



Republic of Zambia

**SPEECH BY**

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

**DURING THE MADISON LIFE 21ST INTER-COMPANY RELAY**

**HELD AT THE NATIONAL HEROES STADIUM, LUSAKA**

**ON SATURDAY, 22ND JUNE, 2019**

**STATE HOUSE  
LUSAKA**

- **HONOURABLE MINISTERS PRESENT HERE;**
- **YOUR WORSHIP MR. MILES BWALYA SAMPA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LUSAKA;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. LI JIE, CHINESE AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO ZAMBIA;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **MADISON LIFE INSURANCE MANAGING DIRECTOR;**
- **MR. ELIAS MPONDELA, CHAIRPERSON AND FOUNDER OF THE INTER-COMPANY RELAY;**
- **THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE INTER COMPANY RELAY AND THE ZAMBIA AMATEUR ATHLETICS EXECUTIVE;**
- **SPONSORS AND PARTNERS OF THE INTER-COMPANY RELAY;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU TODAY AND OFFICIATE AT THE 2019 MADISON LIFE INTER-COMPANY RELAY, WHICH HAS BROUGHT ALL OF US TOGETHER TO ENGAGE IN DIVERSE SPORTING ACTIVITIES.

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, THE INTER-COMPANY RELAY INITIATIVE WAS STARTED IN **1999** BY THE ZAMBIA AMATEUR ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION AND HAS SINCE THEN, GAINED MOMENTUM AND HAS BECOME PART OF OUR ACTIVITIES TO STAY HEALTHY.

OVER THE YEARS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, CORPORATE INSTITUTIONS, INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE RELAY AS A WAY OF HAVING FUN AND INTERACTING WITH EACH OTHER.

HOWEVER, THE UPSIDE OF IT IS THAT, THE PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR PROMOTING ONE'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE THEME FOR THE 2019 MADISON LIFE INTER-COMPANY RELAY IS **“TWENTY FIRST INTER-COMPANY RELAY: THE KEY TO NEW AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES – WALK AND RUN”**.

THIS THEME SERVES TO REMIND ALL OF THAT THERE ARE POSITIVE BENEFITS TO BE ENJOYED FROM ENGAGING IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SUCH AS A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE WITH POSITIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES.

THE DIRECT POSITIVE EFFECTS OF ENGAGING IN REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ARE PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THE PREVENTION OF SEVERAL CHRONIC DISEASES SUCH AS CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, DIABETES, CANCER, HYPERTENSION AND OBESITY.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

IN TODAY'S WORLD WHERE MOST OF US DRIVE OR TAKE THE BUS TO SCHOOL, WORK OR OTHER PLACES, THERE IS LITTLE TIME TO ENGAGE IN PHYSICAL EXERCISE, FITNESS AND SPORT.

HOWEVER, FOR MOST OF US WHO GREW UP WHEN THESE LUXURIES WERE NOT AVAILABLE, WE WERE FORCED INTO PHYSICAL EXERCISE. WE HAD TO WALK LONG DISTANCES TO SCHOOL AND OUR PARENTS EQUALLY HAD TO WALK TO WORK. THIS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ALONE WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP US HEALTHY.

THIS COMPELS US TO NOW TAKE DELIBERATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT WE ENGAGE IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY. THE INTER-COMPANY RELAY PRESENTS SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NOT ONLY COMPANIES, BUT ALSO INDIVIDUALS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO ENGAGE IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, FITNESS AND SPORT.

I WISH TO UNDERSCORE THAT OUR ENGAGEMENT IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT SHOULD NOT END WITH THIS INTER-COMPANY RELAY, BUT WE SHOULD TAKE IT UPON OURSELVES AS A REGULAR ACTIVITY.

AT THIS POINT, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT THAT WE HAVE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE FROM ZAMBIA'S VARIOUS COOPERATING PARTNERS TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT IN ZAMBIA.

EXAMPLES OF THIS SUPPORT INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEVY MWANAWASA AND NATIONAL HEROES STADIA, AS WELL THE DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS SPORTS DISCIPLINES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

IT IS THEREFORE GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT THE SUB THEME OF THIS YEAR'S INTER-COMPANY RELAY IS "**ZAMBIA – CHINA 55 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP IN GOOD HEALTH**". THIS THEME IS COINED IN LIGHT OF THIS YEAR'S COMMEMORATION OF THE **55TH** ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZAMBIA - CHINA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHICH INCLUDES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ZAMBIA-CHINA CULTURAL YEAR.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS THAT CONTINUES TO EXIST BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

A FRIENDSHIP WHOSE FOUNDATION IS PREMISED ON EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT, A BOND MADE POSSIBLE BY THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF THE FOUNDING FATHER OF ZAMBIA, HIS EXCELLENCY DR. KENNETH DAVID KAUNDA AND OF CHINA, CHAIRMAN MAO ZEDONG. OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS TRANSCENDED CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

CHINA IS INDEED AN ALL-WEATHER FRIEND.

OUR CHINESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WALKED AND RAN WITH US DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TAZARA RAILWAY LINE, THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO WALK AND RUN WITH US IN OUR QUEST TO DELIVER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TODAY, THEY WILL WALK AND RUN WITH US, AS WE PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S INTER-COMPANY RELAY.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT TO ZAMBIA OVER THE YEARS IN DIVERSE AREAS.

IN THE SAME VEIN, I WISH TO REAFFIRM THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO FURTHER ENHANCING THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION WITH CHINA.

LET ME, THEREFORE, WARMLY WELCOME YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. LI JIE, CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA, AND HIS TEAM TO THIS INTER-COMPANY RELAY.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR JOINT PARTICIPATION IN THE ZAMBIA – CHINA SEGMENT OF THIS EVENT.

## **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

TODAY'S EVENT RESONATES WELL WITH GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY WHICH AIMS AT PROMOTING SPORT FOR HEALTH.

THE SPORTS POLICY CALLS FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA TO ENGAGE IN SPORTS DISCIPLINES OF THEIR CHOICE. IT ALSO CALLS FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND COMMUNITIES IN SUPPORTING SPORTS DEVELOPMENT.

THIS EVENT IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT IS BEING HELD WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL WELLBEING.

THE RELAY IS ALSO IN LINE WITH OUR ON-GOING CAMPAIGN ON HEALTH PROMOTION TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCES OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES COUNTRYWIDE.

THE EVENT CONTINUES TO DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELLBEING OF OUR PEOPLE. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT, DURING THIS EVENT, YOU CAN ACCESS SCREENING AND TESTING SERVICES FOR VARIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS UNDER THE MOTTO **"KNOW YOUR STATUS FOR A HEALTHIER NATION"**.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

THERE IS NEED FOR US TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND THIS CALLS FOR ALL OF US TO KNOW OUR HEALTH STATUS. IT IS ONLY WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE THAT ONE CAN SEEK APPROPRIATE MEDICAL INTERVENTION. I, THEREFORE, ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SERVICES BEING PROVIDED DURING THIS EXCITING EVENT.

SPORT IS NO LONGER JUST A SOCIAL AFFAIR IT HAS IMMENSE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT ONCE ONE BECOMES A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS PERSON. LET US ENCOURAGE OUR CHILDREN TO ENGAGE IN ANY SPORT OF THEIR CHOICE.

AS A COUNTRY WE WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO EXCEL IN DIFFERENT SPORTS DISCIPLINES IF WE BEGIN TO TAP TALENT AT AN EARLY AGE.

THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SHOULD TAKE THIS RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY AND COORDINATE ISSUES RELATED TO TALENT IDENTIFICATION IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER.

EQUALLY, THE COMMUNITIES, CORPORATE INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS SHOULD SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE. WE CAN ONLY REAP WHAT WE SOW. THEREFORE, LET US INVEST IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS.



## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

AT THIS JUNCTURE, I WISH TO THANK OUR MAIN SPONSORS, MADISON LIFE FOR PUTTING UP THIS SPLENDID EVENT.

I ALSO WISH TO THANK SPONSORS AND PARTNERS AMONG THEM ZAMBIA BATA SHOE COMPANY; ZAMBIAN BREWERIES PLC; ZESCO; AVIC INTERNATIONAL; CHINA JIANGSU INTERNATIONAL; MULTI CHOICE; LAFARGE; TOPSTAR AND MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.

TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, I COMMEND YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

I WISH TO REITERATE MY APPEAL TO YOU FELLOW COUNTRY MEN AND WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.

LET US MAKE WALKING AND RUNNING A HABIT AND PART OF OUR DAILY LIVES. THIS WILL NOT ONLY HELP YOU TO REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, BUT WILL ULTIMATELY CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING HEALTH COSTS AT INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

I WISH ALL THE PARTICIPANTS THE VERY BEST IN THEIR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF THE COMPETITIONS. HAVE FUN AS YOU PARTICIPATE AND OBSERVE THE RULES OF THE GAME AND FAIR PLAY. LET THE GAMES BEGIN. **MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU ALL, I THANK YOU.**