

THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
STATUS OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT**

BY THE

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE (MR LUBINDA), MP

Mr Speaker, following the failure by this House to pass the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill, No. 10 of 2019, I wish to update this House on the status of the Bill. This House will recall that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs called for submissions from stakeholders on proposals to amend the Public Order Act on several occasions.

Mr Speaker, the Government demonstrated commitment to review the Public Order Act, Cap 113 of the laws of Zambia in line with Cap. 22 of the Patriotic Front (PF) manifesto which places an obligation on the Government to subject the review of the Public Order Act to enhance consultations with all stakeholders in order to arrive at consensus. In this regard, you will recall that in July, 2016, the Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, respectively, called for submissions on the review of the Public Order Act, Cap 113 of the laws of Zambia. As a result of the few submissions received, the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue requested the Government to facilitate a meeting involving key stakeholders. To this effect, the Government invited all the key stakeholders to a national symposium for the drafting of a Political Party's Bill and the Public Order Bill which was held at the Mulungushi Conference Centre from 25th to 29th September, 2017.

Additionally, Sir, provincial consultative meetings were held from 13th to 16th October, 2018 in order to receive further submissions on the reforms to the Public Order Act. Following the failure by people to make submissions, Cabinet authorised the hon. Minister of Justice to facilitate the