and Chief Executives to ensure that the contents of the State Security Act are brought to the attention of all public officers under their charge.

There is actually a Declaration of Secrecy form in the Act which requires all Public Officers on first appointment and Officers having access to highly classified documents to sign the said declaration.