

**SPEECH BY**

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

**DURING THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MILITARY  
SPORTS CISM DAY 6KM RUN**

**HELD AT THE OLYMPIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
(OYDC)**

**ON TUESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 2020**

**STATE HOUSE**

**LUSAKA**

- **MINISTER OF DEFENCE, HON. DAVIES CHAMA, MP;**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MR. STURDY MWALE;**
- **DEFENCE FORCE AND SERVICE CHIEFS;**
- **THE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SPORTS COUNCIL (CISM);**
- **GENERALS;**
- **MEMBERS OF GENERAL STAFF;**
- **SENIOR OFFICERS;**
- **WARRANT OFFICERS;**
- **SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS;**
- **JUNIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS;**
- **SPORTS MEN AND WOMEN;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM EXCITED TO OFFICIATE AT THE 2020 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MILITARY SPORTS**, WHERE WE ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE **6 KILOMETRE CISM DAY RUN FOR PEACE**.

THIS DAY WAS ADOPTED AND RECOGNISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS (UN), THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC), RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THIS DAY IS AIMED AT  
**“PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP, GLOBAL PEACE AND CO-  
EXISTENCE THROUGH SPORTS.”**

THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS COMMEMORATED WORLDWIDE. AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, SOME COUNTRIES MET AND DEvised MEASURES THAT WOULD PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF WORLD WARS. WARS HAVE DEVASTATING PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS ON BOTH THE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS.

THEREFORE, FIVE COUNTRIES NAMELY: BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS MET ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 1948, AND FORMED THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SPORTS COUNCIL WITH THE AIM OF BRINGING SOLDIERS TO THE SPORTS ARENA AS OPPOSED TO THE BATTLEGROUND.

ONE OF THE MEASURES THESE COUNTRIES ARRIVED AT WAS TO BRING SOLDIERS TO THE SPORTS ARENA TO COMPETE IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.

SINCE THEN, THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SPORTS COUNCIL FAMILY HAS GROWN WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF **133** COUNTRIES GLOBALLY WHOSE MILITARY INSTITUTIONS HAVE JOINED HANDS TO SUPPORT PEACE THROUGH SPORTS.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

AS WE MARK THIS IMPORTANT DAY, LET US ALL ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP ALIVE THE VISION OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS WHO HAD PREFERRED PEACE TO WAR AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS AS A UNIFYING FACTOR EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES OF WAR.

THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ZAMBIA AND OTHER MEMBER STATES TO KEEP ALIVE THE COUNCIL MOTTO "**FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPORTS**," WHICH HAS BEEN THE FLAME OF THE ORGANISATION.

FOR THE WORLD TO EXPERIENCE PEACE, INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES MUST PURSUE PEACE. THIS ALSO CALLS FOR THE DEFENCE FORCE TO ALWAYS BE ALERT AND ADDRESS VICES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVOKING THE COUNTRY'S LONGSTANDING PEACE.

WITHOUT PEACE, DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE FUTILE. DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT OCCUR IN A VACUUM BUT THRIVES IN A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT.

TO MAINTAIN THIS HARD EARNED PEACE WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT FOR, THERE IS NEED FOR OUR SOLDIERS TO BE FIT AND HEALTHY. THIS FITNESS CAN BE ACQUIRED THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THIS ONE.

SPORT IS KEY IN PROMOTING ONE'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING. THERE ARE POSITIVE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM ENGAGING IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY. THESE ARE PREVENTION OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION, PREVENTION OF OBESITY, AND BEING PHYSICALLY FIT.

AS YOUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF, I AM PLEASED THAT AS MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCE, YOU ARE ADOPTING THIS POSITIVE LIFESTYLE BY PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.

CONVERSELY, I HAVE BEEN PROMOTING THE MORNING OF RUN FOR ALL CITIZENS EITHER BY JOINING ME ON WEEKENDS OR BY ENCOURAGING EACH AND EVERY CITIZEN TO RUN WITHIN THEIR LOCALITIES TO KEEP FIT AND AVOID AILMENTS. SO FAR, THIS INITIATIVE HAS WORKED PERFECTLY WELL.

MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO RENDER SUPPORT TO SUCH SPORTS PROGRAMMES.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

AS WE RUN FOR PEACE TODAY, WE MUST THINK ABOUT THE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS THAT HAVE AFFECTED OUR SOCIETY SUCH AS VIOLENCE. THESE CASES ARE SADLY INCREASING, AND IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO IT THAT SUCH VICES DO NOT PERMEATE OUR RANK AND FILE.

I URGE YOU, TO INDIVIDUALLY, AND COLLECTIVELY, INCULCATE VALUES THAT RESPECT AND TREASURE LIFE IN OUR SOCIETY. EVERY PERSON HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, AND NO ONE SHOULD TAKE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL OF PROVOCATION.

MY GOVERNMENT IS NOT GIVING A BLIND EYE TO SUCH ACTS AND VICES. WE HAVE SINCE SCALED UP MEASURES AIMED AT ENSURING PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE FACE THE WRATH OF THE LAW. WE WILL NOT ALLOW OUR SOCIETY TO DEGENERATE INTO LAWLESSNESS.

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO COMMEND THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MILITARY SPORTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE WITH THE SAME SPIRIT OF PROMOTING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY THROUGH SPORTS.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I NOW DECLARE THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MILITARY SPORTS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AS WE JOIN THE REST OF THE COUNCIL FAMILY WORLDWIDE IN CELEBRATING THIS IMPORTANT EVENT TO APPRECIATE WORLD PEACE.

HAVE FUN AND MAY GOD ALMIGHTY BLESS US ALL.  
**I THANK YOU.**