



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**ON THE OCCASSION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF)
EASTERN PROVINCE CONFERENCE,**

ON 10TH JUNE, 2018, IN CHIPATA DISTRICT, ZAMBIA

- **THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
HON DAVIES MWILA;**
- **ALL MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE;**
- **ALL EASTERN PROVINCE-BASED PARTY OFFICIALS;**
- **THE EASTERN PROVINCE MINISTER;**
- **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT;**
- **FELLOW COMRADES;**
- **COMPATRIOTS IN OUR JOURNEY OF HOPE FOR A
BETTER AND PROSPEROUS ZAMBIA:**

I GREET YOU ALL IN THE NAME OF UNITY, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY!

IT IS GRATIFYING FOR ME TO JOIN YOU AT THIS CONFERENCE OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE. THIS IS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE PARTY MOBILISATION THROUGH ALL FUNCTIONARIES.

THE FACT THAT THE PARTY HAS MANAGED TO CALL THIS CONFERENCE SIGNIFIES DISCIPLINE, UNITY, HARDWORK AND RESILIENCE.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR PARTY CAN NOT BE EASILY ACHIEVED WITHOUT US EMPLOYING THE VIRTUES OF DISCIPLINE, UNITY, HARDWORK AND RESILIENCE.

IN OUR QUEST TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE PARTY WE CAN NOT AVOID CHALLENGES.

OUR ABILITY TO HANDLE CHALLENGES IS A MEASURE OF OUR STRENGTH, OF OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE CHARACTER AS A PARTY, AND INDEED AS A NATION.

I BELIEVE IN THE ZAMBIAN SPIRIT, I BELIEVE IN OUR ABILITY TO DIG DEEP WITHIN OURSELVES TO TAKE ON OUR CHALLENGES, AND ABOVE ALL, I BELIEVE IN JEHOVAH GOD IN STRENGTHENING US TO COME OUT OF WHATEVER CHALLENGES WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH AS A PARTY AND INDEED AS A NATION.

AS A PARTY, WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO RISE ABOVE WHATEVER CONFRONTS US AND WORK TOWARDS PEACE AND STABILITY NOT ONLY FOR OUR PARTY, BUT THE ENTIRE NATION.

IN OUR CONCERTED EFFORTS TO TAKE OUR PARTY AND THE COUNTRY TO GREATER HEIGHTS, WE CANNOT ALLOW PROPHETS OF DOOM WHOSE MISSION IS MERELY BENT ON MISREPRESENTING WHAT ZAMBIA STANDS TO CONTINUE WRECKING HAVOC ON THE COUNTRY.

THE PROPHETS OF DOOM HAVE CONTINUED PEDDLING THEIR BLATANT LIES AND SPEAKING NEGATIVELY AGAINST OUR ECONOMY, PEACE AND STABILITY.

HOWEVER, THOSE OF US WHO WERE GIVEN THE MANDATE TO STEER THIS SHIP, ZAMBIA, WE REFUSE TO BE DESTRUCTED BY THEIR CHEAP AND DESTRUCTIVE TALK.

WE WILL REMAIN RESOLUTE AND SING FROM THE SAME HYMN BOOK WITH ONE VOICE TO ENSURE THAT OUR BELOVED COUNTRY IS PROPELLED TO ITS RIGHTFUL POSITION IN EVERY ASPECT.

AS THE PF GOVERNMENT WE MEAN WELL. WE WILL NOT RELENT IN OUR QUEST TO FOSTER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR A BETTER ZAMBIA FOR ALL!

COMRADES:

LET ME NOW ADDRESS TRIBALISM AN UGLY VICE WHICH IS STALKING EVERYONE AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO MEAN WELL FOR THIS COUNTRY. THERE IS URGENT NEED TO NIP IN THE BUD TRIBALISM OR TRIBAL SENTIMENTS BEFORE THEY ESCALATE TO UNCONTROLLABLE LEVELS.

OUR FORE-FATHERS NOT ONLY FOUGHT AGAINST COLONIAL RULE, BUT THEY ALSO FOUGHT FOR A UNITED ZAMBIA UNDER THE MOTTO "**ONE ZAMBIA, ONE NATION**".

AFTER MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, AND AFTER MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY, FORTIFIED BY TRIBAL INTERMARRIAGES AND CO-EXISTENCE, IT IS SADDENING THAT WE CONTINUE TO HEAR OF TRIBAL SENTIMENTS BEING PERPETRATED ESPECIALLY IN THE POLITICAL ARENA.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE AND IS RETROGRESSIVE FOR EVERY PROGRESSIVE MIND ASPIRING TO TAKE ZAMBIA TO GREATER HEIGHTS IN ITS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

YES! ZAMBIA BEING A DEMOCRACY GUARANTEES PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY AS PROVIDED FOR IN OUR CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, IN DOING SO, IT CALLS FOR EVERY ONE OF US TO EXERCISE ABSOLUTE RESPONSIBILITY IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT INJURE OUR INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERS OR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

INDEED, IN A COUNTRY OF ABOUT **17** MILLION PEOPLE DEMOCRACY CAN AT TIMES BE NOISY, MESSY, AND ARGUMENTATIVE, BUT WE MUST NEVER LOSE OUR SENSE OF FAMILY, RESPONSIBILITY AND PATRIOTISM TOWARDS OUR NATION AND THE ENTIRE ZAMBIAN FAMILY!

THEREFORE, I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE YOU MEMBERS OF THE PF AND THE ENTIRE LEADERSHIP TO DESIST FROM TENDENCIES WHICH PROMOTE TRIBALISM. YOU SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT TO SPEAK AGAINST TRIBALISM AND NOT TO PERPETRATE IT. UNDER MY LEADERSHIP, I WILL NOT CONDONE PERPETRATORS OF TRIBALISM IN THE PARTY.

WE SHOULD NOT VIEW OURSELVES AS THIS ONE COMES FROM TRIBE A OR B, BUT WE ARE ALL ONE, AND OUR DNA IS PATRIOTIC FRONT AND ZAMBIAN.

SIMILARLY, I WISH TO MAKE A MORAL CALL TO ALL OUR PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO ENSURE THAT WE STRENGTHEN THE UNITY IN ZAMBIA BEYOND TRIBE, GENDER, RACE, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS.

ALL POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS IN ALL THE POLITICAL PARTY STRUCTURES IN ZAMBIA HAVE A HIGHER MORAL OBLIGATION IN THIS REGARD.

COMRADES:

I WISH TO EXPRESS GRIEF AT THE TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION THAT FAKE NEWS PARTICULARLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA, IS LEAVING ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE ENTIRE NATION.

THIS FAKE NEWS IS WRECKING HAVOC AND IT CONTINUES TO THREATEN THE PEACE OF OUR NATION. IT IS INDEED OF SERIOUS CONCERN AT THE RATE THAT IT IS BEING DISSEMINATED AND STEPPING ON THE TOES OF EVERYONE.

AS POPE FRANCIS RECENTLY WARNED AND I QUOTE:

“INTERNET-BASED FAKE NEWS” IS FORMENTING PREJUDICE AND HATRED, AND OUR CULTURE IS LOSING ITS SENSE OF TRUTH AS IT BENDS THE FACTS TO SUIT PARTICULAR INTERESTS". END OF QUOTE.

IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND ILLOGICAL FOR PEOPLE TO ABUSE OUR DEMOCRACY BY USING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO DISSEMINATE FALSEHOODS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, AND ESPECIALLY OUR ECONOMY.

IT IS SAD TO NOTE THAT THE PERPETRATORS ARE UNDER THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT BY USING SUCH

PLATFORMS TO FABRICATE FAKE NEWS, THEY WILL WIN THE HEARTS OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE TO LEAD THIS NATION.

TELL THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE WHAT YOU WILL DO FOR THEM TO STIR ECONOMIC GROWTH RATHER THAN RESORTING TO PEDDLING LIES WHICH WILL NOT PUT FOOD ON THEIR TABLE.

YOU CANNOT ASPIRE TO LEAD IN PEACE BY RISING ON A PLATFORM OF DESTRUCTION. EQUALLY, YOU CANNOT HOPE TO LEAD IN TRUTH BY RISING ON A PLATFORM OF FALSEHOOD.

THE INNOCENCE OF TRUTH HAS SEVERELY BEEN ATTACKED AND AS PATRIOTIC FRONT WE MUST RISE TO THE OCCASION TO DEFEND THE TRUTH.

IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF OUR NATION, IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY, AND IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF MAINTAINING OUR POSITION IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD AT LARGE AS A BEACON OF PEACE.

PERPETRATORS OF FAKE NEWS MUST BE CONDEMNED IN STRONGEST TERMS AND THEY MUST BE DISMISSED WITH THE CONTEMPT THEY DESERVE.

WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE WITH IMPUNITY. WE SHOULD PROTECT OUR FUTURE LEADERS FROM SUCH CARELESS ACTIONS. POSTERITY WILL JUDGE

US HARSHLY IF WE REMAIN CONTENT WITH THIS STATUS QUO.

FELLOW COUNTRY MEN AND WOMEN:

ZAMBIA CONTINUES TO BE THE ENVY OF MANY NATIONS; OUR PEACE AND STABILITY IS PRICELESS!

THE GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2018 LISTED ZAMBIA AS BEING IN A "HIGH STATE OF PEACE".

THEREFORE, LET US NOT TAKE THIS PEACE FOR GRANTED.

TRIBALISM AND FAKE NEWS ARE ENEMIES OF THIS HIGH STATE OF PEACE WE ENJOY.

COMPATRIOTS IN OUR JOURNEY OF HOPE FOR A BETTER AND PROSPEROUS ZAMBIA; THE CHALLENGES WE FACE ARE NOT ONLY UNIQUE TO ZAMBIA. MOST OF OUR NEIGHBOURS HAVE THEIR OWN SHARE, BUT TODAY LET'S SUMMON OUR COURAGE AS ZAMBIANS THAT WE SHALL OVERCOME!

WE ARE ONE ZAMBIAN FAMILY - WE RISE AND FALL TOGETHER!

WE ARE CHOOSING HOPE OVER DESPAIR!

WE'RE CHOOSING FAITH OVER FEAR!

DEAR COMRADES:

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO NOTE THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FROM INCEPTION AND OTHERS JOINED IN ALONG THE WAY, BUT YOU ARE ALL ONE FAMILY - THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FAMILY!

AS THE SUN RISES FROM THE EAST OF THE HILLS OF CHIPATA, WE CHOOSE TO LIFT UP OUR EYES ABOVE THE TROUBLES IN OUR LAND, AND DECLARE TOGETHER THAT LIKE THE EAGLE ON OUR NATION'S FLAG, WE ARE RISING!

AND JUST AS THE SUNRISE REPRESENTS NEW BEGINNINGS, LET THIS CONFERENCE BE SYMBOLIC OF A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN EASTERN PROVINCE AND INDEED THE REST OF OUR COUNTRY.

MAY THE EASTERN PROVINCE CONFERENCE LIKE THE RISING SUN BRING US HOPE!

VIVA PATRIOTIC FRONT!

VIVA PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE!

DZIKOMO!

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL.

I THANK YOU.