



SPEECH BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE
FORCES,**

**DURING THE COMPLETION OF ADVANCED SPECIAL
FORCES TRAINING AT THE SCHOOL OF SPECIAL
FORCES IN MBALA**

HELD ON SATURDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **HONOURABLE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, MR. DAVIS CHAMA, MP;**
- **THE HONOURABLE PROVINCIAL MINISTER, MR. BWALYA CHUNGU, MP;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **THE COMMANDER, ZAMBIA ARMY;**
- **THE COMMANDER, ZAMBIA AIRFORCE;**
- **SENIOR OFFICERS FROM ARMY HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER FORMATIONS;**
- **THE GROUP COMMANDER SPECIAL FORCES;**
- **THE COMMANDANT SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING SCHOOL;**
- **ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE COUNCIL;**
- **ARMY SERGEANT MAJOR;**
- **WARRANT OFFICERS;**
- **SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TO GRACE THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION. I WISH TO EXTEND MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE COMMANDER, ZAMBIA ARMY, THE GROUP COMMANDER SPECIAL FORCES, AND THE COMMANDANT SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INVITING ME.

THIS OCCASION PUNCTUATED BY POMP AND SPLENDOUR HAS BROUGHT COLOUR TO MBALA AND MADE IT ALIVE.

THE OCCASION IS ALSO A DEMONSTRATION OF MY ADMINISTRATION'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT, TO ENSURING THAT OUR SPECIAL FORCES UNDERGO HIGH QUALITY TRAINING WHICH MEETS GLOBAL STANDARDS.

AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES, I AM THRILLED TO GRACE THIS OCCASION MARKING THE COMPLETION OF ADVANCED TRAINING OF SPECIAL FORCES.

WITH THE BRIEFS I HAVE RECEIVED, AND THE DEMONSTRATIONS EXHIBITED BY THE TROOPS, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE TROOPS UNDERWENT HIGH QUALITY, AND RIGOROUS TRAINING, WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

MY ADMINISTRATION IS KEEN TO SEE A WELL GROUNDED DEFENCE FORCE IN PROFESSIONALISM, DISCIPLINE AND LOYALTY. THIS IS ATTAINABLE IF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS POSSESS A WELL-BALANCED BODY OF KNOWLEDGE IN MATTERS OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY.

GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO EQUIP YOU WITH SKILLS WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EVEN BEYOND YOUR YEARS IN SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ALL NECESSARY RESOURCES ARE PROVIDED FOR YOUR WELFARE, AND GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES.

GROUP COMMANDER, I AM AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES THAT YOU FACED DURING THE TRAINING. WE WILL THEREFORE, ENDEAVOUR TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS WHICH WE HAVE SET AMONG THIS CADRE OF SPECIAL FORCES.

IN GENERAL, MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL RANKS IN THE RESPECTIVE SERVICES. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING, AND WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO. THIS CAN BE SEEN IN THE HOUSING PROJECTS WE HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTING FOR THE DEFENCE FORCES, TO EASE THEIR ACCOMMODATION CHALLENGES.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE JOINT TRAINING OF SPECIAL FORCES DEMONSTRATED THE COOPERATION THAT EXISTS AMONG THE SERVICES.

TO YOU THE SPECIAL FORCES, CONGRATULATIONS FOR HAVING BRAVED A RIGOROUS TRAINING PROGRAMME. DESPITE THE CHALLENGES THAT YOU FACED DURING TRAINING, YOU ENDURED, HENCE YOUR BEING HERE TODAY. WELL DONE!

NOW THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE TRAINING, AND HAVE BEEN EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS, AS YOU RETURN TO YOUR UNITS, I URGE YOU TO PERFORM TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF YOUR SERVICES, AND COMMANDERS.

REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINED AT A GREAT COST TO THE COUNTRY. THEREFORE, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO PUT TO GOOD USE YOUR ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NATION.

ARMY COMMANDER, I EXPECT YOU TO TAKE KEEN INTEREST IN MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF THESE SPECIAL FORCES AS THEY TAKE UP THEIR NEW ASSIGNMENTS.

MY SPECIAL FORCES, I URGE YOU TO SOW SEEDS OF PATRIOTISM, UNITY AND LOVE IN YOUR RESPECTIVE UNITS. WITH PATRIOTISM, UNITY, AND LOVE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ENORMOUS AND POSITIVE RESULTS.

WHEN YOU EMBRACE PATRIOTISM, UNITY, AND LOVE, THESE VIRTUES WILL PERMEATE YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR COMMUNITIES, AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

OUR COUNTRY IS IN DIRE NEED OF PATRIOTIC CITIZENS WHO WILL SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF PEACE, LOVE AND UNITY. WITH A PATRIOTIC CITIZENRY WHICH EMBRACES PEACE, LOVE AND UNITY, THE COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE MOUNTAINS.

LASTLY, BE MINDFUL THAT WHATEVER YOU DO WILL REFLECT ON THE CHARACTER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES. REMEMBER YOU ARE A NATIONAL ASSET, AND AS SUCH, SO MUCH IS EXPECTED OF YOU.

ONCE AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL.

**MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.
I THANK YOU.**