

SPEECH BY

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

**ON THE CELEBRATION OF 27 YEARS IN MINISTRY IN
HONOUR
OF ARCHBISHOP, THE MOST REVEREND ALBERT CHAMA
OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN ZAMBIA
TO BE HELD IN KITWE**

SUNDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **YOUR GRACE, ARCHBISHOP ALBERT CHAMA;**
- **THE LORD BISHOPS PRESENT;**
- **HON. REV. GODFRIDAH SUMAILI, MP. MINISTER OF NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**
- **ALL CLERGY;**
- **ALL CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;**
- **YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KITWE;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **FELLOW CHRISTIANS:**

I AM GREATLY HUMBLLED TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO COME AND CELEBRATE WITH YOU ON THIS OCCASION OF ARCHBISHOP ALBERT CHAMA'S 27TH YEAR IN GOD'S SERVICE.

INDEED, I COUNT IT AN HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE AMONG YOU TODAY AT THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION, AS WE WORSHIP GOD, AND THANK HIM FOR THE MILESTONES HE HAS ALLOWED HIS SERVANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE MISSION FIELD.

GENERALLY, IN AFRICA AND ZAMBIA IN PARTICULAR, WE HAVE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO APPRECIATING PEOPLE WHILE THEY HAVE DEPARTED THIS WORLD. WE NEED TO FIND TIME TO APPRECIATE AND HONOUR PEOPLE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNTRY WHILE THEY ARE STILL ALIVE.

THE WORD OF GOD IN **1 CORINTHIANS 5: 12-13** READS:

AND WE BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, TO KNOW THEM WHICH LABOUR AMONG YOU, AND ARE OVER YOU IN THE LORD, AND ADMONISH YOU; AND TO ESTEEM THEM VERY HIGHLY IN LOVE FOR THEIR WORK'S SAKE. AND BE AT PEACE AMONG YOURSELVES."

THIS IS WHOLESOME! THIS IS A CLEAR CALL TO ALL OF US TO HONOUR THOSE WHO LABOUR IN THE LORD, AND ARE ABOVE US. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE GATHERED HERE FOR TODAY. WE ARE HERE TO HONOUR ARCHBISHOP CHAMA FOR HIS TIRELESS WORK IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

I AM AWARE THAT YOU HAIL FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS LIKE MOST OF US, AND THAT THIS HAS NOT DETERED GOD FROM USING YOU MIGHTILY. WE ALL KNOW THAT GOD QUALIFIES THE CALLED AND NOT CALL THE QUALIFIED.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOU HAVE A STRENUOUS LOAD OF WORK GIVEN YOUR ROLE AS BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN ZAMBIA; AND ARCHBISHOP FOR THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AFRICA UNDER THE ANGLICAN CHURCH.

YOUR GRACE:

I AM PLEASED THAT IN THIS DIOCESE, YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO INITIATE AND IMPLEMENT PROJECTS WHICH BUILD THE PEOPLE SPIRITUALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY.

I AM INFORMED THAT EVEN THIS FACILITY WHERE WE ARE TODAY, IS ONE OF YOUR INITIATIVES, WHICH IS AIMED AT BOOSTING THE CHURCH'S REVENUE.

MY GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED WITH YOUR INSISTENCE AND ADVOCACY FOR THE CHURCH TO INVEST IN MODERN WAYS OF RAISING REVENUE, BEYOND THE CONGREGANTS THROUGH WELL MANAGED INCOME GENERATING INVESTMENTS.

OUR DESIRE IS THAT THE CHURCH WILL RISE TO A PLACE WHERE THEY BECOME SELF SUSTAINING TO AN EXTENT OF SUPPORTING THEIR ACTIVITIES FROM OWN RESOURCES. THIS IS AS OPPOSED TO DEPENDING ON HANDOUTS FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES. HOWEVER, WELL WISHERS ARE WELCOME TO RENDE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF GOD.

IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE CHURCH TO HAVE SUSTAINABLE INCOME GENERATING VENTURES SUCH AS AGRICULTURE WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE, AND HELP MANAGE THE DAILY RUNNING OF THE CHURCH.

YOUR GRACE:

I AM IMPRESSED WITH YOUR HEART FOR THE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED IN SOCIETY. THIS GESTURE HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED.

YOUR CONTINUED ADVOCACY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IS COMMENDABLE. THIS IS WHAT GOD REQUIRES US TO DO, TO UPLIFT THE WELFARE OF THOSE IN NEED. THE BIBLE IN PROVERBS **19 VERSE 17** CLEARLY SUMS IT UP AND I QUOTE:

HE WHO HAS PITY ON THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD, AND HE WILL PAY BACK WHAT HE HAS GIVEN.

EQUALLY, YOU HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT IN DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE CHURCH. THIS IS IN RESPECT TO THE PROMOTION OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES.

I WISH TO REITERATE THAT THE CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT CAN NOT AFFORD TO WORK IN ISOLATION. THE TWO SERVE THE SAME CONSTITUENTS HENCE THIS CALL FOR CLOSER COLLABORATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NATION.

YOUR GRACE:

I WOULD LIKE TO ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PAY GLOWING TRIBUTE TO YOU FOR THE SERVICES THAT YOU RENDER BEYOND YOUR DIOCESE AND PROVINCE.

I AM AWARE THAT YOU ARE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GLOBAL ANGLICAN DEVELOPMENT BODY, THE ANGLICAN ALLIANCE WHOSE OFFICE IS IN LONDON, AND ALSO PRESIDE OVER THE NAIROBI BASED COUNCIL OF THE ANGLICAN PROVINCES IN AFRICA INCLUDING, THE INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES.

PERHAPS, ONE OF YOUR MOST CRITICAL MILESTONES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT HAS BEEN YOUR TIRELESS ROLE IN ADVOCATING FOR PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA WILL BE SOMETHING WE CAN DRAW ON WHEN NEED ARISES, TO ENSURE PEACE CONTINUES TO PREVAIL IN OUR GREAT NATION, ZAMBIA AND THE WHOLE OF AFRICA.

I THEREFORE, WISH TO APPLAUD THE WORK WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT WITH HUMILITY, EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY, INCLUDING PUTTING OUR NATION ON THE WORLD MAP. THIS DESERVES COMMENDATION!

I URGE OTHER MEN AND WOMEN SERVING GOD TO EMMULATE THE PASSION AND DESIRE SHOWN BY ARCHBISHOP CHAMA WHO WE ARE CELEBRATING TODAY.

AT THIS MOMENT, I WISH TO REITERATE MY CALL TO THE CHURCH TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING POLITICIANS SPIRITUALLY, AND PROMOTING PEACE AND HARMONY IN OUR NATION.

THE CHURCH SHOULD NOT ABANDON THEIR GOD GIVEN MANDATE OF PEACEBUILDING IN THIS NATION. OUR CHURCH LEADERS MUST CONTINUE TO HELP US MAINTAIN PEACE IN OUR NATION BY PLAYING THEIR MEDIATORY ROLE FROM THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE.

I URGE OUR CHURCH LEADERS TO CONTINUE PREACHING LOVE TO ALL OF US REGARDLESS OF WHERE WE HAIL FROM, OR OUR AFFILIATIONS. FOR LOVE PREACHED AND LIVED OUT IS WHAT WILL KEEP ALL OF US UNITED AS ZAMBIANS.

OUR ACTIONS AS A NATION MUST REFLECT WHO WE ARE AS A CHRISTIAN NATION. WITHOUT LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS, OUR BEING A CHRISTIAN NATION IS IN VAIN. GOD ALMIGHTY IS LOVE AND IS VERY CATEGORICAL ON THE ISSUE OF LOVE, AS IS OUTLINED IN THE GOSPEL OF **MARK 12** VERSES **30-31** AND I QUOTE:

AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. THIS IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.

AND THE SECOND, LIKE IT, IS THIS. 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF. THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.'

YOUR GRACE:

AS I CONCLUDE, ALLOW ME TO ONCE AGAIN EXTEND MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR INVITING ME TO BE PART OF THIS CELEBRATION.

LET ME ALSO CONGRATULATE YOU AS YOU MARK 27 YEARS IN MINISTRY. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO GUIDE YOU AS YOU WORK IN HIS KINGDOM.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL
MAY GOD BLESS ZAMBIA
I THANK YOU.