



Republic of Zambia

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY**

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

**DURING THE INDIA-ZAMBIA BUSINESS FORUM  
IN INDIA**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 2019**

**STATE HOUSE**

**LUSAKA**

- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. RAM NATH KOVIND, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA;**
- **HONOURABLE CABINET MINISTERS FROM BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA;**
- **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I WISH TO BEGIN BY THANKING HIS EXCELLENCY MR. RAM NATH KOVIND, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA, AND THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF INDIA FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY RENDERED TO ME, AND MY DELEGATION SINCE OUR ARRIVAL HERE IN INDIA.

ALLOW ME TO ALSO THANK THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE IN INDIA FOR PARTNERING WITH THE ZAMBIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN ORGANISING THIS VERY IMPORTANT INDIA – ZAMBIA BUSINESS FORUM.

## **YOUR EXCELLENCY:**

IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT THIS BUSINESS FORUM IS BEING HELD JUST A YEAR AFTER THE ONE WHICH WAS HELD IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA. THIS IS A GOOD INDICATOR THAT OUR RESPECTIVE BUSINESS COMMUNITIES HAVE CONTINUED TO ENGAGE EACH OTHER, THUS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE WARM AND CORDIAL BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND INDIA.

WE NOW LOOK FORWARD TO LEVERAGE ON THIS RELATIONSHIP TO CREATE NEW BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

HISTORICALLY, ZAMBIA AND INDIA HAVE ENJOYED CORDIAL BILATERAL RELATIONS SINCE THE 1960S.

WE HAVE WITNESSED HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE VISITS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES AND MEDICAL PROGRAMMES, AMONG OTHERS.

YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT ZAMBIA AND INDIA ARE ONE AS EVIDENCED BY A GOOD NUMBER OF ZAMBIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN PRESENT IN ZAMBIA. SOME EVEN SPEAK BETTER IN MY MOTHER TONGUE THAN ME. THEY ARE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE EASILY IN MOST OF OUR LOCAL LANGUAGES. THIS IS HOW DEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP IS, BACK HOME IN ZAMBIA.

THESE RELATIONS HAVE NOW CULMINATED INTO A STRONG ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT AS EVIDENCED BY THE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FROM INDIA INTO ZAMBIA, WHICH NOW STANDS AT **5** BILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS.

NOTABLE INDIAN COMPANIES PRESENT IN ZAMBIA INCLUDE, TAJ PAMODZI HOTEL; BHARTI AIRTEL; NAVA BHARAT; AND INDO ZAMBIA BANK, AMONG OTHERS. THESE COMPANIES HAVE CREATED JOBS AND SKILLS, AND BROUGHT SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN ZAMBIA.

**YOUR EXCELLENCY:**

ZAMBIA HAS TAKEN KEEN INTEREST IN YOUR PROGRAMMES SUCH AS MAKE IN INDIA, SKILL INDIA, START-UP INDIA, AND DIGITAL INDIA.

FURTHERMORE, ZAMBIA HAS FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST HOW YOUR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES THRIVE ALONGSIDE LARGE COMPANIES, CREATING JOBS, AND ENSURING WEALTH DISTRIBUTION.

FROM OUR SIDE, WE HAVE EMBARKED ON PROGRAMMES SUCH AS PROUDLY ZAMBIA CAMPAIGN, BUSINESS LINKAGE PROGRAMMES AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHERS, WHICH WE HOPE WILL HELP US IN ATTAINING OUR GOAL OF ENHANCING VALUE ADDITION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

WE ARE COMMITTED YOUR EXCELLENCY, TO LEARN FROM YOU ON HOW WELL WE CAN STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE OUR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY.

**DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, HAS CONTINUED TO PURSUE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING POLICIES THAT RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY SO THAT WE FACILITATE FOR A ROBUST PRIVATE SECTOR-LED INDUSTRIALISATION GROWTH.

WE KNOW THAT THE KEY DRIVERS TO ATTRACTING INVESTMENT INCLUDE POLITICAL STABILITY, ABUNDANCE OF ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, APPROPRIATE LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AND AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

IN ADDITION TO CREATING THE FAVOURABLE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE, MY GOVERNMENT HAS PRIORITISED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AS A KEY STRATEGY FOR ATTRACTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND STIMULATING LOCAL INVESTMENTS.

THE MAIN THRUST UNDER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION; EXPANSION AND CONSTRUCTION OF HYDRO-POWER STATIONS; REHABILITATION OF RAILWAY LINE; CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNISATION OF AIRPORTS AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.

WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT WE FACILITATE INVESTMENT, AND FOR BUSINESS TO THRIVE. WE BELIEVE, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR ANY MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY:**

I WANT TO SHARE WITH ALL PRESENT HERE AT THIS INDIA-ZAMBIA BUSINESS FORUM THAT ZAMBIA IS VERY READY TO DO BUSINESS WITH OUR WOULD-BE PARTNERS FROM INDIA.

ZAMBIA HAS NOW BECOME AN INVESTMENT DESTINATION OF CHOICE, AND, I INVITE YOU ALL TO COME TO ZAMBIA AND EXPLORE THESE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

SOME OF THEM ARE IN AREAS OF MINING, AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, TOURISM, CONSTRUCTION, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING.

I AM AWARE THAT INDIA HAS BECOME ONE OF THE GIANTS IN MOST OF THESE AREAS I HAVE MENTIONED, SO YOU ARE WELCOME TO ZAMBIA.

AT THIS BUSINESS FORUM, I HAVE COME WITH MY MINISTERS, OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE ZAMBIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHO WILL PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR YOU TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS TO INVEST IN ZAMBIA.

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO INVITE YOU ALL PRESENT HERE TO VISIT ZAMBIA AND EXPLORE TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

MAY, I ALSO CALL UPON ALL THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER AND STRENGTHEN THE ALREADY EXISTING TRADE AND INVESTMENT BONDS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

I WISH THE INDIA-ZAMBIA BUSINESS FORUM A FRUITFUL DELIBERATION AND SUCCESS.

**I THANK YOU ALL.**