



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH BY

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

**DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
SOUTHERN PROVINCE INVESTMENT AND TOURISM
EXPO**

HELD AT THE LIVINGSTONE GOLF CLUB IN LIVINGSTONE

FROM 14th to 21st SEPTEMBER, 2019

STATE HOUSE

LUSAKA

- **THE DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES;**
- **THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER - SOUTHERN PROVINCE, HON. DR. EDIFY HAMUKALE, MP;**
- **THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, HON. CHRISTOPHER BWALYA YALUMA;**
- **OTHER CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR;**
- **THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME –UNDP;**
- **VISITING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES;**
- **HEADS OF PARASTATAL ORGANISATIONS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE;**
- **SPONSORS;**
- **ALL FRIENDS FROM THE CORPORATE WORLD;**
- **THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERSHIP IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM EXTREMELY DELIGHTED THAT SOUTHERN PROVINCE HOME OF THE MIGHTY VICTORIA FALLS, HAS FINALLY PUT UP THIS INVESTMENT EXPO, AFTER WE WITNESSED OTHER SUCCESSFUL EXPOSITIONS IN LUAPULA, CENTRAL, NORTHERN, COPPERBELT AND NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES.

THIS EXPO WHICH IS BEING HELD UNDER THE THEME: **“ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH VALUE ADDITION AND DIVERSIFICATION,”** IS TIMELY AS IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO MARKET THE PROVINCE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN TOURISM, MINING, MANUFACTURING, AGRICULTURE, AND ACQUACULTURE.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE THEME RESONATES VERY WELL WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AS WE HAVE OUTLINED IN THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN **2017–2021** AND OUR VISION **2030**.

MY GOVERNMENT IS KEEN AND DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE 10 PROVINCES OF THE COUNTRY ARE OPENED UP TO INVESTMENT THROUGH PROVISION OF VARIOUS INCENTIVES. THIS WILL NOT ONLY ENHANCE COMPETITIVENESS, BUT WILL ALSO SPUR ACCELERATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL OUR PEOPLE.

AS SUCH, MY GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE MEASURES SUCH AS POLICY ON ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION. THIS IS AIMED AT CREATING A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS TO PROMOTE VALUE ADDITION IN ALL THE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

IN THIS REGARD, PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THIS EXPO WILL HELP ATTRACT POTENTIAL INVESTORS LOCALLY, AND FROM ACROSS THE REST OF THE WORLD.

WE ARE CONVINCED AS GOVERNMENT THAT INCREASED FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT WILL SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND PROSPERITY THROUGH JOB AND WEALTH CREATION.

WHEREEVER WE HAVE HAD THESE EXPOS YIELD, IT HAS BEEN OUR DESIRE AS GOVERNMENT TO SEE THAT THESE EXPOS YIELD TANGIBLE RESULTS THAN ENDING UP AS MERE TALK SHOWS.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT LUAPULA PROVINCE SUCCESSFULLY HELD ITS INVESTMENT EXPO, AND IT IS A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF WHAT SHOULD COME OUT OF THESE EXPOS.

LUAPULA HAS STARTED ACTUALISING ITS INVESTMENT DEALS BIRTHED OUT OF THE EXPO. THIS IS WHAT I EXPECT. I EXPECT TANGIBLE RESULTS OUT OF THESE EXPOS.

IN LINE WITH OUR RESOLVE TO PROMOTING TRADE, AND INVESTMENT, I AM EXTREMELY DELIGHTED THAT EVENTS OF THIS NATURE ARE ATTRACTING MUCH ATTENTION FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, AND RIGHTLY SO, THIS PRACTICE HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

SOUTHERN PROVINCE IS ENDOWED WITH MASSIVE NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH REMAIN UNTAPPED. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH THIS EXPO THE PROVINCE WILL SHOWCASE ITS UNTAPPED RESOURCES TO BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH THIS STRATEGY WILL HELP CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT. I BELIEVE THIS WILL TRIGGER UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE, AND ZAMBIA IN GENERAL.

LET ME URGE BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NUMEROUS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

TIME IS NOW FOR YOU TO MAKE THAT BUSINESS DECISION WHICH WILL NOT ONLY MAKE A RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT, BUT WILL SURELY CONTRIBUTE TO TRANSFORMING THIS PART OF ZAMBIA.

GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED THE RIGHT INVESTMENT CLIMATE BOTH IN TERMS OF POLICY AND LEGISLATION FOR THE PROVINCE TO EXPLOIT.

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO EXTOL THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR SUCCESSFULLY HOSTING THIS EVENT.

FURTHER, LET ME THANK THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES FOR COMING ON BOARD TO SUPPORT THIS EXPO. WITHOUT YOUR CONCERTED EFFORTS, THIS EXPO WOULD NOT HAVE SUCEEDED.

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO NOTE THAT ON THE SIDELINES OF THIS EXPO, YOU HAVE INCORPORATED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TO PROMOTE WELLNESS AS A PLATFORM FOR INTERACTION.

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE INVESTMENT AND TOURISM EXPO.

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL, I THANK YOU.