



**SPEECH BY**

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

**AT THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE  
“BUY A BRICK CAMPAIGN”**

**HELD IN CHIBOMBO DISTRICT, CENTRAL  
PROVINCE**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST JULY, 2019**

**STATE HOUSE  
LUSAKA**

- THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MR. DAVIES MWILA;
- THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, HON. VINCENT MWALE;
- MEMBERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT CENTRAL COMMITTEE;
- CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;
- MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT;
- YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT;
- THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, STANBIC BANK, ZAMBIA;
- THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR, PEOPLE'S PROCESS ON HOUSING AND POVERTY IN ZAMBIA;
- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;
- MEMBERS OF THE ZAMBIA HOMELESS AND POOR PEOPLE'S FEDERATION;
- DELEGATES FROM SLUM DWELLERS INTERNATIONAL;
- THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS PRESENT;
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I STAND BEFORE YOU TO OFFICIATE AT THIS LAUNCH OF THE **“BUY A BRICK CAMPAIGN”**, A PROJECT WHICH IS AIMED AT CONSTRUCTING **1,000** HOUSES FOR THE POOR ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THIS NOBLE CAMPAIGN SHOULD SOUND A CLARION CALL TO ACTION ON DELIVERING DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY, THE POOR AND VULNERABLE.

THIS PROJECT DEMONSTRATES THAT WITH UNITY OF PURPOSE, AND COMMITMENT, ONE BRICK AT A TIME, DECENT HOUSING CAN BE ACHIEVED FOR ALL.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW RECOGNISES EVERY PERSON'S RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING. THE NEED FOR DECENT HOUSING, IN BOTH RURAL, AND URBAN AREAS KEEPS GROWING AS OUR POPULATION GROWS.

OUR NATIONAL STATISTICS PUT OUR POPULATION AT AROUND **17.5** MILLION, WITH ABOUT **40** PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE LIVING IN URBAN AREAS, WHILE **60** PERCENT LIVE IN RURAL AREAS. THE RAPID GROWING POPULATION, HAS OVER THE YEARS OUTPACED THE RATE AT WHICH DECENT, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAN BE PUT ON THE MARKET.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE LIVING IN POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS, BOTH IN RURAL, AND URBAN AREAS.

FURTHER, THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) REGARDS ADEQUATE AND DECENT HOUSING AS ENCOMPASSING MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE FOUR WALLS, AND A ROOF.

THE UN DESCRIBES DECENT HOUSING TO INCLUDE, SECURITY OF TENURE, THAT OCCUPANTS OF A HOUSE MUST HAVE A DEGREE OF SECURITY WHICH GUARANTEES LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST FORCED EVICTIONS, HARASSMENT AND OTHER THREATS. THESE INCLUDE NATURAL ELEMENTS SUCH AS RAIN, WIND, AND OTHER THREATS TO HEALTH, AND STRUCTURAL HAZARDS.

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

DECENT HOUSING ALSO INCLUDES AVAILABILITY OF CRITICAL SERVICES SUCH AS WATER, SANITATION AND ENERGY FOR COOKING AND LIGHTING.

OUR NATIONAL VISION **2030** HAS IDENTIFIED ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, SAFE AND CLEAN WATER AND PROPER SANITATION AS BEING AMONG CHALLENGES THAT THE COUNTRY MUST OVERCOME ON OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRY BY **2030**.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE HAVE RECOGNISED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS, AS A MEANS OF REDUCING DEVELOPMENTAL INEQUALITIES, AND INCREASING ACCESS TO DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL IN THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

WE ARE, THEREFORE, IMPLEMENTING TWO STRATEGIES AIMED AT IMPROVING ACCESS TO DECENT HOUSING, THAT IS THE STRATEGY AIMED AT PROMOTING INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE STRATEGY ON PROMOTING URBAN AND PERI-URBAN ECONOMIES.

UNDER THESE STRATEGIES, HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING FORMALISATION, AND UPGRADING OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS ARE CRITICAL PROGRAMMES AIMED AT IMPROVING AVAILABILITY OF DECENT HOUSING, AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

AS A PRO-POOR GOVERNMENT, PROVISION OF DECENT HOUSING FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY REMAINS A PRIORITY.

WE ARE OPEN TO PARTNER WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE CIVIL SOCIETY, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENSURE THIS OBJECTIVE IS ACHIEVED. INITIATIVES SUCH AS THIS ONE BEING LAUNCHED TODAY DESERVE THE SUPPORT OF ALL ZAMBIANS.

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT ALL CITIZENS ACROSS OUR COUNTRY WILL FULLY SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE WHEN LAUNCHED IN THEIR DISTRICT, VILLAGE OR RESIDENCE SO THAT TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP OUR FELLOW ZAMBIANS TO HAVE ACCESS TO A DECENT HOUSE. BY BUYING ONE BRICK AT A TIME, EVERYONE, RICH OR POOR CAN CONTRIBUTE.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I WISH TO COMMEND AND SINCERELY THANK STANBIC BANK ZAMBIA FOR LEADING THE WAY IN PARTNERING WITH GOVERNMENT ON THIS VERY NOBLE AND IMPORTANT PROJECT.

I FURTHER COMMEND THE POOR **PEOPLE'S PROCESS FOR HOUSING AND POVERTY IN ZAMBIA INITIATIVE** FOR THE WORK THAT THEY ARE DOING ON BEHALF OF THE POOR AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN ZAMBIA.

I CALL UPON OTHER CORPORATE ENTITIES, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS TO COME ON BOARD AND HELP EXTEND THIS PROJECT TO ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THIS COUNTRY.

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE AND PRAYER THAT WE CAN COVER AS MANY DISTRICTS AS POSSIBLE.

I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS, WHO ARE SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF DECENT HOUSING FOR THEIR SUBJECTS. I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP BECAUSE DEVELOPMENT IS ATTAINABLE IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

THROUGH THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF HOUSING COOPERATIVES IN ALL VILLAGES TO ENHANCE LOCAL OWNERSHIP, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SUCH INITIATIVES.

COMMUNITY LED RESOURCE MOBILISATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS, IS KEY TO SUSTAINABILITY, AND SCALING UP TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

IF WE, WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL AUTHORITIES, FINANCIERS, COOPERATING PARTNERS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND LOCAL CITIZENS PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, WE CAN DEFINITELY MEET THE DEMAND, AND PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL, IN EVERY VILLAGE, UNDER THE **“BUY A BRICK CAMPAIGN”**.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE “**BUY A BRICK CAMPAIGN**”.

MAY THE GOOD LORD ALMIGHTY GUIDE US ALL AS WE IMPLEMENT THIS NOBLE PROJECT, FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS PEOPLE.

**I THANK YOU.**