



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REMARKS BY

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

**AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF
EASTERN PROVINCE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

AT STATE HOUSE

ON MONDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2020

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

Mrs. Veronica Makwakwa Mwiche

PERMANENT SECRETARY

EASTERN PROVINCE

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION TO THE LEVEL OF PERMANENT SECRETARY. UNTILL THIS APPOINTMENT, YOU SERVED IN THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR PLANNING AND INFORMATION IN THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS IS A COMMENDABLE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

YOU ARE A SEASONED CIVIL SERVANT HAVING WORKED FOR 28 YEARS WITH YOUR FIRST APPOINTMENT IN 1992 BEING THAT OF ORGANISATION DESIGN AND SYSTEMS OFFICER IN THE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AT CABINET OFFICE. YOUR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO DUTY EARNED YOU THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT IN 2002.

MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE IDENTIFYING HARD WORKING CIVIL SERVANTS LIKE YOURSELF AND REWARD THEM WITH PROMOTION TO SUCH SENIOR POSITIONS.

YOU MAY RECALL THAT I RECENTLY SWORE-IN TWO OTHER DIRECTORS TO THE LEVEL OF PERMANENT SECRETARIES. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF MOTIVATING OFFICERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN PROMOTING THEM FROM AMONG THEIR OWN RANK AND FILE.

LET ME, HOWEVER, EMPHASISE AS I ALWAYS DO, THAT APPOINTMENTS TO SENIOR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ARE CAREFULLY SCRUTINISED AND ARE ON MERIT. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, NOT DISAPPOINT ME OR INDEED THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA WHO HAVE PLACED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN YOU.

AS YOU TAKE-UP THIS NEW POSITION, I URGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR 28 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT WHERE YOU HAVE SPECIALISED IN STRATEGIC PLANNING, POLICY FORMULATION, ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN AND SYSTEMS, TO HELP TURN AROUND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FORTUNES OF EASTERN PROVINCE.

IN ADDITION TO YOUR WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE, YOU WORKED FOR TEN YEARS ON SECONDMENT AS A STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISOR IN GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALISATION AT THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) AND SNV NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION.

WHILE AT THESE ORGANISATIONS YOU FOCUSED ON IMPROVING THE COUNTRY'S EDUCATION SECTOR IN THE LONG TERM.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THIS VAST INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY BOTH IN THE GOVERNMENT AND DONOR AGENCIES, YOU WILL FOCUS ON EFFICIENTLY RE-ORGANISING THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE. AS YOU DO SO, YOU SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE COUNTRY'S ASPIRATIONS OF THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS IT IS A BLUEPRINT FOR OUR DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

MY GOVERNMENT IS IN A HURRY TO DELIVER QUALITY SERVICES ACROSS ALL SECTORS TO THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA IN LINE WITH THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. I, THEREFORE, EXPECT YOU TO WORK HARD AND CONTRIBUTE TO THIS REALISATION.

CONCLUSION

ONCE AGAIN, I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR APPOINTMENT. YOU ARE NOW A ROLE MODEL FOR MANY OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ASPIRE TO BE PROMOTED TO SENIOR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA OF OUR GREAT NATION, ZAMBIA.

GOD BLESS YOU. THANK YOU.

