

SPEECH BY

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

AND

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE,

DURING THE SERVICE

FOR THE

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ZAMBIA ARMY CHAPEL

AT ARAKAN BARRACKS
ON SATURDAY, 28TH DECEMBER 2019

STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA

- **THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, HON. DAVIES CHAMA, MP;**
- **THE MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE, HON.REV GODFRIDAH SUMAILI, MP;**
- **HONOURABLE CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **THE ARMY COMMANDER, LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM M SIKAZWE;**
- **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT;**
- **SERVICE CHIEFS;**
- **FORMER SERVICE CHIEFS PRESENT;**
- **GENERAL GRADE OFFICERS;**
- **RETIRED GENERAL GRADE OFFICERS PRESENT;**
- **SENIOR OFFICERS;**
- **OFFICERS;**
- **ARMY SERGEANT MAJOR;**
- **WARRANT OFFICERS;**
- **NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST;**

I AM THRILLED TO GRACE THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED CHAPEL IN ARAKAN BARRACKS WHICH IS THE FIRST EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE ZAMBIA ARMY.

I FEEL BLESSED TO BE PART OF THIS GREAT EVENT WHICH WILL GO IN THE HISTORY OF THE ZAMBIA ARMY. I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE INVITATION.

I AM INFORMED THAT FOR A LONG TIME OFFICERS, SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAD BEEN WORSHIPPING IN A SMALL STRUCTURE WHICH ONLY ACCOMMODATED LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE.

THE OPENING OF THIS CHAPEL WILL SURELY ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES YOU HAVE BEEN FACING AS AN ARMY PERTAINING TO GATHERINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF RELIGIOUS NATURE.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER ARMY COMMANDER, LIEUTENANT GENERAL PAUL MIHOVA, FOR INITIATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS GRAND CHAPEL WITH A CAPACITY OF ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED WORSHIPPERS.

I FURTHER WISH TO COMMEND THE OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN, AND CIVILLIAN STAFF OF THE ZAMBIA ARMY FOR THEIR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDING OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR THEIR DONATIONS TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS CHAPEL.

WITHOUT SUCH SUPPORT, THIS PROJECT COULD STILL BE A PIPEDREAM.

THE COMPLETION OF THIS CHAPEL REFLECTS THE ZAMBIA ARMY COMMANDER'S TRUE SENSE OF LEADERSHIP, WISDOM, PATRIOTISM AND RESPONSIVE SERVICE, THE VALUES ON WHICH OUR NATION STANDS.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING NOBLE PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS ONE.

I EXPECT THAT ALL THE NEW BARRACKS BEING CONSTRUCTED SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE AN ASPECT OF MODERN FACILITIES SUCH AS CHAPELS, SPORTS FACILITIES AND SCHOOLS. THIS WILL MAKE THE LIVES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM, AND THEIR FAMILIES MOST BEARABLE AND COMFORTABLE.

I URGE YOU ARMY COMMANDER, AND COMMAND AT ALL LEVELS, TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL SERVICES. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO ALL SERVICE CHIEFS. THE MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM NEED THEIR SPIRITUAL WELL BEING TO SUPPORT THEIR PHYSICAL CHARACTER.

WITHOUT SUCH INVALUABLE SPIRITUAL SERVICES, YOUR COMMAND, AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD BE UNTENABLE.

IN THE WORDS OF JESUS ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF **JOHN CHAPTER 15 VERSE 5** AND I QUOTE:

“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.”

FELLOW WORSHIPPERS:

I WISH TO REECHO THAT ZAMBIA WILL REMAIN A CHRISTIAN NATION. MY GOVERNMENT WILL, WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION OR REGRET, PERPETUALLY EMBRACE GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY.

HOWEVER, WITH REGRET I NOTE THE UNFORTUNATE RHETORIC SURROUNDING THIS ISSUE. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE NEGATIVE NARRATIVES SURROUNDING THIS ISSUE ARE AIMED AT DIVIDING US AS A PEOPLE, AND ERODING THE CORE VALUES WHICH BIND US, AND GIVE US DIGNITY.

I URGE THE CHURCH IN THIS NATION TO BE VIGILANT AND CONTINUE TO REMAIN STEADFAST AS A VOICE OF HOPE AND UNITY.

AS I CONCLUDE, I EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO ALL THE WELL WISHERS WHO MADE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE. MY PRAYER FOR YOU IS THAT GOD REMEMBERS YOU ALWAYS AND REWARD YOU ABUNDANTLY. IN ACTS CHAPTER **20** VERSE **35**, IT IS WRITTEN AND I QUOTE:

“IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE”.
END OF QUOTE.

I WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS.

**ARMY COMMANDER;
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE THE ZAMBIA ARMY CHAPEL OFFICIALLY OPENED, FOR WORSHIP, HONOURING THE DEAD AND LAYING OFF OUR RETIRED COLOURS, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE ALMIGHTY.

MAY GOD BLESS ZAMBIA, THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA AND THE DEFENCE FORCE.
I THANK YOU.

