



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

KEY NOTE SPEECH BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,**

**ON THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE MUSONDA
FALLS HYDRO POWER STATION, IN MANSA, LUAPULA
PROVINCE**

AUGUST, 2020

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENERGY;**
- **OTHER CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES;**
- **THE PROVINCIAL PERMANENT SECRETARY;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT OF ZESCO LIMITED;**
- **COOPERATING PARTNERS PRESENT;**
- **THE CONTRACTOR, SINOHYDRO CORPORATION;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BE PART OF THIS GATHERING TODAY WITH REGARD TO THE COMMISSIONING OF THE REHABILITATED AND UPRATED MUSONDA FALLS. NOT SO LONG AGO I WAS HERE WHEN THE PROVINCE HOSTED THE INVESTMENT EXPO WHICH ATTRACTED A NUMBER OF INVESTORS IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. I AM HAPPY THAT I AM HERE AGAIN TO DEMONSTRATE MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO DRIVING THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA TO HIGHER HEIGHTS. THIS IS THROUGH THE COMMISSIONING OF THE MUSONDA FALLS POWER STATION WHICH HAS BEEN UPGRADED FROM ITS INITIAL POWER GENERATION CAPACITY OF FIVE MEGA WATTS TO **10** MEGA WATTS.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THIS IS INDEED A HUGE MILESTONE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT AND THE ENTIRE LUAPULA PROVINCE. I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY SINOHYDRO CORPORATION OF CHINA AT A COST OF US\$ **42** MILLION SINCE 2014.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT THE UPRATED MUSONDA FALLS PROJECT WILL NOW BE ABLE TO GENERATE OVER **63** MILLION KILO WATT HOURS OF ELECTRICITY ON AVERAGE PER YEAR. THIS ELECTRICITY COULD BE HARNESSSED FOR INCREASED LAND IRRIGATION, AGRO-PROCESSING, SMALL-SCALE MINING AND TO FACILITATE TOURISM TO NAME BUT A FEW OPPORTUNITIES. IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT, **350** LOCAL PEOPLE, WITH DIFFERENT SKILLS WERE EMPLOYED.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT'S ASPIRATIONS IN ENSURING THAT ENERGY IS A KEY DRIVER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LUAPULA PROVINCE AND THE NATION AT LARGE TO RAISE THE LIVING STANDARDS AND REDUCE POVERTY AMONG OUR PEOPLE.

THIS PROJECT IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE OF THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT OF MY GOVERNMENT IN ACCELERATING THE COUNTRY'S KEY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS POWER SUPPLY TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH.

LET ME REITERATE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT, IS POISED TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COUNTRY-WIDE. FOR US TO STIR ECONOMIC GROWTH, WE NEED GOOD ROADS, BRIDGES, UNIVERSITIES, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS INCLUDING, ELECTRICITY TO COMPLEMENT ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

THEREFORE, AS WE EXPLOIT THE GENERATION CAPACITY OF ELECTRICITY IN OUR COUNTRY, MY GOVERNMENT IS ALSO IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS THAT ARE AIMED AT EXPANDING AND REINFORCING THE TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY OF THE SYSTEM. ALL THESE MEASURES WILL IMPROVE QUALITY OF SUPPLY OF POWER AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT PROSPECTIVE INVESTMENTS.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

MY GOVERNMENT IS ALIVE TO THE FACT THAT ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY IN OUR RURAL AREAS IS VERY LOW WITH ELECTRIFICATION RATES STANDING AT ONLY FOUR PERCENT DUE TO MINIMAL INVESTMENTS IN NEW OR EXISTING GENERATION FACILITIES ESPECIALLY IN THE SMALL HYDROPOWER SECTOR.

THEREFORE, TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY, MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AS EVIDENCED THROUGH VARIOUS SECTOR WIDE REFORMS AIMED AT FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE POWER SECTOR. THIS IS DEMONSTRATED IN THE RECENT ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY OF 2019 AS WELL AS ENACTMENT OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT NO.11 OF 2019 AND THE ENERGY REGULATION ACT NO. 12 OF 2019.

OUR AIM IS TO OPEN UP THE COUNTRY'S ELECTRICITY SECTOR TO FACILITATE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION. WITH THESE REFORMS I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TARGETS WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE ATTAINED.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE UPRATING OF MUSONDA FALLS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF PROJECTS THAT MY GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REPLICATE IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN REKINDLING HOPE AND UPLIFTING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF OUR PEOPLE THROUGH INCREASED POWER CONNECTIONS TO THEIR HOMES AND BUSINESS VENTURES.

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT AND ESPECIALLY ARISING FROM THE RECENT INTERESTS EXHIBITED BY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AT THE “INVESTMENT EXPO” THAT LUAPULA PROVINCE IS WELL ENDOWED WITH VAST ENERGY RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL WHICH NEEDS TO BE HARNESSSED IN TRANSFORMING THIS PROVINCE INTO AN ECONOMIC HUB.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

BEYOND THE COMMISSIONING OF THE UPRATED MUSONDA FALLS POWER STATION, MY GOVERNMENT IS ALSO COLLABORATING WITH THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) IN DEVELOPING THE HYDRO SITES ON THE LUAPULA RIVER WHICH HAVE A COMBINED POTENTIAL GENERATION CAPACITY OF **1,000** MEGA WATTS.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROJECTS WILL BE CRITICAL IN MEETING THE INCREASING POWER REQUIREMENTS ARISING FROM GROWING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCE. I AM HOPEFUL THAT PRIVATE INVESTORS WILL COMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS BY INVESTING IN THIS PROVINCE AS WELL AS EXPLORING OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS WIND AND SOLAR WHICH HAVE PROMISING POTENTIAL WITHIN LUAPULA PROVINCE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR COUNTRY'S ENERGY MIX.

AS WE ENDEAVOUR TO ENSURE PROVISION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL, MY GOVERNMENT IS WORKING TOWARDS ACHIEVING COST-REFLECTIVE ELECTRICITY TARIFFS IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

OUR PATH TO DEVELOPMENT IS VERY CLEAR AND WELL SPELT OUT IN THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR US TO ATTAIN THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES AS OUTLINED IN THE VISION 2030 OF BECOMING A **'PROSPEROUS MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY BY 2030**. MY GOVERNMENT IS NOT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND. FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE DEPARTED FROM A SECTORAL-BASED PLANNING TO AN INTEGRATED (MULTI-SECTORAL) DEVELOPMENT APPROACH.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AT THIS POINT, I WISH TO CONVEY MY GRATITUDE TO THE BOARD AND ZESCO LIMITED FOR YOUR RELENTLESS SPIRIT IN ENSURING THE COMPLETION OF THE MUSONDA FALLS POWER STATION PROJECT, AS WELL AS FOR BOOSTING GENERATION CAPACITY TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

I URGE THE MANAGEMENT OF ZESCO TO CONTINUE BEING A TORCH BEARER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TO ADVANCE YOUR VISION OF BEING **"THE HUB OF ELECTRICITY TRADING WITHIN THE REGION BY 2025."**

I ALSO WISH TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE CONTRACTOR, SINOHYDRO CORPORATION, FOR DEMONSTRATING ITS PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERTISE IN UNDERTAKING THE WORKS SUCCESSFULLY.

LET ME THANK OUR CO-OPERATING PARTNERS AND THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION, LED BY HON. CHILANGWA FOR LAYING A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT.

THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GREAT SUPPORT OF OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS. TO OUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, I WISH TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT THAT YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO RENDER TO MY GOVERNMENT AND IN PARTICULAR TO THIS PROJECT.

MY GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT WE SHARE IN ADVANCING THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA OF MOTHER ZAMBIA AND UPHOLDING THE SPIRIT OF **“ONE ZAMBIA, ONE NATION”**.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF LUAPULA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS RESOURCE AND PARTNER WITH OTHER WELL-MEANING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT TO THIS PROVINCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

I ASSURE YOU, THE GOOD PEOPLE OF LUAPULA THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR YOU TO BETTER YOUR LIVES. WE HAVE SHOWN YOU THAT WE ARE A WORKING PARTY, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT PARTY.

WE HAVE CHANGED LUAPULA PROVINCE FOR THE BETTER.
WE HAVE CHANGED ZAMBIA FOR THE BETTER, AND WE WILL
CONTINUE TO DO SO EVEN BEYOND 2021.

I AM AWARE THAT OTHER PEOPLE PRETEND NOT TO SEE
WHAT WE ARE DOING SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE TOLD
THEMSELVES TO OPPOSE ANYTHING COMING FROM US.

LET US CONTINUE TO WORK HARD FOR MOTHER ZAMBIA.
OUR WORKS ARE THERE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE. NO ONE
WILL STOP US BECAUSE WE ARE HERE TO WORK FOR YOU.

WE HAVE BROUGHT DEVELOPMENT TO ALL PARTS OF OUR
COUNTRY. WE HAVE CHANGED ZAMBIA FOR THE BETTER.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL, MAY GOD BLESS ZAMBIA,

I THANK YOU.