



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**STATEMENT BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY  
PROGRAMME (2020-2023)  
THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

**STATE HOUSE  
LUSAKA**

- THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT,  
MR. DAVIES MWILA;
- MINISTER OF FINANCE, HON. BWALYA NG'ANDU;
- MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING,  
HON. ALEXANDER CHITEME;
- HON. CABINET MINISTERS;
- HON. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
- SECRETARY TO THE CABINET, DR SIMON MITI;
- DEPUTY SECRETARIES TO THE CABINET;
- PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND OTHER SENIOR  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;
- BANK OF ZAMBIA GOVERNOR;
- YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF LUSAKA;
- MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND OTHER  
COOPERATING PARTNERS;
- ZAMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT;
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT GIVES ME GREAT HONOUR TO LAUNCH THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME, WHICH RUNS FROM 2020 TO 2023. THIS PROGRAMME IS YET ANOTHER HOMEGROWN PROGRAMME AND IS A SUCCESSOR TO THE ECONOMIC STABILISATION AND GROWTH PROGRAMME THAT COVERED THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2019.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ERP, 2020-2023, UNDER THE THEME **RESTORING GROWTH AND SAFEGUARDING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH MACROECONOMIC STABILITY, ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND DEBT SUSTAINABILITY.**

THE LAUNCH OF THE PROGRAMME SIGNIFIES MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ENSURING THE ECONOMY IS BACK ONTO A PATH THAT WILL LEAD TO IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD OF OUR PEOPLE. THIS IS AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION THAT SHOULD BRING HOPE TO OUR PEOPLE. THIS OCCASION SIGNIFIES OUR COMMITMENT TO REINVIGORATE THE ECONOMY.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE WORLD TODAY IS AT THE CROSSROADS AS NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONTINUE TO BRAINSTORM THE SOLUTIONS TO BOTH THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AFFLICTING MANKIND ARISING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WILL LIVE IN THE MEMORIES OF MANKIND FOR CENTURIES TO COME, AS NOT JUST A DISEASE THAT DECIMATED OUR POPULATIONS BUT A DISEASE THAT COLLAPSED ECONOMIES BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY LEFT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WORLD WIDE IN UNTOLD MYSERY.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS NOT JUST LEFT MANY FAMILIES UNSTABLE BUT HAS CONSEQUENTLY RENDERED GOVERNMENTS VULNERABLE. MILLIONS OF WORKERS IN BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL SECTORS HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF JOBS, MANY EMPLOYERS HAVE CLOSED SHOP, HUNGER IN HOMESTEADS IS UNTOLD, REVENUES TO GOVERNMENTS HAVE RAPIDLY SHRUNK, AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY HAVE BEEN SPENT ON STIMULUS PACKAGES TO SAVE POPULATIONS FROM DEATHS AS A RESULT OF HUNGER.

IT IS WORSE FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS, LIKE OURS, ENCUMBERED BY HUGE DEBTS AND WHOSE ECONOMIES WERE ALREADY STRUGGLING BEFORE COVID-19 CAME. MILLIONS OF OUR PEOPLE ARE BARELY SURVIVING AND OUR ECONOMY IS AT THE MOMENT BATTERED AND STRETCHED. DESPITE OUR RELENTLESS RESOLVE TO TURN THINGS AROUND, THE NEEDS FOR OUR PEOPLE ARE OVERWHELMING AND OUR RESOURCE ENVELOP IS THINNING BY THE DAY.

MY GOVERNMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH COOPERATING PARTNERS HAS ENSURED AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES TO FIGHT THE PANDEMIC.

DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, THE PANDEMIC HAS UNFORTUNATELY CLAIMED THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 350 OF OUR CITIZENS, WITH MORE THAN 17,000 PEOPLE CONTRACTING THE DISEASE SINCE THE FIRST CASE WAS RECORDED TOWARDS THE END OF MARCH 2020.

AMIDST ALL THIS, WE HAVE SAID “NO, WE SHALL NEVER GIVE UP. THERE IS LIGHT ON THE HORIZON, AND IF, TOGETHER AS ZAMBIANS, WE UNITE AND PULL IN THE SAME DIRECTION, WE SHALL TURN THINGS AROUND.” THE CURRENT SCHEME OF THINGS DOES NOT CALL FOR BLAME GAMES. THE CURRENT SCHEME OF THINGS CALLS FOR A UNITED FRONT. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER YOU ARE PATRIOTIC FRONT, UPND, MMD, UNIP, NDC, OR UPPZ, WE ARE ALL ZAMBIANS.

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER YOU ARE CATHOLIC, PENTECOST, BAPTIST OR MOSLEM, WE REMAIN ZAMBIANS. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER YOU ARE FROM THE EAST, WEST, NORTH OR SOUTH, WE ARE ALL ZAMBIANS. WHAT MATTERS IS TO UTILISE OUR GOD GIVEN AND ACQUIRED COLLECTIVE WISDOM FOR THE GOOD OF OUR GREAT NATION, ZAMBIA.

GOD GAVE US INTELLECT, NATURAL RESOURCES LIKE MINERALS, GOOD CLIMATE, AND WATER, AMONG OTHER THINGS. NOW IS THE TIME TO USE OUR INTELLECT TO UTILISE THESE RESOURCES, AND NOT JUST SELL THEM TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER BUT ADD VALUE TO THEM THROUGH THE CREATION OF A VIBRANT MANUFACTURING BASE.

THROUGH VALUE ADDITION TO OUR GOD GIVEN NATURAL RESOURCES WE ARE GOING TO SELL PRODUCTS CREATED THEREAFTER TO EARN THE MUCH NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE WILL GAIN JOBS, JOBS, JOBS. OUR PEOPLE URGENTLY NEED SOURCES OF INCOME. WE NEED TO CREATE JOBS URGENTLY FOR THE MASS OF OUR PEOPLE, BOTH SKILLED, AND UNSKILLED, WHO ARE CURRENTLY ON THE STREETS, AND WHOSE SKILLS AND ENERGY IS GOING TO WASTE. THEY NEED TO SURVIVE. THEIR FAMILIES NEED AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME TO COME TO THEIR RESCUE AND THIS IS WHY WE ARE HERE TO DAY.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

OUR POLICY RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS INCLUDED MONETARY AND FISCAL MEASURES. SOME OF THE MEASURES INCLUDE:

- (i) THE PROVISION OF FINANCING BY THE TREASURY TO FIGHT COVID-19;
- (ii) THE K10 BILLION MEDIUM TERM REFINANCING FACILITY BY THE BANK OF ZAMBIA TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF CHEAPER CREDIT TO BUSINESSES;
- (iii) ISSUANCE OF THE K8 BILLION COVID-19 BOND AS A STIMULUS PACKAGE TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, BY AMONG OTHERS, DISMANTLING DOMESTIC ARREARS AND PAYING OUR RETIREES; AND

(iv) TAX RELIEF MEASURES AIMED AT BOOSTING PRODUCTION IN AGRICULTURE, MINING, AND TOURISM, AMONG OTHER SECTORS.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE PROGRAMME I AM LAUNCHING TODAY PROVIDES A CLEAR ROAD MAP OF STRATEGIC POLICY ACTIONS AND ENABLERS REQUIRED TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY AND PLACE IT ON A PATH OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDIUM TERM. IT HAS FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

1. RESTORING MACROECONOMIC STABILITY;
2. ATTAINING FISCAL AND DEBT SUSTAINABILITY;
3. DISMANTLING THE BACKLOG OF DOMESTIC ARREARS;
4. RESTORING GROWTH AND DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY; AND
5. SAFEGUARDING SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE SUPPORTED BY STRUCTURAL AND LEGAL REFORMS TO ADDRESS MANY IMPEDIMENTS IN ACHIEVING THE SET OBJECTIVES.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME WILL GET US TO THE ZAMBIA WE WANT.

A ZAMBIA THAT IS RESILIENT AND ABLE TO WITHSTAND EXTERNAL SHOCKS THROUGH A DIVERSIFIED EXPORT BASE; A ZAMBIA WITH A VAST AND VIBRANT MANUFACTURING BASE FOR VALUE ADDITION (WE NEED THAT NOISE IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS AGAIN); A ZAMBIA THAT IS ABLE TO GROW ENOUGH FOR EXPORT;

AND A ZAMBIA THAT PROVIDES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY WHILE PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME IDENTIFIES AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING, TOURISM, AND MINING, SUPPORTED BY THE ENERGY SECTOR, AS THE ANCHOR SECTORS.

IN AGRICULTURE, AS PART OF THE DIVERSIFICATION AGENDA AND MEASURES TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND EXPORTS, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT TO FACILITATE CROP MARKETING. THIS WILL RESULT IN INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND EXPORTS. OTHER KEY PROGRAMMES INCLUDE THE PROMOTION OF TREE CROP PRODUCTION, FARM POWER AND MECHANISATION FOR SMALL HOLDER FARMS.

TO PROMOTE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE WITH STOCKING AND RESTOCKING OF SUPERIOR AND DISEASE RESISTANT BREEDS.



IN ADDITION, ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION WILL BE PROMOTED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF OUR LIVESTOCK. FURTHER, ENHANCED DISEASE CONTROL SUCH AS VACCINATION CONTROLS AND CAMPAIGNS WILL BE SCALED UP.

IN THE FISHERIES SUB-SECTOR, THE PRODUCTION OF FISH FINGERLINGS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES RESERVE AREAS (BREEDING SITES) WILL BE KEY INTERVENTIONS.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOR A WAY TO CAPITALISE ON THE HIGH MINERAL COMMODITY PRICES TO HARNESS THAT POTENTIAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNTRY. IN THAT RESPECT, WE MUST BUILD ON THE POTENTIAL OF GOLD TO SYSTEMATICALLY BUILD OUR STRATEGIC RESERVES.

WE MUST ASSUME A SIGNIFICANT STAKE IN SOME SELECTED MINE ASSETS SO THAT WE CREATE SUFFICIENT VALUE FOR THE NATION AND ALSO A MEANS OF COMPARING SUCH MINES WITH PRIVATE SECTOR OWNED MINES. IN ADDITION, OWNING A STAKE IN SOME STRATEGIC MINES GIVES THE STATE THE LEVERAGE REQUIRED TO UTILISE THE DEFINED MINERAL RESOURCES TO BENEFIT THE NATION BEYOND TAXES.

YOU WILL, THEREFORE, OBSERVE THAT THERE IS A DELIBERATE STRATEGY TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAKE IN SOME SELECTED MINES TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH TRAJECTORY.

I MUST MENTION HERE THAT THIS IS NOT NATIONALISATION OF MINES, ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S THE STATE ACQUIRING MAJORITY STAKE IN SELECTED MINES WHILE ALLOWING PRIVATE INVESTORS TO ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECTOR.

WHEREAS THE CURRENT MINES WITH DEFINED RESOURCES HAVE SUPPORTED THIS GENERATION OF LARGE-SCALE MINING ACTIVITIES, WE MUST INVEST IN MORE EXPLORATION TO FURTHER GUARANTEE SUCCESS IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY. EXPLORATION WILL NOT ONLY BE FOR MINERALS BUT ALSO FOR OIL AND GAS. MY GOVERNMENT THROUGH THIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN WILL ALSO PROVIDE A STABLE FISCAL REGIME FOR THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR THAT CAN PROMOTE MORE INVESTMENT IN EXPLORATION.

WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED SEEING THE POTENTIAL OF GOLD WITH THE ADVENT OF ZAMBIA GOLD LIMITED. THE PLAN RECOGNISES THE NEED TO HARNESS THE GOLD POTENTIAL AND EXPAND IT BY ENCOURAGING MORE INVESTMENT IN THE GOLD SUBSECTOR.

FORMALISATION OF THE SMALLSCALE AND ARTISANAL SECTOR CANNOT BE OVER EMPHASISED SO THAT ALL THE GOLD IS NOT ONLY ACCOUNTED FOR BUT ALSO USED TO SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATION. THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME, THEREFORE, PROJECTS THE NEED TO ORGANISE THE GOLD SUBSECTOR BOTH IN TERMS OF THE TRADING BUT ALSO MINING AND PROCESSING.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

AS A COUNTRY, WE HAVE DEPENDED ON COPPER SINCE ITS DISCOVERY. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD FOR YEARS NOW THAT COPPER IS A WASTING ASSET AND THAT WE SHOULD LOOK AT OTHER SECTORS FOR OUR SURVIVAL IN FUTURE.

HOWEVER, COPPER CONTINUES TO SUSTAIN OUR ECONOMY AND I DARE SAY IT WILL STILL CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR YEARS TO COME. BUT MY VISION IS THAT, WHILE MINING CONTINUES TO SUSTAIN US, THERE IS NEED FOR VALUE ADDITION TO THE RESOURCES SO THAT WE PRODUCE A RANGE OF PRODUCTS FROM OUR MINERALS, GAIN FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM SUCH PRODUCTS, AND ALSO CREATE FURTHER EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE APART FROM MINING.

AS OUR OWN PROFESSOR CLIVE CHIRWA WRITES IN HIS **ECONOMIC RECOVERY THESIS**; HE SAYS AND I WISH TO QUOTE:

**“IF WE WANT TO DEVELOP, IT WILL NOT COME FROM SELLING COPPER AS RAW MATERIAL. IT WILL COME FROM US USING COPPER TO ITS FULLEST POTENTIAL AND THAT IS CREATING A VIBRANT MANUFACTURING BASE THAT WILL ADD VALUE”.**  
**END OF QUOTE.**

THE MINING SECTOR WOULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED MORE TO OUR ECONOMY AND CREATED JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE. BUT WE HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED FOR FAR TOO LONG BY SO-CALLED MINING INVESTORS WHO AT BEST HAVE LEFT SHELLS WERE OUR MINES STOOD.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

WE SHALL NO LONGER TOLERATE MINING INVESTORS WHO SEEK TO PROWL FROM OUR GOD-GIVEN NATURAL RESOURCE, LEAVING US WITH EMPTY HANDS. WE SHALL NO LONGER TOLERATE MINING INVESTORS WHO CRY FOUL EACH TIME WE TRY TO EARN SOMETHING FROM OUR MINES THROUGH NEW TAX MEASURES.

AND MOST OF ALL, WE SHALL NO LONGER TOLERATE MINING INVESTORS WHO RUSH TO COURTS EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE COMPLETELY RUINED OUR MINING RESOURCE. TIME HAS COME TO DECIDE OUR OWN DESTINY. WE SHALL CERTAINLY WORK WITH INVESTORS THAT HAVE EXHIBITED GOODWILL AND THEY ARE THERE. WE SHALL CONTINUE LOOKING AT THE MINING TAX REGIME WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IT EQUITABLE.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

IN MANUFACTURING, GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH TRADE FACILITIES AT SOME OF OUR BORDERS TO PROMOTE CROSS-BORDER TRADE. TO INCREASE ACCESS TO EXPORT MARKETS, MY GOVERNMENT WILL AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACTIVITIES.

INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE AFRICA CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA AND THE TRIPARTITE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, PROVIDE US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS A MUCH WIDER MARKET.

THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF WE PRODUCE MORE GOODS AND ARE COMPETITIVE IN LINE WITH OUR NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY. THE CONSUMPTION OF LOCALLY PRODUCED PRODUCTS SHALL BE PRIORITISED UNDER THE BUY-ZAMBIA CAMPAIGN.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE TOURISM SECTOR HAS GREATER POTENTIAL TO GENERATE TAX REVENUE, EARN SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND CREATE EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE, THAN WHAT THE SECTOR IS CURRENTLY OFFERING.

IN THIS REGARD, THE TOURISM MASTER PLAN HAS BEEN UTILISED AS THE KEY INPUT DOCUMENT FOR THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME.

KEY INTERVENTIONS INCLUDE ENHANCING THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO MARKET TOURISM IN THE COUNTRY; STRENGTHENING THE BRAND PROPOSITION AND SLOGAN FOR ZAMBIA TO INCREASE THE COUNTRY'S VISIBILITY AS A TOURISM DESTINATION OF CHOICE; INTRODUCING LEGISLATION THAT WILL COMPEL THE INTRODUCTION OF CONCESSIONAL RATES FOR TOURISM ACTIVITIES OR PACKAGES FOR ZAMBIANS BY THE YEAR 2022.

FURTHER, MY GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED A NUMBER OF TAX INCENTIVES FOR THE SECTOR IN THE 2021 NATIONAL BUDGET AND THESE INCENTIVES WILL ENHANCE THE PRODUCT OFFERING IN THE TOURISM SECTOR.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE ECONOMY HAS HAD AN UNEQUAL IMPACT ON THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY. IN THIS REGARD, THE PROTECTION OF OUR POOR AND VULNERABLE GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY IS PARAMOUNT.

AS SUCH, WE WILL RUMP UP SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES THROUGHOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD OF THIS PROGRAMME.

THE FLAGSHIP SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTING JUST OVER 630,000 BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY BUT THIS WILL BE EXPANDED TO COVER CLOSE TO ONE MILLION (1, 000, 000) HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MEDIUM-TERM. IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT WILL IMPLEMENT THE CASH PLUS APPROACH THAT COMPLEMENTS CASH SUPPORT WITH IN-KIND SUPPORT.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

MY GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT WE DELIVER THROUGH THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME AS THIS IS THE MORE SUSTAINABLE WAY OF MOVING OUR PEOPLE OUT OF VULNERABILITY.

IN ORDER FOR THE POLICY MEASURES OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME TO SUCCEED, THERE IS NEED FOR THE COUNTRY TO UNDERTAKE KEY STRUCTURAL AND LEGAL REFORMS. THESE INCLUDE:

1. THE COMPREHENSIVE REFORM OF THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND MAKE IT MORE COST EFFECTIVE TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE BENEFICIARIES;
2. APPRAISAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS THROUGH THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT BOARD BEFORE INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL BUDGET IN ORDER TO IMPROVE VALUE FOR MONEY AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT;

3. DEBT MANAGEMENT REFORMS TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY IN DEBT MANAGEMENT AND INCREASE PARLIAMENT'S OVERSIGHT IN BORROWING ACTIVITIES;
4. FUEL PROCUREMENT REFORMS TO ENSURE THAT FUEL PRICING REMAINS COST REFLECTIVE AND PREVENT FURTHER ACCUMULATION OF FUEL ARREARS.
5. ELECTRICITY SUB-SECTOR REFORMS TO COMPREHENSIVELY REVIEW ALL THE PROCESSES IN ZESCO AND THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING EFFICIENCY;
6. ENHANCING THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND PERFORMANCE OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN ORDER TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY.
7. REDUCING ON HUMAN CONTACT AND INCREASING TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY, SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE IN COLLECTION OF NON-TAX REVENUES BY UTILISING ICT SOLUTIONS UNDER GOVERNMENT SERVICE BUS.

THESE REFORMS ARE MEANT TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ECONOMY, IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY AND LESSEN RECOURSE TO THE NATIONAL BUDGET.



## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE ARE DAUNTING BUT NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. THEY INCLUDE STAGNATION IN GROWTH AND JOB CREATION, INCREASING CALL ON RESOURCES FOR DEBT SERVICE, AND THE NEED TO SCALE-UP SOCIAL SAFETY NETS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND LOWER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

WE HAVE DONE A LOT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OUR TENURE OF OFFICE AS PF. WE HAVE BUILT MANY HOSPITALS AND WE ARE STILL COUNTING; WE HAVE BUILT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND UPGRADED OTHERS.

WE HAVE BUILT HOUSES FOR OUR POLICE, AND SOLDIERS. AND MOST OF ALL, WE HAVE BUILT AND RESURFACED OUR ROADS, REDUCING ON THE COST OF TRAVEL, DISTANCE OF TRAVEL, AND MADE OUR TOWNS AND CITIES ATTRACTIVE. WE HAVE DONE THIS AT GREAT COST TO THE COUNTRY. BUT I THINK IT IS WORTH IT AND OUR PEOPLE CAN ATTEST TO THAT.

BUT NOW OUR FOCUS IS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE MORE INCOME TO FEED THEIR CHILDREN, TAKE THEM TO SCHOOL AND ALSO HAVE A LIFE OF DIGNITY.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I AM CONVINCED THAT USING THIS PROGRAMME AS A BLUE-PRINT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC HEADWINDS AND CHALLENGES THAT HAVE BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

TO THIS EFFECT, MY GOVERNMENT, WITH SUPPORT FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS ALL PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYERS, OUR FARMERS, AND THE ORDINARY MAN AND WOMAN THROUGHOUT ZAMBIA, INTENDS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON POVERTY AND THE LIVELIHOODS OF OUR PEOPLE.

THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME WILL, IN TURN, RESULT IN OTHER KEY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES SUCH AS IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING AND INCREASED EMPLOYMENT LEVELS. IF WELL AND FULLY IMPLEMENTED, THE PROGRAMME WILL BRING ABOUT INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND, IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SEVENTH-NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

TO REALISE OUR DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES, THERE IS NEED FOR DEDICATION, INNOVATION, ENDURANCE AND RESILIENCE BY OUR PEOPLE. FURTHER, THERE IS NEED TO REINFORCE COLLABORATIONS AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

PREMISED ON THIS, THE PROGRAMME, I AM LAUNCHING TODAY, HAS ADOPTED AN INTEGRATED MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH THROUGH PROMOTION OF INTER AND INTRA SECTORAL SYNERGIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

MY GOVERNMENT, THROUGH SMART ZAMBIA INSTITUTE, HAS LEVERAGED INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO MODERNISE AND SIMPLIFY GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE AND TIMELY BASED SERVICE DELIVERY AND REVENUE COLLECTION.

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A MINDSET CHANGE TO ENSURE THE UTILISATION OF THESE ICTS TO ENHANCE THE DELIVERY OF INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMMES THAT WILL SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

I, THEREFORE, DIRECT SMART ZAMBIA TO ENSURE ENHANCED ELECTRONIC PUBLIC SERVICE PROVISION TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE WHOLE ECONOMY.

WE MUST TURN THE TIDE BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER INCOME COLLECTION, EMPLOYMENT, INVESTMENT, TRADE AND CREATION OF INNOVATION HUBS WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO BE DOTTED IN 24 LOCATIONS THAT HOUSE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

LET ME CONCLUDE BY IMPLORING ALL OUR PEOPLE, THE YOUNG AND THE OLD, TO RISE TO THE OCCASION AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ECONOMIC RECOVER PROGRAMME. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT FOR THE PF ALONE, BUT FOR ALL ZAMBIANS. IF WE FAIL, IT IS NOT ONLY THE PF THAT WOULD HAVE FAILED, BUT THE ENTIRE NATION. SO LET US PULL TOGETHER.

I WISH TO ASSURE THE NATION THAT THE TEMPORARY SETBACKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ECONOMY WILL BE RESOLVED AND THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME IS AN INSTRUMENT WITH QUICK WINS TO PUSH THE ECONOMY ON THE GROWTH TRAJECTORY

WE NEED TO ENSURE RESOURCES GO TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH PROGRAMMES LIKE DECENTRALISATION; WE NEED TO ACT QUICKLY TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH JOB CREATION AND NOT HANDOUTS;

WE MUST REVIEW THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME SO THAT IT IS NOT ABUSED; AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT LOADSHEDDING REMAINS IN 2020 TO SAVE OUR BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY SMALL SCALE BUSINESSES.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO LAUNCH THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME, 2020-2023. MAY THE GOOD LORD ALMIGHTY GUIDE US ALL AS WE IMPLEMENT THIS NOBLE PROGRAMME, FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLE.

**I THANK YOU ALL AND MAY GOD BLESS ZAMBIA.**