



**Republic of Zambia**

**SPEECH BY**

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

**DURING COMMISSIONING OF ISOKA TRADES  
TRAINING INSTITUTE IN ISOKA, MUCHINGA PROVINCE**

**FRIDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2019,**

**STATE HOUSE  
LUSAKA**

- **HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DR. BRIAN MUSHIMBA, MP;**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTER OF GENERAL EDUCATION, MR. DAVID MABUMBA, MP;**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR MUCHINGA PROVINCE, MR. MALOZO SICHONE, MP;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM HAPPY TO BE HERE TODAY, TO OFFICIATE AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THIS NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY—THE ISOKA TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTE HERE IN MUCHINGA PROVINCE.

THIS PROJECT IS A CLEAR TESTIMONY OF MY GOVERNMENT'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY SKILLS TRAINING TO THE YOUTH IN MUCHINGA PROVINCE, AND ZAMBIA AS A WHOLE

AS GOVERNMENT, WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THERE IS SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY WHICH IS UNDERPINNED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATELY SKILLED, AND EDUCATED PEOPLE.

FOR ZAMBIA TO DEVELOP, WE NEED SKILLED HUMAN CAPITAL WHICH WILL RESPOND TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES WHICH WE ARE FACED WITH AS A NATION.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

MY GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON A PROGRAMME TO CONSTRUCT TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WITH ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE.

TO THIS EFFECT, I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT REMARKABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN ENSURING THAT MORE TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTES ARE CONSTRUCTED.

AS A COUNTRY, WE NEED SKILLED HUMAN CAPITAL RELEVANT TO THE DEMANDS OF THE CURRENT JOB MARKET, AND WHICH EMPOWERS THE YOUTH TO BE SELF EMPLOYED.

THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF QUALITY TECHNICAL EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING IS MADE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ZAMBIAN CITIZENS.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSIONING OF ISOKA TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTE SHOWS MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO BRIDGING THE GAP IN SKILLS TRAINING, IN OUR COUNTRY.

THE PF GOVERNMENT IS COGNISANT OF THE FACT THAT ONCE FUNDAMENTALS OF EDUCATION ARE PUT IN PLACE, WE SHALL ATTAIN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SDG) GOAL NUMBER **4** ON EDUCATION WHICH AIMS ***“TO ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION, AND TO PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL”***.

THIS TASK IS WITHOUT CHALLENGES. HOWEVER, WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ATTAIN THE GOAL THROUGH VARIOUS INTERVENTIONS SUCH AS PROVISION OF RELEVANT SKILLS TRAINING.

THE PF GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE, AND THERE IS NO BETTER WAY THAN BRINGING QUALITY EDUCATION CLOSER TO THEM.

AS WE ALL KNOW, EDUCATION IS AN EQUALISER, AND OPENS UP OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE, AND IS A CRITICAL INGREDIENT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING OF ANY NATION, AND THE PEOPLE AT LARGE.

IN THIS REGARD, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE WITH THIS AMBITIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, NOT ONLY IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR, BUT ALSO IN OTHER SECTORS SUCH AS HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, AND TOURISM.

MY GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE PF MANIFESTO HAS PROMISED TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TECHNICAL EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING, TO ALL ZAMBIANS REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY ARE.

SO FAR, I HAVE COMMISSIONED MWENSE TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTE IN LUAPULA PROVINCE, AND SOON I WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENING KALABO TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTE IN WESTERN PROVINCE.

I AM ALSO AWARE THAT CONSTRUCTION OF TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTES IN SESHEKE, MUMBWA, MPOROKOSO AND LUNDAZI DISTRICTS ARE PROGRESSING WELL, AND ARE AT VARYING LEVELS OF COMPLETION.

THESE INSTITUTES ARE IN ADDITION TO THE UNIVERSITIES MY GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR OPENED, AND MORE ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

INDEED, WE ARE A WORKING GOVERNMENT, AND WE WILL NOT BE DISTRACTED BY DOOMSAYERS.

MY MANDATE IS TO TAKE DEVELOPMENT TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE OUR PEOPLE ARE.

WITH THIS PROJECT COMMISSIONED TODAY, WE HAVE INDEED BROUGHT DEVELOPMENT TO ISOKA DISTRICT, AND MUCHINGA PROVINCE.

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN PUT UP AT A COST OF **K25.7** MILLION AND HAS A BED SPACE CAPACITY OF **128**, AMONG OTHER FACILITIES.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL GO A LONG WAY IN PROVIDING THE MUCH-NEEDED SKILLS IN VARIOUS SPECIALISED AREAS OF OUR ECONOMY, AND WILL CONSEQUENTLY REDUCE THE SKILLS DEFICIT.

LET ME APPEAL TO THE INSTITUTE'S ADMINISTRATION TO WORK TIRELESSLY TO BE CURRENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT, AND DELIVERY OF THE SKILLS CURRICULUM FOR THE INSTITUTE TO REMAIN RELEVANT AT ALL TIMES.

WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT ALL PROJECTS WE UNDERTAKE DEMONSTRATE VALUE FOR MONEY.

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO REASSURE THE NATION THAT MY GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING, AND ADVANCING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

THEREFORE, I URGE STAKEHOLDERS IN MUCHINGA PROVINCE TO GUARD JEALOUSLY THIS INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT AT A HUGE COST.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL,  
I THANK YOU.**