



**STATEMENT BY**

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

**WHEN HE RECEIVES LETTERS OF CREDENCE FROM  
AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS-  
DESIGNATE TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**TO BE HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY, ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**STATE HOUSE  
LUSAKA**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS:**

LET ME FORMALLY WELCOME YOU TO ZAMBIA AND TO STATE HOUSE IN PARTICULAR. I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOUR EXCELLENCIES ON YOUR RESPECTIVE APPOINTMENTS AS AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, WHERE YOU WILL JOIN A VIBRANT DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.

ZAMBIA VALUES THE WARM RELATIONS SHARED WITH ALL YOUR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, THROUGH DISTICT FRIENDSHIPS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT, TRUST AND COOPERATION, AT BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVELS.

I HAVE NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO REPRESENT YOUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS IN ZAMBIA WILL ENHANCE OUR EXCELLENT RELATIONS AND STEER OUR BILATERAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS TO NEW HEIGHTS.

I NOW WISH TO ADDRESS YOU INDIVIDUALLY.

## **1. YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR RYUTTA MOZUUCHI OF JAPAN:**

ZAMBIA GREATLY APPRECIATES THE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS IN AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATION, HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION, ENERGY, REFUGEE WELFARE AND RESETTLEMENT, AGRICULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL KAIZEN PROJECT.

I WISH TO EXTOL THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR THE TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (TICAD), AS IT SERVES AS AN EFFECTIVE AND BENEFICIAL PLATFORM TO DRIVE OUR COOPERATION TO HIGHER HEIGHTS.

LET ME COMMEND IN PARTICULAR, THE OUTCOMES OF THE TICAD **7** SUMMIT WHICH WAS HELD IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, IN YOKOHAMA TO ADVANCE AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PEOPLE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION.

MOVING FORWARD, I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE OUTCOMES OF THE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WHICH I HAD WITH HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER ABE SHINZO DURING MY STATE VISIT TO JAPAN IN DECEMBER, 2018, AND ON THE MARGINS OF THE TICAD **7** SUMMIT.

## **2. YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR ALEKSANDER VILOVICH BOLSDYREV OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:**

ZAMBIA APPRECIATES YOUR GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES WHICH ARE AIMED AT BOOSTING TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS INCLUDING, PROMOTING INVESTMENT PROJECTS WITH COUNTRIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. THIS COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WAS DEMONSTRATED AT THE INAUGURAL RUSSIA-AFRICA SUMMIT, HELD IN SOCHI, IN OCTOBER, 2019.

MY GOVERNMENT EAGERLY LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FINALISATION AND REALISATION OF THE HIGH PROFILE TECHNOLOGICAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECT WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THE RUSSIAN STATE CORPORATION (ROSATOM), TO PROMOTE COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

ONCE COMPLETED, THE CENTRE WILL OPEN UP A NEW CHAPTER IN THE ZAMBIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS TO BENEFIT SECTORS SUCH AS HEALTH, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE. THE CENTRE WILL ALSO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ZAMBIA, AND FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF RUSSIAN CUTTING-EDGE INNOVATIONS.

### **3. YOUR EXCELLENCY, HIGH COMMISSIONER FLORA INGANDU KARUGU OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA:**

OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE AN ACTIVE JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION OF COOPERATION (JPC) FRAMEWORK WHICH FOCUSES ON PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SPHERES.

DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO ZAMBIA IN 2015, MY BROTHER, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA GRACED THE 51<sup>ST</sup> ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR, AND HIS VISIT CULMINATED IN THE SIGNING OF FIVE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, POLICE COOPERATION, GENDER EQUALITY AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.

THEREFORE, THERE IS URGENT NEED TO ENSURE THAT THESE AGREEMENTS ARE FULLY IMPLEMENTED DURING YOUR TOUR OF DUTY.

GIVEN THE ENERGY CHALLENGES CONFRONTING THE REGION, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS MUST EXPEDITE THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO BUILD THE INTERCONNECTION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY GRIDS OF ZAMBIA, KENYA AND TANZANIA. THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL FACILITATE POWER TRADE WITHIN THE REGION.

**4. YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR ADDISU GEBREIGZABHIER ABERA OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA:**

WE NEED TO BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM AND OUTCOMES OF THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE ZAMBIA-ETHIOPIA JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION OF COOPERATION OF 2017, WHERE OUR TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO COOPERATE IN AREAS SUCH AS TRADE, AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, AIR TRANSPORT AND MANAGEMENT OF AIRPORTS, DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES, AND LEATHER INDUSTRIES.

I WISH TO COMMEND THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERTAKING VARIOUS POSITIVE REFORMS, ESPECIALLY, ITS UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN. THE INCREASED NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS OF WOMEN TO DECISION MAKING POSITIONS SETS A REMARKABLE STANDARD FOR THE FUTURE OF ETHIOPIAN POLITICS, WHICH IS A POSITIVE TREND FOR AFRICA AND THE WHOLE WORLD.

IN ADDITION, THE PEACE AND SECURITY EFFORTS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ABIY AHMED TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH A PEACE DEAL BROKERED WITH ERITREA SAW THE PRESIDENT BEING AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE. THIS REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT HAS INDEED MADE THE AFRICAN CONTINENT PROUD.

**5. YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR HAWA HASSAN MOHAMMED OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA:**

OUR CORDIAL RELATIONS ARE BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT. OVER THE YEARS, ZAMBIA HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPORT SOMALIA IN ITS FIGHT FOR A PEACEFUL, UNITED AND STABLE COUNTRY WHICH WILL INEVITABLY NURTURE, AND DEVELOP ITS NUMEROUS NATURAL RESOURCES RANGING FROM BAUXITE, SALT, GAS, GYPSUM, COPPER, URANIUM TO IRON ORE AND TIN. IT IS, THEREFORE, MY GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE DESIRE FOR ZAMBIA AND ETHIOPIA TO DEEPEN OUR EXISTING RELATIONS.

**6. YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR MOHAMMED OULD MEKHAILE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA:**

MUCH LIKE ZAMBIA, MAURITANIA IS ENDOWED WITH A RICH MINERAL AND MINING INDUSTRY. MY, GOVERNMENT IS KEEN TO COLLABORATE WITH THE SOMALIAN GOVERNMENT IN THIS SECTOR, AND OF COURSE, EXPLORE OTHER AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION, AS IT WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

## **FINALLY, YOUR EXCELLENCIES:**

I AM HAPPY TO RECEIVE LETTERS OF CREDENCE FROM YOU ALL. ONCE AGAIN, I WISH TO REAFFIRM MY GOVERNMENT'S STEADY COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE PROMOTING CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH YOUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

DURING YOUR RESPECTIVE TOURS OF DUTY, OUR COUNTRIES MUST INTENSIFY CLOSER COLLABORATION AT REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL PLATFORMS, TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE AS WELL AS ADDRESS CURRENT CHALLENGES POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

ALLOW ME TO REITERATE THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH IS YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT, IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO FACILITATE YOUR INTERACTION WITH ANY WING OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ONCE AGAIN, I WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO ZAMBIA, AND AT THE SAME TIME, URGE YOUR EXCELLENCIES TO EXPLORE VARIOUS PARTS OF OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, AS YOU ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE.

I WISH EACH ONE OF YOU A FRUITFUL AND REWARDING TOUR OF DUTY IN ZAMBIA.

**I THANK YOU.**