



SPEECH BY

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

AT THE LAUNCH OF THE

**AQUACULTURE SEED FUND UNDER THE
ZAMBIA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT
KANYAMA, MWINILUNGA**

SATURDAY, 28TH MAY, 2020

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **HON. PROF NKANDU LUO, MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK;**
- **HON. NATHANIEL MUBUKWANU, MINISTER FOR NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE;**
- **CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT – INCLUDING OUR HOST, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS KANYAMA;**
- **PERMANENT SECRETARIES PRESENT;**
- **DISTRICT COMMISSIONER FOR MWINILUNGA DISTRICT;**
- **ALL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **PATRIOTIC FRONT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**
- **THE AQUACULTURE SEED FUND BENEFICIARIES PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM DELIGHTED TO LAUNCH THE AQUACULTURE SEED FUND PROGRAMME HERE IN MWINILUNGA DISTRICT IN KANYAMA'S CHIEFDOM. THIS IS A COUNTRYWIDE PROGRAMME AIMED AT EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE ECONOMICALLY.

THE SEED FUND PROGRAMME IS PART OF THE **50.89** MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLAR PROGRAMME UNDER THE ZAMBIA AQUACULTURE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. THE PROJECT IS BEING FUNDED BY THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND MY GOVERNMENT.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEF KANYAMA FOR ALLOWING US TO CONDUCT THE LAUNCH OF THE AQUACULTURE SEED FUND IN HIS CHIEFDOM HERE IN NORTHWESTERN PROVINCE.

IN 2016, MY GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED THE SALE OF ANIMALS PROGRAMME FROM LIVESTOCK BREEDING CENTRES COUNTRYWIDE. THE LAUNCH OF THIS PROGRAMME WAS HELD IN THIS CHIEFDOM. AS GOVERNMENT, WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEF KANYAMA IN PARTICULAR, AND OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN GENERAL.

**YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

THE AQUACULTURE SEED FUND WHICH IS AIMED AT BRIDGING THE FINANCING GAP IN THE AQUACULTURE SUB-SECTOR, IS TESTIMONY OF MY GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO PROACTIVELY PROMOTE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

IN AQUACULTURE, WE HAVE WITNESSED A STEADY INCREASE IN FISH PRODUCTION FROM **12,988** METRIC TONNES IN 2012, A YEAR AFTER THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT TOOK CHARGE OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY, TO **38,800** METRIC TONNES IN 2019.

WITH THE INJECTION OF **23.7** MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS IN THE AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN, WE SHALL ELIMINATE THE CURRENT FISH DEFICIT WHICH STANDS AT **87,000** METRIC TONNES. OUR COUNTRY IS ENDOWED WITH ABUNDANT WATER RESOURCE AND IS CAPABLE OF BECOMING A NET EXPORTER OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY PROMOTING LOCAL PRODUCTION AND SUPPORTING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ALONG THE AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN THROUGH INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE ONE BEING LAUNCHED HERE TODAY.

**YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

ZAMBIA, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, IS BATTLING THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE COVID 19. THE AQUACULTURE SEED FUND COULD, THEREFORE, PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN MITIGATING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC WITHIN THE AQUACULTURE SUB-SECTOR.

THE INTEREST RATE UNDER THE SEED FUND IS AFFORDABLE IN CONTRAST TO COMMERCIAL LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS BANKS, WHOSE INTEREST RATES ARE BEYOND THE REACH OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE ESPECIALLY THOSE IN RURAL AREAS.

WITH THIS PROJECT, MY GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND WHEN IT COMES TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IS BEING FULFILLED.

PEOPLE IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS SHALL BE GIVEN EQUAL ACCESS TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FACILITIES. MY GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE ROLE THAT WOMEN AND THE YOUTH PLAY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WHEN PROPERLY HARNESSSED, THEY HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT AND THEREBY REDUCE POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

**YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

AS I CONCLUDE, I AM AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES THE AQUACULTURE SUB-SECTOR IS FACING. THESE IMPEDIMENTS ARE LINKED TO FINGERLINGS, FISH FEED AND FINANCES. THROUGH THIS FUND, THE CHALLENGES RELATED TO INADEQUATE FINANCES SHALL NOW BE ADDRESSED.

MY GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE ZAMBIA AQUACULTURE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS SUPPORTING TWELVE HATCHERIES AND NURSERIES VALUED AT **20.7** MILLION KWACHA IN ALL THE TEN PROVINCES. THIS IS ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF INADEQUATE FINGERLINGS. HOWEVER, THE COST AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE FISH FEED STILL REMAIN A SERIOUS CHALLENGE.

I, THEREFORE, DIRECT THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK TO COME UP WITH STRATEGIES THAT WILL MAKE THE FISH FEED ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE TO MANY FISH FARMERS AS WE MAKE AQUACULTURE AN ECONOMIC VENTURE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

LET ME TAKE THIS TIME TO CONGRATULATE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE LOANS UNDER THE AQUACULTURE SEED FUND ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE GATHERED HERE. THE PROCESS WAS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE. THEREFORE, I, WOULD LIKE TO URGE YOU ALL TO ENSURE THAT THE LOANS ARE PAID BACK FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO EQUALLY BENEFIT FROM THE SAME FUNDS.

I ALSO URGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO WORK HARD AS THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN REDUCE POVERTY AMONGST OURSELVES. HARD WORK, WILL GUARANTEE OUR PROSPERITY AS A NATION.

**YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE AQUACULTURE SEED FUND UNDER THE ZAMBIA AQUACULTURE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU,

I THANK YOU ALL.