



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY

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

**AT THE COMMISSIONING AND HANDOVER
CEREMONY OF 38 HOUSING UNITS**

**TO THE ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE, CHIBOMBO
DISTRICT, CENTRAL PROVINCE**

ON SUNDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MR. DAVIS MWILA;
- THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, HONOURABLE STEPHEN KAMPYONGO, MP;
- THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER, CENTRAL PROVINCE AND OTHER CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;
- MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT;
- PERMANENT SECRETARIES PRESENT;
- THE CHAIRPERSON, CHIBOMBO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL;
- INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, MR KAKOMA KANGANJA;
- THE CHAIRPERSON, ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION;
- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO YET AGAIN GRACE THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF **38** HOUSING UNITS TO THE ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE, BUT THIS TIME HERE IN CHIBOMBO DISTRICT, CENTRAL PROVINCE.

THIS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IS AN INDICATION THAT AS GOVERNMENT IN OUR QUEST TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT, WE ARE NOT ONLY CONCENTRATING IN URBAN AREAS BUT RURAL AND PERI URBAN AREAS ARE ALSO IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

THE **38** HOUSING UNITS BEING HANDED OVER TODAY ARE PART OF THE **707** HOUSING UNITS UNDER PHASE ONE OF THE PROJECT ALLOCATED TO CENTRAL PROVINCE. IT IS PART OF THE **2,350** HOUSING UNITS MY GOVERNMENT IS CONSTRUCTING ACROSS THE COUNTRY ACCOUNTING FOR 30 PER CENT OF THIS.

MY GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO RESOLVE THE HOUSING CRISIS THAT OUR SECURITY OFFICERS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS HAVE LIVED WITH FOR A LONG TIME. WE BELIEVE THAT ACCESS TO DECENT HOUSING MOTIVATES HUMAN BEINGS, AND OUR SECURITY OFFICERS ARE NOT AN EXCEPTION.

THE PROVISION OF DECENT HOUSING TO ALL OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IS, THEREFORE, ONE OF MY GOVERNMENT'S MAIN PRIORITIES.

PROVIDING DECENT HOUSING TO OUR SECURITY OFFICERS WILL GUARANTEE AN EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE SECURITY SYSTEM ABLE TO DETECT, PREVENT AND ARREST CRIME.

AN EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE SECURITY SYSTEM IS THE UNDERLYING FOUNDATION OF ANY DEMOCRACY AND IS ALSO A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THEREFORE, INVESTING IN OUR SECURITY INSTITUTIONS WILL CONSOLIDATE OUR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS INVESTMENT IS CARDINAL BECAUSE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS CANNOT GROW NOR OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WHERE THERE IS NO LAW AND ORDER.

SIMILARLY, NO LOCAL OR FOREIGN INVESTOR CAN RISK INVESTING IN A TOWN, CITY OR COUNTRY WITHOUT LAW AND ORDER.

THIS INVESTMENT IN HOUSING FOR OUR SECURITY OFFICERS IS, THEREFORE, STRATEGIC, AND SEEKS TO HELP CONSOLIDATE OUR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

INVESTING IN HOUSING FOR OUR SECURITY OFFICERS ALSO CREATES JOBS AND PROVIDES ESSENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TO OUR PEOPLE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE.

WE ARE NOT ONLY CREATING JOBS BUT ALSO BUILDING CAPACITIES OF OUR PEOPLE.

IT IS THUS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT THE STAFF HOUSING PROJECT FOR SECURITY OFFICERS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS HAS CREATED ABOUT **10, 000** JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE WITH OR WITHOUT PRIOR CONSTRUCTION SKILLS.

THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED WITHOUT ANY CONSTRUCTION SKILLS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE SKILLS BY THE COMPLETION OF THE HOUSING UNITS AT ANY GIVEN SITE.

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INCOMES FROM THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED SKILLS, LONG AFTER THE END OF THIS HOUSING PROJECT.

AT THIS MOMENT, I WISH TO COMMEND CENTRAL PROVINCE FOR A JOB WELL DONE UNDER PHASE ONE. APART FROM THE **38** HOUSING UNITS BEING COMMISSIONED HERE IN CHIBOMBO, OTHER HOUSING UNITS HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED IN KABWE, MKUSHI, MUMBWA, AND SERENJE.

THE ALLOCATION OF 38 HOUSING UNITS TO CENTRAL PROVINCE UNDER PHASE ONE IS ON ACCOUNT OF THE HIGH DEMAND FOR SECURITY OFFICERS IN THE REGION, OWING TO THE FAST GROWING POPULATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

HOWEVER, THE ENHANCEMENT OF SECURITY IN CENTRAL PROVINCE AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY IS NOT LIMITED TO THE PROVISION OF DECENT HOUSING TO OUR SECURITY OFFICERS.

ON THE CONTRARY, MY GOVERNMENT IS ALSO INVESTING IN COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES IN ECONOMICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS AND STREETS, COMPLETE WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND A NATIONAL COMMAND CENTRE.

WE ARE MAKING THESE INVESTMENTS TO MODERNISE AND ENHANCE SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE INVESTMENTS WOULD ALSO HELP ADDRESS THE BIG GAP BETWEEN THE SMALL NUMBER OF SECURITY OFFICERS AND THE BIG POPULATION THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO SECURE AND PROTECT.

INVESTMENTS IN NEW SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES WOULD FURTHER MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE SMALL NUMBER OF SECURITY OFFICERS TO POLICE MUCH WIDER AREAS THAN BEFORE.

THE NEW SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES BEING DEPLOYED WILL, THEREFORE, GO A LONG WAY IN MAKING UP FOR THE LOW RATIO OF POLICE OFFICERS TO THE POPULATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

FOR THESE INVESTMENTS INTO THE SECURITY SECTOR TO BEAR THE ANTICIPATED FRUITS, THOSE ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY, MUST ENSURE DUE DILLIGENCE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND AT ALL TIMES.

WE ARE INTERNATIONALLY WELL KNOWN AS FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL PEOPLE. THEREFORE, SECURITY OFFICERS AND AGENCIES MUST DOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO ENSURE WE MAINTAIN OUR REPUTATION.

WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WHETHER FROM AMONGST US, OR ABROAD TO DESTROY OUR REPUTATION AS A BEACON OF PEACE AND STABILITY.

CRIME IN ANY FORM HAS NO PLACE IN OUR COUNTRY. THIS BRINGS ME TO THE RECENT GRUESOME MURDERS OF A BUSINESS COUPLE IN MUMBWA WHICH MADE EXTREMELY SAD AND SHOCKING NEWS, NOT ONLY IN MUMBWA, BUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM MUST WORK ROUND THE CLOCK TO BRING ALL PERPETRATORS OF THIS INHUMAN ACT TO BOOK.

LET ME NOW TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND INDEED ON MY OWN BEHALF, TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE TWO CHINESE NATIONALS, WHO RECENTLY LOST THEIR LIVES IN MUMBWA AT THE HANDS OF THE DESPICABLE CRIMINALS.

OUR SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES ARE ALSO EXTENDED TO THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN ZAMBIA, THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

SUCH GRUESOME MURDERS ARE, HOWEVER, UNCOMMON IN ZAMBIA AND WE MUST NOT ALLOW THIS HEINOUS CRIME TO DESTABILISE OUR PEACE.

IT IS THEREFORE INCUMBENT UPON US AS RESIDENTS WHERE THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED TO SUPPORT THE ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE TO ENSURE THAT PERPETRATORS OF THIS HEINOUS CRIME ARE BROUGHT TO BOOK SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN ANY ROOM TO COMMIT MORE CRIMES.

MY GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ZAMBIA REMAINS PEACEFUL, FRIENDLY, SECURE, AND SAFE FOR ZAMBIANS, FOREIGN INVESTORS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

WE SHOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED OR GET DISCOURAGED BY CRIMINAL ELEMENTS. WE ARE DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT WE WEED OUT ALL CRIMINAL ELEMENTS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES AND PROSECUTE THEM.

WE MUST RISE ABOVE THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS AND WORK TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND HARMONY IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND AMONGST ALL THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN ZAMBIA.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO REITERATE THAT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE **38** HOUSING UNITS HERE IN CHIBOMBO, A LARGELY RURAL AREA CONFIRMS GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING TO ALL OUR SECURITY OFFICERS REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY SERVE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.

LET ME COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR PARTNERING WITH US IN OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF OUR WOMEN AND MEN IN UNIFORM.

TO THE CONTRACTOR, AVIC INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS CORPORATION, WE SAY WELL DONE AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE THE **38** HOUSING UNITS OFFICIALLY COMMISSIONED.

**THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF US
AND OUR GREAT NATION ZAMBIA**