



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH DELIVERED BY

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

AT THE LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE FOR
BANGWEULU REGIONAL HOSPITAL

IN LUPOSOSHI DISTRICT, NORTHERN PROVINCE

ON FRIDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2019

STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA

- **THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH DR. CHITALU CHILUFYA, MP;**
- **THE HONOURABLE PROVINCIAL MINISTER, NORTHERN PROVINCE, MR. LAZARUS CHUNGU, MP;**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT;**
- **HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT PRESENT;**
- **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, NORTHERN PROVINCE MR. CHARLES SIPANJE;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE TO KICK START THE CONSTRUCTION OF BANGWEULU REGIONAL HOSPITAL, HERE IN LUPOSOSHI DISTRICT KICKSTARTS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BANGWEULU HOSPITAL.

THIS DEVELOPMENT IS A CONFIRMATION THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS INDEED WALKING THE TALK AND WE ARE DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISES AS ESPOUSED IN THE PF MANIFESTO.

GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED TO IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF OUR CITIZENS ACROSS THE BREADTH AND LENGTH OF OUR COUNTRY THROUGH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROVISION OF ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MY GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED HIGH PREMIUM ON HAVING A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE POPULATION TO SPUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS AS OUTLINED IN THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MANIFESTO, AND THE NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN **2017-2021**,

THEREFORE, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE TO COMMENCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ULTRA MODERN HOSPITAL, THE BANGWEULU REGIONAL HOSPITAL, WHICH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT THE COST OF **K154, 174 340.72**.

THE HOSPITAL WILL HAVE A BED CAPACITY OF 800 AND WILL TAKE ABOUT **36** MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS PROJECT CONSTITUTES THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT, MATERNITY WING, CASUALTY WING, ADMINISTRATION BLOCK, MODERN LABORATORY, AN OPERATING THEATRE, AND PHYSIO-THERAPY DEPARTMENT.

BANGWEULU HOSPITAL IS EARMARKED TO BE A CENTER OF CLINICAL EXCELLENCY IN THE REGION HOUSING CONSULTANTS IN VARIOUS MEDICAL DISCIPLINES. THIS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES, NOT ONLY IN LUPOSOSHI DISTRICT BUT THE ENTIRE NORTHERN PROVINCE.

THIS FACILITY WILL ALSO RESULT IN THE REDUCTION OF REFERRAL OF PATIENTS TO KASAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND THE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITALS. THIS WILL SAVE GOVERNMENT, AND OUR PEOPLE FROM INCURRING UNNECESSARY COSTS.

THE HOSPITAL WILL ALSO PROVIDE TRAINING OF VARIOUS HEALTH PERSONNEL, INCLUDING SPECIALISATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LEVY MWANAWASA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY. THIS IS IN LINE WITH MY DIRECTIVE TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH TO ENHANCE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEALTH SECTOR.

MY GOVERNMENT WILL RESOLUTELY TO DEVELOP ALL THE NEWLY CREATED DISTRICTS IN LINE WITH OUR DECENTRALISATION PROGRAMME. THIS WILL BRING SOCIAL AMENITIES SUCH AS HEALTH SERVICES AS CLOSE TO OUR PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE THEY ARE. WE SHALL NOT RELENT ON THIS UNDERTAKING AS A GOVERNMENT IN POWER.

IN ADDITION TO PUTTING UP MODERN STRUCTURES, MY GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT ALL NECESSARY STAFF, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER REQUISITES ARE PROVIDED TO FACILITATE SEAMLESS OPERATIONS.

I, THEREFORE, URGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS HOSPITAL TO ENSURE THAT WORKS ARE EXPEDITED AND THE PROJECT DELIVERED IN A TIMELY. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AS A GOVERNMENT, OUR ASPIRATION IS TO TRANSFORM ZAMBIA INTO A REGIONAL MEDICAL HUB AND PROMOTE MEDICAL TOURISM. THIS WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH HEALTH FACILITIES OF HIGH STANDARDS AND STRATEGICALLY PLACED SUCH AS THE BANGWEULU REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

TO THE PEOPLE OF LUPOSOSHI DISTRICT, I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE CONTRACTOR AS THE WORKS ARE BEING EXECUTED. YOUR ROLE IS CRITICAL TO THE DELIVERY OF THE PROJECT ON TIME.

I FURTHER APPEAL TO OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP TO SUPPORT THIS UNPRECEDENTED PROJECT WHICH WILL DEFINITELY CHANGE THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE.

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE TO KICK START THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BANGWEULU REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.