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* SOME members of opposition parties marching from Kabwe Round-about to the Freedom Statue in Lusaka where they were later addressed by their leaders yesterday. Picture by BEN KAPWASHA.

Zimba denies arms claims

By PAULINE BANDA and
HASTINGS NYASULU

HOME Affairs Minister Mr. Newstead Zimba has denied allegations that the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) was trying to link the opposition to the arms cache to prove the argument that the opposition was bent on anarchy.

He was commenting on the allegations by Congress for National Unity (CNU) co-ordinator Patrick Katyoka who said the arms cache found in Mansa could have been hidden there by the MMD in 1991 but now wants to link it to the opposition.

Mr Katyoka made the allegations when he addressed a rally organised by the opposition parties aimed at pressurising the government to lift the state of emergency and to realise all political detainees in Lusaka.

At the rally Mr. Katyoka

also urged MMD to cut ties with government if it really had the interest of Zambians at heart. "They should not allow this country to be a colony of South Africa," he charged without elaboration.

The rally, urged government to "restore" the freedom of Zambians by lifting the emergency powers immediately.

National Party for Democracy (NPD) president, Tentani Mwanza described emergency powers as "fascist" saying they were incompatible with

democracy.

Mr Mwanza said the powers were open to abuse as evidenced by the brief defention of the spouse of United National Independence Party (UNIP) Lusaka district chairman, William Banda, Sara during the crackdown on suspected "Zero Option" authors.

UNIP Chama Member of Parliament, Cuthbert N'guni's wife, Mary-Anne and Malambo MP, Major Wezi Kaunda's wife, Deidre attended the rally.

Mrs N'guni broke down as she urged government to release her husband along with other detainees.

UNIP Lusaka Province acting chairperson, Chrstine Mulundika said President Chiluba should consider scrapping the state of emergency if he was serious with the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation.

The opposition leaders, dressed in black, said the imposition of the state of emergency was not an answer to crime.

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