



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH BY

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

AT

**THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EXPO NORTH WEST
ZAMBIA 2019**

TO BE HELD AT CITY MALL IN SOLWEZI

ON MONDAY, 19TH AUGUST 2019

STATE HOUSE

LUSAKA

- **THE HOST MINISTER FOR NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE, HON. MUBUKWANU NATHANIEL, MP;**
- **CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCIES THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS FOR MOXICO, REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AND LUALABA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO;**
- **PATRIOTIC FRONT NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, MR SAMUEL MUKUPA;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCIES AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND CONSULATES PRESENT;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE AND OTHER MPS PRESENT;**
- **YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF SOLWEZI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL;**
- **CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY;**
- **DELEGATES AND EXHIBITORS;**
- **THE MEDIA;**
- **DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I WISH TO BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME EXTENDED TO ME.

LET ME ALSO WELCOME OUR DELEGATES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC), AND OTHER DELEGATES FROM OUTSIDE ZAMBIA, AND WITHIN ZAMBIA. FOR DELEGATES FROM OUTSIDE ZAMBIA, I HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE ZAMBIAN HOSPITALITY SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL.

I AM DEEPLY DELIGHTED TO GRACE THIS FIRST EVER NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE INVESTMENT AND TRADE EXPO DUBBED, "**EXPO NORTH WEST ZAMBIA, 2019** UNDER THE THEME: "**UNVEILING THE HIDDEN TREASURES.**"

TIME HAS COME FOR US TO REDEFINE THE FUTURE OF NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE BY UNVEILING THE HIDDEN TREASURES AVAILABLE IN ALL THE **11** DISTRICTS, AND TURN THEM INTO TANGIBLE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE.

I AM PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS INVESTMENT EXPO BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATES MY GOVERNMENT'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE UTILISATION OF RESOURCES, TO SPUR DIVERSIFICATION, INDUSTRIALISATION, JOB CREATION, AND POVERTY REDUCTION. THIS IS AS ESPOUSED IN THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ACCELERATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY SUPPORTING SUCH EVENTS, WHICH ARE AIMED AT ATTRACTING BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS. THIS IS FOR US TO EXPLOIT, AND UNLOCK THE INVESTMENT POTENTIAL THAT NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE PRESENTS IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

I URGE ALL INVESTORS TO INTERACT FREELY DURING THIS EXPO TO SECURE GOOD INVESTMENT DEALS, AND LONG LASTING SYNERGIES, AS YOU SEEK INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS PROVINCE, AND ZAMBIA AS A WHOLE.

THIS EVENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO LEVERAGE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT THIS PROVINCE OFFERS TO SET UP INDUSTRIES HERE.

WE IN THE PF GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS A CATALYST TO SUPPORTING OUR QUEST TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE THROUGH WEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION IN LINE WITH THE VISION **2030**.

IN THIS REGARD, THE NORTH WEST EXPO PROVIDES VAST OPPORTUNITIES FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS TO SAMPLE THE ENORMOUS PROSPECTIVES THAT NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE HAS TO OFFER IN ALL SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE IS ENDOWED WITH TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT PROSPECTS IN MINERAL, OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, LARGE AND SMALL SCALE MINING, MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING, INCLUDING, CANNING, ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES, FORESTRY AND TOURISM, JUST TO MENTION BUT A FEW. THESE SECTORS I HAVE MENTIONED ARE THE THEMATIC AREAS OF THIS EXPO.

THIS PROVINCE IS HOME TO VARIOUS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AMONGST THEM THREE NATIONAL PARKS AND GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS NAMELY BUSANGA, KAFUE AND LUNGA NATIONAL PARKS. THE SOURCE OF THE ZAMBEZI AND KAFUE RIVERS, AND SEVERAL RIVERS PROVIDE A LANDSCAPE WHICH COULD BE TAPPED INTO FOR VARIOUS INVESTMENTS IN TOURISM.

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE IS ALSO WELL KNOWN FOR ITS MINING ACTIVITIES BY AMONG OTHER MINING COMPANIES; KANSANSHI MINE IN SOLWEZI, BARRICK LUMWANA MINE, AND TRIDENT MINE PROJECT IN KALUMBILA. THESE INVESTMENTS AS YOU HAVE ALREADY HEARD, HAVE IN TURN CREATED INFRASTRUCTURE, AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PROVINCE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM ALSO AWARE THAT THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR HYDRO POWER GENERATION IN MWINILUNGA, CHAVUMA AND ZAMBEZI DISTRICTS.

FURTHER, THERE ARE NUMEROUS PROSPECTS IN MULTI FRUIT PROCESSING PLANTS IN MWINILUNGA, AND IKELENGE DISTRICTS, AND HIGH QUALITY ORGANIC HONEY PRODUCTION IN THE PROVINCE WHICH STILL REMAIN UNTAPPED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO NOTE THAT OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THIS PROVINCE, NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THE INVESTORS HERE, AND ARE WILLING TO WELCOME MORE INVESTORS. I WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THIS PROVINCE ARE HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE, AND I WAS TOLD, THEY ARE HIGHLY EDUCATED, AND ONE IS PURSUING A DEGREE

TO YOU OUR CHIEFS, KEEP IT UP, AND CONTINUE BEING THE MODEL

LET ME ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS, AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROVINCE WILL FACILITATE INFLOW OF INVESTMENT IN VARIOUS SECTORS SPREAD ACROSS THE PROVINCE.

THIS COUNTRY AND THIS PROVINCE TOO, HAVE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, AS WELL AS DOMESTIC INVESTMENT, AS A RESULT OF THE CONDUCIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, WHERE THE PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE ECONOMY.

I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT EXPOS THAT HAVE SO FAR BEEN HELD IN LUAPULA, NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND COPPERBELT PROVINCE ARE NOW YIELDING DIVIDENDS. THESE PROVINCES I HAVE NAMED HAVE BEEN RECEIVING POSITIVE RESPONSES FROM INVESTORS WITHIN, AND OUTSIDE ZAMBIA.

FOR THIS REASON MY GOVERNMENT HAS REMAINED FOCUSED ON PROVIDING SUITABLE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THRIVE.

AS GOVERNMENT, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING SERIOUS INVESTORS. INVESTORS WHO WILL RESPECT OUR NATIONAL VALUES, INVESTORS WHO WILL NOT ABROGATE LABOUR LAWS, AND INVESTORS WHO ARE NOT ONLY INTERESTED IN PROFIT-MAKING, BUT THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO PLOUGH BACK IN COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY OPERATE FROM.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I HAVE NO DOUBT IN MY HEART THAT OUR RESOLVE FOR A BETTER ZAMBIA WILL BEAR FRUIT SOONER THAN LATER, AND MY GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN STEADFAST TO TRANSFORMING THE COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE, AS OUTLINED IN THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND THE VISION **2030**.

LET ME NOW ASSURE WOULD BE INVESTORS THAT THE MARKET FOR YOUR PRODUCTS IS READILY AVAILABLE WITHIN THE REGION, AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING, OTHER GLOBAL MARKETS. YOURS SHOULD BE TO INVEST IN MODERN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS THAT WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THESE EXISTING MARKETS.

MY APPEAL TO ALL PARTNERS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXPO IS FOR YOU TO FORGE PARTNERSHIPS, AND JOINT VENTURES WITHIN YOURSELVES, AS THE CURRENT WORLD BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FAVOURS ENTERPRISES THAT EMBRACE DIVERSITY.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT ONCE THIS BUSINESS MODEL IS ADOPTED IT WILL SPUR JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE, CREATE VALUE AND SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE ECONOMY.

PROVINCIAL MINISTER AND YOUR TEAM:

YOU HAVE ALREADY SAID IT AND I WILL SAY IT TO YOU AGAIN, I WISH TO REMIND YOU THAT WHAT YOU HAVE STARTED TODAY IS A JOURNEY WHICH SHOULD BE HARNESSSED FOR IT TO YIELD POSITIVE BENEFITS NOT ONLY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND THE ENTIRE PROVINCE, BUT TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

I URGE YOU, TO CONTINUE MARKETING THE PROVINCE FOR MORE INVESTMENT INFLOW, EVEN BEYOND THE EXPO.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ALLOW ME TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING, THE MAIN ORGANISING COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEES, AND SPONSORS FOR SUCCESSFULLY HOSTING THIS AUSPICIOUS EVENT. THIS IS A JOB WELL DONE!

IT IS NOW MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE THE EXPO **NORTH WEST ZAMBIA, 2019** OFFICIALLY OPEN.

I THANK YOU ALL AND GOD BLESS YOU .