



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,
AT THE 92ND ZAMBIA AGRICULTURAL AND
COMMERCIAL SHOW
LUSAKA

4TH AUGUST, 2018

- **CHAIRPERSON, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCIAL SHOW SOCIETY;**
- **CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCES MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS;**
- **YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LUSAKA;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I WISH TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS IMPORTANT EVENT WHICH MARKS THE 92ND ZAMBIA AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SHOW.

FIRSTLY, LET ME EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCIAL SHOW SOCIETY FOR MAKING THIS YEAR'S SHOW POSSIBLE. I ALSO WISH TO THANK THE EXHIBITORS AND SHOW GOERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT WITHOUT WHICH THE SHOW WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

CHAIRPERSON:

THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S SHOW IS **"SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT."** THIS THEME IS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S ASPIRATIONS ESPOUSED IN THE SECOND NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY (SNAP) TO HAVE **"AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH ASSURES FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INCOMES."**

THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR ALL ZAMBIANS THROUGH DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IS OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVE.

GOVERNMENT IS FOCUSED ON ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION BY INVESTING IN GROWTH SECTORS WHICH WILL IMPACT POSITIVELY ON THE LIVES OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE.

**CHAIRPERSON;
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

OUR EMPHASIS IN AGRICULTURE IS INCREASING PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY IN ALL SECTORS. THERE IS NEED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF A WIDE RANGE OF CROPS, LIVESTOCK AND FISH IN THE SPIRIT OF DIVERSIFICATION.

CROPS, FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK SUB-SECTORS ARE AMONG THE STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS IN OUR QUEST TO ATTAINING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN LINE WITH THIS YEAR'S AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SHOW THEME.

THESE SUB-SECTORS HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SPUR THE MUCH NEEDED ECONOMIC GROWTH. WHEN FULLY HARNESSSED, THE THREE SUB-SECTORS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO REDUCE POVERTY, ENHANCE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, CREATE EMPLOYMENT AND WEALTH FOR MANY OF OUR PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN RURAL AREAS.

CHAIRPERSON:

VALUE ADDITION IN THE HIGHLIGHTED SUB-SECTORS, CANNOT BE OVER EMPHASISED. I, THEREFORE, CALL UPON THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN AGRO-PROCESSING TO ADD VALUE TO OUR RAW AGRO-PRODUCTS. THIS WILL GUARANTEE JOB CREATION AND ZAMBIA IS POISED TO BECOME COMPETITIVE IN THE REGION AND BEYOND.

LET ME NOW TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE OUR FARMERS FOR THE HARD WORK DURING THE **2017/2018** AGRICULTURAL SEASON.

THIS IS DESPITE THE EFFECTS OF THE PRO-LONGED DRY SPELLS WHICH AFFECTED MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN JANUARY 2018.

IN THE SAME VEIN, I WISH TO REMIND ALL OUR FARMERS, PARTICULARLY THE SMALL-SCALE FARMERS, TO BE MINDFUL OF SECURING THEIR PRODUCE FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION AS THEY CONDUCT THEIR MARKETING.

AS YOU SELL, MY ADVICE TO YOU IS THAT, YOU SHOULD NEGOTIATE FOR BETTER PRICES TO COVER YOUR PRODUCTION COSTS AND REALISE A GOOD PROFIT. IN DOING SO, YOU WILL GET MAXIMUM BENEFITS FROM YOUR FARMING ENTERPRISES.

ON COMMERCE AND TRADE, MY GOVERNMENT VALUES THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING EFFICIENT WAYS AND PROMOTING INITIATIVES AIMED AT ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

THIS IS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTING DIVERSIFICATION.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR COUNTRY WILL BE ANCHORED ON EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENT UTILISATION OF OUR ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT “**COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION**” HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED AS ONE OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN THE SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN **2017–2021**.

CHAIRPERSON:

THE THEME IS IDEAL IN STIMULATING APPROPRIATE POLICY INTERVENTIONS IN COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY. IN THIS REGARD, I URGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ADOPT NEW BUT COST EFFICIENT WAYS OF ADDING VALUE TO OUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES.

THIS APPROACH WILL ENSURE ZAMBIA REMAINS COMPETITIVE AND GAIN INCREASED MARKET SHARE IN THE DOMESTIC, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

I NOTE THAT DESPITE THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THEIR STEADY GROWTH IS BEING HINDERED BY NUMEROUS CHALLENGES.

THE CHALLENGES INCLUDE HIGH COST OF FINANCE, INADEQUATE MARKETING SKILLS, APPLICATION OF INAPPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES, AND INADEQUATE BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS.

ALL THESE ADVERSELY AFFECT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AS NEW AND OLD COMPANIES FAIL TO COMPETE FAVOURABLY IN A DYNAMIC MARKET ENVIRONMENT.

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND ENSURE INCLUSIVE GROWTH WITHOUT LEAVING ANY COMPANY BEHIND, MY GOVERNMENT THROUGH RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS IS UNDERTAKING THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES:

- 1)** DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AIMED AT SUPPORTING MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) TO BUILD CAPACITY AND ADDRESS SUPPLY-SIDE CONSTRAINTS. DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF MSMES IS CRITICAL TO CONTRIBUTING TO JOB AND WEALTH CREATION, GROWTH OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND POSITIVE BALANCE OF TRADE INCLUDING GENERAL MACRO ECONOMIC STABILITY;

- 2)** RAPID TRANSFORMATION OF CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENTS BY WIDENING THE SCOPE FROM AGRO-BASED TO BROADER SECTORAL AND BUSINESS APPROACHES.
THEREFORE, GOVERNMENT LINE MINISTRIES ARE CALLED UPON TO WORK CLOSELY WITH REGISTERED COOPERATIVES TO LEVERAGE SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN TRADE;
- 3)** GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING FINANCING AT AFFORDABLE INTEREST RATES THROUGH AN ESTABLISHED CREDIT FACILITY AT CITIZENS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION (CEEC). THIS CREDIT FACILITY IS ACCESSIBLE TO ZAMBIAN MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES;
- 4)** CITIZENS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAMME AIMED AT SETTING UP INDUSTRIAL YARDS IN THE TEN (10) PROVINCES OF ZAMBIA IN ORDER TO ENSURE A STRONG INDUSTRIAL BASE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH;

- 5) THE ENACTMENT OF THE MOVABLE PROPERTY (SECURITY INTEREST) ACT, NO. 6 OF 2016 WHICH SEEKS TO PROMOTE MOVABLE PROPERTY BASED LENDING AND ULTIMATELY INCREASING ACCESS TO CREDIT BY MICRO AND SMALL SCALE BUSINESSES, IN PARTICULAR; AND

- 6) THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY IS IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION STRATEGY, NATIONAL LOCAL CONTENT STRATEGY AND NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY. THE OBJECTIVES OF THESE STRATEGIES ARE TO LEVERAGE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR BUSINESS GROWTH AND SUPPORT RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF INDUSTRIALISATION.

CHAIRPERSON:

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO REASSURE THAT GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE PROVIDING A CONDUCTIVE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS ENTITIES TO GROW AND BUILD CAPACITY TO TRADE.

AS GOVERNMENT, WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT MEASURES AIMED AT INCREASING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CREDIT FACILITIES, INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST, I WISH TO REITERATE MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO EXHIBITORS, BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL, SHOW-GOERS AND ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR COMING TO EXHIBIT AND SHOW CASE VARIOUS PRODUCTS AS WELL AS FOR ATTENDING THE SHOW.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.