



Republic of Zambia

**SPEECH BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,  
AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE CHINA  
NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIAL – ZAMBIA PLANT**

**ON THURSDAY, 26TH JULY, 2018**

**STATE HOUSE**

- **HONOURABLE MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS;**
- **MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF CHINA NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIAL-ZAMBIA PLANT;**
- **SENIOR CHIEFTAINESS NKOMESHYA MUKAMAMBO II;**
- **YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF KAFUE;**
- **YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF CHONGWE;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO ME TO COMMISSION THE CHINA NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIAL-ZAMBIA PLANT WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE RICH RESOURCES OF LIMESTONE HERE IN MPANDE AREA.

CHINA NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS GROUP IN RESPONSE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY "THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE," RESOLVED TO BUILD A NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIAL PLANT HERE IN ZAMBIA.

THE GROUP HAS FIFTEEN (**15**) LISTED COMPANIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, WITH MPANDE LIMESTONE LIMITED WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED HERE IN ZAMBIA BEING THE FIRST IN AFRICA.

I WISH TO COMMEND CHINA NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIAL-ZAMBIA FOR ESTABLISHING THEIR FIRST PROJECT IN AFRICA, AND IN PARTICULAR, IN OUR COUNTRY.

WITH THIS PROJECT, THE COMPANY IS ESTIMATED TO INVEST OVER **500** MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS, TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN TWO PHASES.

THE FIRST PHASE, WHICH IS BEING COMMISSIONED HERE TODAY, HAS A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF ABOUT **200** MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS, AND CONSISTS OF A **ONE**-MILLION-TONNE-PER-YEAR CEMENT PRODUCTION LINE, A **60** MILLION PAN BRICKS PRODUCTION LINE, A **200,000** CUBIC METERS OF PRE-MIX CONCRETE PRODUCTION LINE, **700,000** TONNES OF AGGREGATE PRODUCTION LINE AND **280,000** MANUFACTURED SAND CAPACITY.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

THE SECOND PHASE IS EXPECTED TO SEE INVESTMENT INTO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CALCIUM SILICATE BOARD PRODUCTION LINES, WITH ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF **3** MILLION SQUARE METERS, OTHER CEMENT PRODUCTS AND HIGH-TECH BUILDING MATERIAL PRODUCTS. THE COMPANY ENVISAGES PRODUCING ENOUGH FOR THE EXPORT MARKET, AS A LONG TERM GOAL.

SO FAR, THE PROJECT HAS CREATED OVER **400** DIRECT JOBS AND ONCE FULLY OPERATIONAL A FURTHER **2,500** JOBS FOR ZAMBIANS WILL BE CREATED.

THIS PROJECT COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME THAN NOW WHEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED AND LAUNCHED THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIALISATION POLICY, THE LOCAL CONTENT STRATEGY AND THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROMOTIONAL STRATEGY. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO GUIDE ACCELERATED GROWTH OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN UTILISATION OF LOCAL RESOURCES.

FURTHER, THE STRATEGIES ARE DESIGNED TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR DRIVEN BY STRONG PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE DOMESTIC INNOVATION.

THE NATIONAL LOCAL CONTENT STRATEGY, IN PARTICULAR, IS AIMED AT PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH VALUE ADDITION BY INCREASED UTILISATION OF LOCALLY AVAILABLE GOODS AND SERVICES IN GROWTH SECTORS.

IN ADDITION, THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION STRATEGY IS AIMED AT MOBILISING AND ACCELERATING THE GROWTH OF ACTUALISED DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN GROWTH SECTORS ANNUALLY IN ORDER TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

OUR POLICY AS GOVERNMENT IS TO SUPPORT MANUFACTURING THROUGH INITIATIVES THAT ENCOURAGE SECONDARY PROCESSING OF RAW MATERIALS. ZAMBIA'S BROAD SPECTRUM OF NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS LIMESTONE AND CLAY PRESENTS EXCELLENT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CONSTRUCTION AND MINERAL PROCESSING.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT CHINA NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIAL-ZAMBIA PLANT IS CLEARLY SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT TO ACTUALISE THE POLICY TO ADD VALUE TO OUR ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES.

THIS IS THE KIND OF SUPPORT THAT GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR IN OUR EFFORT TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROVIDE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT RESULT IN JOB AND WEALTH CREATION; TRANSFER OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND ENHANCED EFFICIENCY THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT; SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED STANDARDS OF LIVING OF OUR PEOPLE.

I, THEREFORE, WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE COMPANIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PREVAILING CONDUCIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND VENTURE INTO VALUE ADDITION IN MANUFACTURING. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE ARE GOING TO CREATE WEALTH, EMPLOYMENT AND INCREASE OUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS AS A COUNTRY.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

AS I CONCLUDE, LET ME REITERATE MY GOVERNMENT'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING FACILITATING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN OUR ECONOMY IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INDUSTRIALISATION AGENDA.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH INDUSTRIALISATION AND VALUE ADDITION, WEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION WILL BE ASSURED FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH.

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE THE **“CHINA NATIONAL BUILDING MATERIAL-ZAMBIA, MPANDE LIMESTONE PLANT”** OFFICIALLY COMMISSIONED.

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