



Republic of Zambia

**REMARKS BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF THE**

**MINISTER OF YOUTHS SPORT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**ON MONDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019**

## **HONOURABLE EMMANUEL MULENGA, MP**

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY YOUTH SPORTS AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT. IN APPOINTING YOU AS MINISTER, I WANT TO REITERATE THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015 NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN, WHOSE KEY OBJECTIVES ARE TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE SKILLS AIMED AT EMPOWERING THE YOUTH OF ZAMBIA.

THE PATRIOTIC FRONT PARTY AND MY GOVERNMENT REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF THE ZAMBIAN YOUTH. AS YOU TAKE UP OFFICE, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE YOUTH IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED TO MEET THEIR ASPIRATIONS IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE THEY ARE.

ZAMBIA IS **60** TO **70** PERCENT YOUTH, SO IT BEING A YOUNG POPULATION, YOU NEED TO COME UP WITH INNOVATION AS TO HOW THE YOUTH COULD BE ENGAGED IN PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES. ENGAGE THE DEFENCE FORCES TO SEE HOW YOU COULD SYNERGISE IDEAS TO ENSURE THE YOUTH BECOME PRODUCTIVE. INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE PRODUCTIVE, AND TO AVOID VICIES LIKE DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION. SWAY THEM AWAY FROM PROMISCUITY TO AVOID AFFLICTION FROM DESEASES SUCH AS HIV/AIDS.

THE ECONOMY CAN ONLY GROW IF THE YOUTH ARE ENGAGED IN PRODUCTIVE VENTURES, BUT THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN IF THEY ARE GIVEN SKILLS, AND THESE SKILLS COULD COME FROM TRADES SCHOOLS THAT ARE DOTTED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO WORK WITH THE MINISTRY OF GENERAL EDUCATION, AND THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION SO THAT WE INCREASE THE INTAKE OF THE YOUTH IN TRADES SCHOOLS. UNIVERSITIES CANNOT TAKE IN EVERYBODY.

ZAMBIA IS A FOOTBALLING NATION AND, AS YOU ARE AWARE, FOOTBALL UNITES US EVERYTIME OUR NATIONAL TEAM OR INDEED OUR CLUBS SUCCEED AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

THE NATION HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR NATIONAL TEAM LATELY, ESPECIALLY THEIR FAILURE TO REACH THE 2019 FINALS, WHEN COUNTRIES WE CONSIDER MINNOWS QUALIFIED, AND SOME EVEN REACHED AS FAR AS THE QUARTER FINALS.

THEREFORE, THE ONUS IS ON YOU, AS THE NEW MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORT, TO ENSURE THAT YOU TURN OUR FORTUNES AROUND. THIS YOU CANNOT DO ALONE. YOU WILL NEED TO TAP INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF SPORTS LEGENDS AND FANS TO HELP YOU PERFORM THIS MAMMOTH TASK. I CAN PROPOSE FOR YOU THAT YOU CALL FOR A SPORTS OR FOOTBALL INDABA THAT WILL COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO ZAMBIA'S DECLINING SPORTS REPUTATION.

I AM DELIBERATELY REFERING TO OTHER SPORTS BECAUSE AGAIN MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT THEM. WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH SUCCESS IN OTHER SPORTS EITHER. SO DO NOT FORGET ABOUT THEM BECAUSE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TALENT IN DIFFERENT SPORTS DISCIPLINES. LET US ENSURE SUCCESS IN SWIMMING, ATHLETICS, CHESS, FEMALE FOOTBALL, NETBALL, AND SO ON. LET US REVIVE SPORTS AS IT WERE ON THE MINES YEARS AGO.

IN CONCLUSION, IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY EVEN BEFORE YOU BECAME A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, SHOULD HELP YOU TO FULLY UNDERSTAND AND MANAGE MY GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

**GOD BLESS YOU.**