



Republic of Zambia

REMARKS BY

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

**DURING THE 55TH ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR
OFFICIAL OPENING**

**TO CALL UPON
HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. FELIX TSHISEKEDI,
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
(DRC)**

HELD IN NDOLA ON FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **GUEST OF HONOUR, YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. FELIX TSHISEKEDI, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO;**
- **MR. DAVIES MWILA, SECRETARY GENERAL, PATRIOTIC FRONT PARTY;**
- **CABINET MINISTERS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND ZAMBIA;**
- **PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND ZAMBIA;**
- **CHAIRPERSON AND DIRECTORS OF ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS;**
- **EXHIBITORS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **MY FRIENDS FROM MEDIA FRATERNITY;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**
- **FELLOW SHOWGOERS:**

MY TASK THIS AFTERNOON IS SIMPLY TO CALL UPON HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. FELIX TSHISEKEDI, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO WHO IS OUR GUEST OF HONOUR TO ADDRESS US AND OFFICIALLY OPEN THE 55TH ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR (ZITF).

BUT BEFORE I DO THIS ALLOW ME, TO WELCOME MY DEAR BROTHER HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FELIX TSHISEKEDI, AND THANK HIM FOR ACCEPTING OUR INVITATION TO BE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THIS YEAR'S ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOUR PRESENCE HERE THIS AFTERNOON SIGNIFIES THE STRONG AND MUTUAL BILATERAL RELATIONS OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE, WHICH GO BEYOND OUR STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INCREASED TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

**GUEST OF HONOUR, YOUR EXCELLENCY;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

PRESIDENT FELIX TSHISEKEDI OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE UNION FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS (UDPS), NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS IN 2008 AND LATER OBTAINED A SEAT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHERE HE REPRESENTED THE CITY OF MBUJI MAYI IN KASAI-ORIENTAL PROVINCE.

AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ÉTIENNE TSHISEKEDI, PRESIDENT FELIX TSHISEKEDI HUMBLY, BUT HONOURABLY TOOK UP HIS FATHER'S MANTLE TO LEAD THE UNION FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS (UDPS) PARTY, THE PARTY THAT TODAY IS GOVERNING THE GREAT COUNTRY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

YOUR EXCELLENCY OUR GUEST OF HONOUR:

WE ARE PLEASED, TO NOTE YOUR EXCITING POLITICAL JOURNEY TO ASCENDING TO THE HIGHEST POSITION OF LEADERSHIP, THE PRESIDENCY, IN THE GREAT DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

SIMILARLY YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE HAVE FOLLOWED, WITH JOY, HOW YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED DETERMINATION AND BRAVERY IN YOUR POLITICAL LIFE.

YOUR DETERMINATION AND BRAVERY HAS BEEN SUSTAINED DUE TO YOUR INNOVATION IN VENTURING IN NEW AND UNIQUE TASKS THAT OTHERS MAY NOT BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, IT IS IN LINE WITH YOUR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE THAT WE FIND IT BEFITTING THAT A DETERMINED AND BRAVE LEADER HAS COME TO GRACE OUR **55TH ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR SHOW UNDER THE THEME IS “INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIPS.”**

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, BOTH COUNTRIES ZAMBIA AND DRC HAVE CONTINUED TO ENJOY STABLE AND STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND ARE IMPLEMENTING A NUMBER OF POLICIES AND INITIATIVES AIMED AT STIMULATING PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION.

THIS IS IN ORDER TO INDUSTRIALISE AND EXPAND TRADE MARKETS BILATERALLY AND REGIONALLY. IN TERMS OF TRADE FLOWS AND CONNECTIVITY, ZAMBIA HAS BEEN A STRONG LOGISTICAL AND TRANSIT HUB FOR MOST TRADE DESTINED TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

HOWEVER, THE POSITIVE TRENDS BEING RECORDED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOT WITH CHALLENGES.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE EXPOSED TO COMMON PROBLEMS SUCH AS PROLONGED INFANCY AMONG OUR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMES), AND UNEMPLOYMENT, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY OF OUR POPULATION.

TO ADDRESS SOME OF THESE CHALLENGES, I WISH TO REITERATE THE NEED TO FURTHER INCREASE TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, INTRODUCE EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES ON COMMON AREAS OF INTEREST, AND ALSO ENCOURAGE OUR PEOPLE TO LEARN FRENCH AND ENGLISH AS THIS WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR SMOOTH TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. I PROMISE YOU MR PRESIDENT THAT I WILL LEARN FRENCH.

WITH THESE FEW REMARKS, IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO CALL UPON HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. FELIX TSHISEKEDI, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO ADDRESS US.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOU MAY WISH TO COME FORWARD AND ADDRESS THE DISTINGUISHED GATHERING AND OFFICIALLY OPEN THE 55TH ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR.

THANKYOU YOUR EXCELLENCY.