



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH DELIVERED BY

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

**AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEWLY
CONSTRUCTED KASAMA CIVIC CENTER**

TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HON. DR CHARLES BANDA;**
- **THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER - NORTHERN PROVINCE, HON. LAZARUS CHUNGU;**
- **CABINET MINISTER PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT;**
- **YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF KASAMA;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS PARAMOUNT CHIEF CHITIMUKULU;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT;**
- **VISITING MAYORS AND COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS;**
- **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT;**
- **PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

THIS OCCASION IS SIGNIFICANT AS IT IS AN INDICATION OF MY GOVERNMENT'S POSITIVE DRIVE TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALISE GOVERNANCE.

I AM, THEREFORE, DELIGHTED TO BE PART OF THIS EVENT WHERE THE NEW CIVIC CENTRE IS BEING HANDED OVER TO KASAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

THIS DEVELOPMENT IS ALSO A SHOW OF MY GOVERNMENT'S UNFLINCHING COMMITMENT TO EXPEDITE DECENTRALISATION.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THERE CAN BE NO MEANINGFUL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THIS DEVELOPMENT.

IN THIS REGARD, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IS MY GOVERNMENT'S TOP PRIORITY ON OUR AGENDA TO DEVELOP OUR COUNTRY.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS NEW CIVIC CENTRE BEING COMMISSIONED TODAY ATTESTS TO THAT. GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THAT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WHOLLY DEPENDS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING STANDARD OF OUR PEOPLE. IT ALSO STIRS ECONOMIC GROWTH.

NOT TOO LONG AGO, I WAS HERE IN KASAMA TO COMMISSION 110 HOUSING UNITS FOR THE ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE AT MILIMA. THIS IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

SINCE ITS CREATION IN **1958**, KASAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HAS NEVER HAD A CIVIC CENTRE. THE LOCAL AUTHORITY HAS OVER THE YEARS BEEN SQUATTING IN OTHER OFFICE SPACES. THIS AFFECTED ITS OPERATIONS IMPACTING NEGATIVELY ON EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY TO THE PUBLIC.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW CIVIC CENTRE TODAY WILL IMPROVE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION CHALLENGES WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY HAS BEEN GRAPPLING WITH SINCE ITS CREATION.

THIS MASTERPIECE WAS CONSTRUCTED AT A TOTAL COST OF **K3.5** MILLION. THE CIVIC CENTRE WILL INDEED RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE DISTRICT, AND KASAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

EMPLOYEES WILL ALSO BE MOTIVATED TO WORK HARD IN THE PROVISION OF NECESSARY MUNICIPAL SERVICES BECAUSE OF OPERATING IN A CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT. THE EMPLOYEES OF KASAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WILL BE PROPELLED TO STEP UP THEIR EFFORTS IN SERVICE DELIVERY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

FURTHER, THIS CIVIC CENTRE WILL BE A PIVOTAL CONTACT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE THE EMPLOYEES AT THIS COUNCIL THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT VALUES YOUR EFFORTS IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE OF KASAMA.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

APART FROM THIS CIVIC CENTRE BEING HANDED OVER TODAY, KASAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IS ALSO UNDERTAKING A NUMBER OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARKET SHELTER AT TAZARA MARKET, USING LOCALLY GENERATED RESOURCES, AND THE 20 PERCENT CAPITAL COMPONENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EQUALISATION FUND.

THE MARKET SHELTER WHICH IS NEARING COMPLETION WILL CUSHION THE CHALLENGES OF INADEQUATE TRADING SPACES THE MARKETEERS AT TAZARA MARKET HAVE BEEN FACING.

IN ADDITION, THE FACILITY WILL PROVIDE A FAVOURABLE TRADING PLACE FOR THE MARKETEERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY SELLING MERCHANDISE IN OPEN PLACES. WITH THIS MARKET, STREET VENDING WILL BE ADDRESSED.

I URGE KASAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO EXPEDITE THE REMAINING WORKS AT THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED MARKET SHELTER FOR OUR MOTHERS TO MOVE IN WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, AND TRADE IN A MORE COMFORTABLE AND CONVENIENT ENVIRONMENT.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

AS THIS CIVIC CENTRE IS OFFICIALLY OPENED, I URGE THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO MAKE USE OF THIS FACILITY

CAUTIOUSLY IN ORDER FOR US TO ACHIEVE DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE AND ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY.

IN THIS REGARD, I AM DIRECTING THE COUNCIL TO INTRODUCE AN OPEN DOOR POLICY WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO SUPPORT LOCAL AUTHORITY OPERATIONS.

YOU ARE ALSO DIRECTED TO PUT IN PLACE A MAINTENANCE PLAN TO PREVENT THE BUILDING FROM POSSIBLE RUN DOWN DUE TO NEGLECT.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS BUILDING AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS ARE KEPT CLEAN ALL THE TIME. THIS SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE, AND THIS WAY WE WILL BE INCULCATING A CULTURE OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG OUR PEOPLE TOWARDS PROTECTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE KASAMA CIVIC CENTRE.

I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.