



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

SPEECH BY

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING
CEREMONY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LUSAKA'S
BOYS' CATHOLIC BOARDING SCHOOL**

**NJOLWE – CHONGWE
FRIDAY, 26TH JUNE, 2020**

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **YOUR GRACE, MOST REVEREND DR. ALICK BANDA, ARCHBISHOP OF LUSAKA AND APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF NDOLA;**
- **HON. CABINET MINISTERS;**
- **SENIOR CHIEFTAINESS NKOMESHYA OF THE BUSOLI ROYAL ESTABLISHMENT;**
- **HON. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY;**
- **DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN YOU ON THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION IN THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

IT IS AN HONOUR FOR ME TO BE AMONGST FELLOW CHRISTIANS AND WELL-WISHERS THIS MORNING AS WE BREAK GROUND FOR WHAT WILL BECOME A RENOWNED CENTRE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION.

I HAVE CLOSELY FOLLOWED AND SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF THIS SCHOOL FROM THE TIME HIS GRACE, THE ARCHBISHOP, DR. ALICK BANDA, INFORMED ME OF HIS VISION TO BUILD A CATHOLIC BOYS' SCHOOL WHICH WILL OFFER QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY.

YOUR GRACE;

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

GROUND-BREAKING DOES NOT ONLY REPRESENT THE BRICKS AND MORTAR WHICH WILL BE BUILT IN THIS PLACE, BUT ALSO REPRESENTS FUTURE DREAMS WHICH WILL BE FULFILLED IN THIS PLACE.

WE HAVE A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO UPHOLD, INTERPRET AND APPLY OUR NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES AS A CHRISTIAN NATION BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA HAVE EMBRACED OUR REPUBLIC AS A CHRISTIAN NATION. THAT IS WHY IT GIVES ME GREAT JOY TODAY TO BE PART OF THIS GREAT OCCASION.

MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE INCULCATION OF MORALLY UPRIGHT AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOURS IN OUR NATION AS A REQUIREMENT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE PRAYERS AND WISDOM OF THE CHURCH.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

GROUND-BREAKING ALSO REPRESENTS THE CHRISTIAN VALUES AND MORALS WHICH WILL BE INSTILLED IN THIS PLACE. IT REPRESENTS SEEDS OF ACADEMIC AND SPORTING EXCELLENCE WHICH WILL BE PLANTED IN THIS PLACE. IT REPRESENTS THE ENHANCEMENT OF OUR COUNTRY'S NATIONAL VALUES AND ETHICS. IN SHORT, THIS GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY REPRESENTS THE FUTURE OF THIS GREAT NATION, ZAMBIA. I AM INDEED HONOURED TO BE PART OF THIS HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

**YOUR GRACE,
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I NEED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE ROLE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS PLAYED IN EDUCATION IN THE NATION. WHEN THE CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES FIRST SET FOOT ON THIS SOIL, NOT ONLY DID THEY BRING CHRISTIANITY, BUT ALSO ENSURED THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE AREAS THEY SETTLED, GOT ENLIGHTENED THROUGH EDUCATION.

AN OLD SAYING GOES:

“GIVE A MAN A FISH AND YOU FEED HIM FOR A DAY; TEACH A MAN TO FISH AND YOU FEED HIM FOR A LIFETIME.”

EDUCATION IS INDEED THE PROVERBIAL “TEACHING A MAN TO FISH.” THROUGH EDUCATION, AN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPS PERSONALLY, SOCIALLY AS WELL AS ECONOMICALLY. EDUCATION HELPS AN INDIVIDUAL TO DO HIS OR HER DAILY LIFE ACTIVITIES IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAYS; BY BEING DUTIFUL, ACQUIRING NEW ALTITUDES, SKILLS, AND KNOWLEDGE WHICH IMPACT ON ONE’S DEVELOPMENT IN LIFE.

FURTHERMORE, EDUCATION PROVIDES MOST PEOPLE WITH PROFESSIONAL CAREERS, AND IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT EDUCATION AFFORDS ENTREPRENEURS WITH COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE MARKETPLACE. BOTH CAREER PROFESSIONALS AND ENTERPRENEURS ARE KEY DRIVERS TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. YOU, THEREFORE, CANNOT GO WRONG IN INVESTING IN EDUCATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MY GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION BY ALLOCATING A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF OUR ANNUAL BUDGET TOWARDS EDUCATION.

HOWEVER, DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION, THERE IS STILL GREAT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR. THIS NEED HAS BEEN AMPLIFIED BY THE CURRENT COVID - 19 PANDEMIC WHICH HAS AFFECTED NOT ONLY ZAMBIA BUT THE WORLD AT LARGE. WE ARE, THEREFORE, RECEPTIVE TO PARTNERS WILLING TO INVEST IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR PEOPLE.

WHILE THE CHURCH IS THE ORIGINATOR OF THIS WONDERFUL PROJECT, THE CHURCH MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FUND THIS SCHOOL ON ITS OWN. I, THEREFORE, WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PARTNER WITH THE CHURCH IN THIS DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECT.

AS I LOOK AROUND, THIS MORNING I SEE VARIOUS HEADS OF CORPORATE INSTITUTIONS IN ZAMBIA WHO I AM SURE WILL WANT TO PARTNER WITH THE CHURCH.

A POPULAR BEMBA PROVERB STATES THAT: “**UMUNWE UMO TAUSALA INDA.**” WHICH FIGURATIVELY MEANS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS, COLLECTIVE EFFORT IS REQUIRED. I, THEREFORE, WISH TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND INDIVIDUALS TO SUPPORT THIS CAUSE BOTH IN MONETARY TERMS AND IN KIND.

THE SEED YOU SOW TODAY WILL BE ENJOYED BY OUR CHILDREN, OUR GRANDCHILDREN OR EVEN THE FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF OUR ORGANISATIONS.

**YOUR GRACE;
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

IN CLOSING, ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA AND ON MY OWN BEHALF, I WISH TO THANK HIS GRACE, THE ARCHBISHOP OF LUSAKA, DR. ALICK BANDA AND HIS FUNDRAISING TEAM FOR KICK-STARTING THIS TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT. I LOOK FORWARD TO RETURNING FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SCHOOL.

LET US PROCEED TO NOW BREAK THE GROUND AND LAY THE FIRST STONE OF THE SCHOOL.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL,

I THANK YOU.