



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH BY

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

**AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE COPPERBELT
INVESTMENT EXPO (CIEX)**

**TO BE HELD IN NDOLA AT LEVY MWANAWASA STADIUM
ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH JUNE 2019**

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- THE HOST HON. PROVINCIAL MINISTER FOR THE COPPERBELT PROVINCE, MR. JAPHEN MWAKALOMBE, MP;
- SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT;
- ALL CABINET MINISTERS AND PROVINCIAL MINISTERS PRESENT;
- YOUR EXCELLENCES AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS PRESENT;
- SENIOR CHIEF CHIWALA AND OTHER ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT;
- THE HOST PERMANENT SECRETARY, MR. BRIGHT NUNDWE;
- MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF THE COPPERBELT AND OTHER VISITING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
- YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF NDOLA;
- ALL MAYORS AND COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS PRESENT;
- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;
- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF ALL PARASTATALS;
- CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY;
- PF PARTY OFFICIALS AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES PRESENT;
- DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;
- FRIENDS FROM THE MEDIA;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM DEEPLY HONOURED AND DELIGHTED TO BE HERE WITH YOU ALL IN THIS FRIENDLY CITY OF NDOLA WHICH IS HOSTING THE FIRST COPPERBELT INVESTMENT EXPO, UNDER THE THEME: ***“BROADENING THE COPPERBELT ECONOMY THROUGH DIVERSIFIED INVESTMENTS.”***

IT IS INDEED GRATIFYING TO BE HERE TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THIS HISTORICAL EXPO.

I WISH TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION, THE DISTRICTS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ALL MINISTRIES, AGENCIES, MEMBERS OF THE MAIN ORGANISING COMMITTEE, AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES FOR SUCCESSFULLY HOLDING THIS HIGH PROFILE EVENT.

I WISH TO ALSO COMMEND ALL STAKEHOLDERS FOR INVESTING THEIR TIME, ENERGY AND RESOURCES TOWARDS THIS EVENT.

I AM PERSONALLY VERY PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE COPPERBELT INVESTMENT EXPO BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATES MY GOVERNMENT'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO THE BETTER UTILISATION OF RESOURCES LEADING TO DIVERSIFICATION, INDUSTRIALISATION, JOB CREATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MY GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY COMMITTED TO ACCELERATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY ORGANISING EVENTS SUCH AS THIS ONE TO PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS TO SEE THE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES THE COPPERBELT PROVINCE HAS.

THEREFORE, I WISH TO URGE ALL OF YOU TO INTERACT FREELY FOR YOU TO SECURE GOOD INVESTMENT DEALS AND FORGE LONG LASTING SYNERGIES, AS YOU SEEK INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES NOT ONLY ON THE COPPERBELT, BUT IN ZAMBIA AS A WHOLE.

MY GOVERNMENT IS KEEN TO PARTNER WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN OUR QUEST TO BRING PROSPERITY TO OUR PEOPLE THROUGH CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND WEALTH FOR ALL.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF WE MATCH OUR TALK WITH REAL ACTION, THROUGH COMBINED EFFORTS, “WE” CAN TREMENDOUSLY INCREASE THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF INVESTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT ON THE COPPERBELT, AND ZAMBIA AS A WHOLE IN LINE WITH THE VISION **2030**.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

YOU WILL ALL AGREE THAT THE COPPERBELT INVESTMENT EXPO PROVIDES A VERY RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO IMPROVE THE OUTLOOK OF THE ENTIRE PROVINCE BY EXPLOITING ECONOMIC POTENTIAL IN ALL THE **10** DISTRICTS OF THE COPPERBELT.

WHEN I LOOK AROUND THE COPPERBELT, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I SEE A PROVINCE ENDOWED WITH TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT PROSPECTS IN AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES, FORESTRY, LARGE AND SMALL SCALE MINING, MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING, TOURISM, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE COUNTLESS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING, FINANCE AND INSURANCE, ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER LIMITLESS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL ENDEAVOURS.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS ON THE COPPERBELT WILL FACILITATE FOR PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS, WITH INTEREST TO INVEST IN SECTORS SPREAD ACROSS ALL THE **10** DISTRICTS OF THE COPPERBELT FROM MPONGWE TO CHILILABOMBWE, AND I SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ON THIS ONE BECAUSE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES HAS ASSURED ME THAT THERE ARE READY TO RECEIVE INVESTORS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A RESURGENCE OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND TRADE, AS WELL AS A REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE ON THE COPPERBELT PROVINCE AND THE ENTIRE NATION AT LARGE.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT OUR RESOLVE FOR A BETTER ZAMBIA WILL BEAR FRUIT SOONER THAN LATER. WE REMAIN STEADFAST TO TRANSFORMING THE COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE, AS OUTLINED IN THE 7TH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

LET ME ASSURE OUR PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS THAT ZAMBIA IS A SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUR INVESTMENT.

WE HAVE A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT INVESTOR-FRIENDLY POLICIES FOR YOU TO GROW YOUR INVESTMENTS AND REALISE YOUR PROFITS AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT, WE ARE THE MOST COMPETITIVE INVESTMENT DESTINATION IN THE REGION.

MY GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SERIOUS INVESTORS. WE WANT INVESTORS WHO RESPECT OUR NATIONAL VALUES.

WE WANT INVESTORS WHO UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO IMPROVE OUR PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS INCLUDING FOLLOWING OUR WELL SPELT OUT LABOUR LAWS. VIOLATION OF LABOUR LAWS IS AN AFFRONT TO THE WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I THEREFORE, ADVISE ALL EXISTING AND POTENTIAL INVESTORS TO SHOW KEEN INTEREST IN INVESTING IN THE DYNAMISM OF THE ZAMBIANS THEY EMPLOY, AS THEY WOULD IN REALISING GOOD RETURNS FOR THEIR INVESTMENTS.

I AM DESIROUS TO SEE MORE PARTNERSHIPS AND JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN FOREIGN AND LOCAL INVESTORS. TODAY, ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FAVOURS ENTERPRISES THAT EMBRACE DIVERSITY.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT ONCE THIS BUSINESS MODEL IS ADOPTED IT WILL CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE AND CREATE VALUE CHAINS AND SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE ECONOMY. THEREFORE, THERE IS NEED TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VALUE AND SUPPLY CHAIN OF OUR ECONOMY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

TIME HAS COME FOR US TO REDEFINE THE FUTURE OF THE COPPERBELT.

THEREFORE, I WISH TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO OUR PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS TO VISIT THE ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR WHERE YET MORE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE.

IT IS NOW MY PRIVILEGE AND DISTINCT HONOUR TO DECLARE THE COPPERBELT INVESTMENT EXPO OPEN.

**MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU ALL
THANKYOU.**