



Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT BY**

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

**AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF**

**DR SIMON KAMWENDO MITI AS SECRETARY TO THE CABINET**

**AT STATE HOUSE IN LUSAKA**

**THURSDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2019**

**STATE HOUSE  
LUSAKA**

DR SIMON KAMWENDO MITI  
**SECRETARY TO THE CABINET**

LET ME BEGIN BY CONGRATULATING YOU FOR BEING APPOINTED SECRETARY TO THE CABINET AFTER RATIFICATION BY PARLIAMENT.

I WATCHED AND LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AS THE MOTION TO RATIFY YOUR APPOINTMENT WAS BEING MOVED AND SECONDED, AND I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SPIRIT EXHIBITED BY THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, ON BOTH SIDES, WHO DID NOT EVEN DEBATE THE MOTION.

THAT SHOWS THE CONFIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA HAVE IN YOU THROUGH THEIR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. IT ALSO SHOWED THAT WHEN I APPOINTED YOU, I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

LISTENING TO THE SECONDER, HON. RAPHAEL NAKACHINDA'S, COMMENTS, I COULD NOT HELP BUT REFLECT ON THE SENTIMENTS I MADE WHEN I WAS SWEARING IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC) HERE RECENTLY.

LET ME PARAPHRASE WHAT I SAID; "AS PRESIDENT AND LAWYER BY PROFESSION, AS MUCH AS I WANT CORRUPTION TO BE ANNIHILATED IN ZAMBIA, I WOULD NOT LIKE INNOCENT PEOPLE TO BE ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION AND LEFT TO SUFFER THE SHAME FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES."

AND HON. NAKACHINDA, IN SECONDING THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE MOVED BY HON. ANTHONY MUMBA, SAID, AND I QUOTE;

**“WHAT WAS SADENING IS THAT OUR FINDINGS AS A COMMITTEE IS THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN IN PRIVILEGED POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE AT THE TIME OF THESE STORIES, AND THE OCCURRENCE AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WERE BEST PLACED TO CORRECT THE IMPRESSION BEING CREATED AT THE TIME, WITH THEIR FULL CONSCIOUS, HAD WRITTEN IN THEIR REPORTS TO THEN PRESIDENT RUPIAH BANDA AND PRESIDENT MICHAEL CHILUFYA SATA CONCERNING THE FALSEHOODS. THEY SAID, THOUGH INNOCENT, IF CLEARED PUBLICLY, THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC UPROAR. THEY WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE AN INNOCENT MAN’S HARD EARNED REPUTATION TO SATISFY THE MOMENT,”** END OF QUOTE.

THEREFORE, I AM AWARE OF WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH AND YET YOU WERE INNOCENT. THIS IS WHY I ALWAYS SAY IF THE CURRENT CULTURE OF MISREPRESENTATIONS, AND FALSEHOODS CONTINUE, CIVIL SERVANTS WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EXECUTE THEIR FUNCTIONS FOR FEAR THAT AT BEST THEIR REPUTATIONS WILL BE DESTROYED.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL BE UP FOR THE JOB CONSIDERING YOUR TRACK RECORD. YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED CIVIL SERVANT WHO HAS SERVED IN RURAL, PERI-URBAN, URBAN, AND PROVINCIAL POSTINGS.

YOU HAVE WORKED AT CABINET OFFICE, AND STATE HOUSE AND YOU WILL CONTINUE OPERATING FROM HERE AS SECRETARY TO THE CABINET BECAUSE YOUR OFFICE IS PART OF STATE HOUSE.

YOUR RESUME IS EXEMPLARY AS A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS WORKED IN THREE DIFFERENT POLITICAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN ZAMBIA. YOU WERE A PRESIDENTIAL MEDICAL DOCTOR AT STATE HOUSE, AND ASCENDED TO PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT.

YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH; SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT-PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS DIVISION; NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING; AND CABINET OFFICE.

YOU HAVE WORKED AT THAT LEVEL FOR **17** YEARS.

I EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE CIVIL SERVICE CAN BE IMPROVED, AND TO EXECUTE YOUR MANDATE EXCEPTIONALLY.

CIVIL SERVANTS MUST NOT BE PARTISAN BUT SHOULD BE LOYAL TO THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND YOUR TASK IS TO ENSURE POLITICS IS UPROOTED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE.

I EXPECT YOU TO ENSURE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS ARE IMPLEMENTED, AND TO DO THIS YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ENSURE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS OF PERMANENT SECRETARIES ARE CASCADED TO THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

PROMOTIONS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE SHOULD BE BASED ON MERIT.

I WISH ONCE AGAIN TO CONGRATULATE YOU.

GOD BLESS YOU.