



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH
BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MR EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

AT THE LAUNCH OF THE KAFULAFUTA WATER SUPPLY
SYSTEM PROJECT

IN MASAITI DISTRICT, COPPERBELT PROVINCE

ON FRIDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2018

- **MEMBERS OF THE PF CENTRAL COMMITTEE;**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WATER DEVELOPMENT, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR DENNIS WANCHINGA;**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTER OF COPPEBELT PROVINCE, MR JAPHEN MWAKALOMBE;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR LI JIE, AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO ZAMBIA;**
- **THE CONSUL GENERAL – DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS SENIOR CHIEF MUSHILI;**
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEFTAINNESS MALEMBEKA;**
- **THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, KAFUBU WATER AND SEWERAGE;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

IT IS INDEED A JOYOUS MOMENT TO GRACE THIS OCCASION MARKING ANOTHER HISTORICAL MOMENT FOR OUR COUNTRY ZAMBIA, AS WE WITNESS THE LAUNCH OF YET ANOTHER MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, THE KAFULAFUTA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM PROJECT IN THE COPPERBELT PROVINCE.

IT IS DISHEARTENING TO SEE HOW OUR PEOPLE MOSTLY WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY TREK LONG DISTANCES IN SEARCH OF WATER.

OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN RISE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING WITH THEIR CONTAINERS PERCHED ON THEIR HEADS TO SEARCH FOR THE COMMODITY IN DISTANT PLACES. WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THIS SCENARIO IS REVERSED BY BRINGING WATER TO OUR PEOPLE RIGHT AT THEIR DOORSTEPS.

THEREFORE, THIS PROJECT IS TIMELY AND IT AIMS TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY IN NDOLA AND THE SURROUNDING TOWNS OF LUANSHYA, MASAITI AND PART OF MPONGWE.

WATER REMAINS A KEY DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AS IT PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN OUR COUNTRY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

YOU WILL ALSO AGREE WITH ME THAT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IS CENTRAL TO SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND POVERTY REDUCTION. THEREFORE, OUR COMMITMENT TO THE WATER SECTOR IS PARAMOUNT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO ACCELERATING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN AND SAFE WATER, AS WELL AS ACCESS TO SANITATION IN THE VISION **2030** BY TARGETING **100** PER CENT ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION.

THE KAFULAFUTA PROJECT WHICH WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY INTERVENTIONS WHICH MY GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON IN ADDRESSING THE WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGE IN OUR COUNTRY. THE ENTIRE PROJECT WILL COST A TOTAL OF **US\$449** MILLION AND WHOLLY FINANCED BY OUR GOVERNMENT.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROJECT?

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROJECT CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASISED.

THIS PROJECT WILL RESULT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF RAW WATER FOR TREATMENT AND USE IN NDOLA, LUANSHYA AND MASAITI. THE PROJECT WILL ALSO RESULT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER COLLECTION INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION PIPELINE SYSTEM.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THIS PROJECT ONCE COMPLETED IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE **125** MILLION CUBIC METERS OF WATER WHICH WILL RESULT IN INCREASED SUPPLY HOURS TO BENEFICIARIES.

FROM THIS PROJECT, NUMEROUS JOBS WILL BE DIRECTLY CREATED FOR OUR PEOPLE DURING CONSTRUCTION. IN ADDITION, MORE JOBS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CREATED POST CONSTRUCTION IN OTHER INDUSTRIES WHICH WILL BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED WATER SUPPLY.

OTHER BENEFITS TO BE ACCRUED FROM THIS PROJECT INCLUDE IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INCREASED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES THROUGH THE **20** PERCENT POLICY. WHAT THIS ENTAILS IS THAT THERE WILL BE AN INJECTION OF **US\$ 61** MILLION INTO OUR ECONOMY.

ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER AND ADEQUATE SANITATION IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FULFILMENT OF BASIC NEEDS. THIS CONTRIBUTES TO ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ON ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL BY **2030**.

MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE WATER SECTOR, AS WE NOW FOCUS ON ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS. THIS WILL ENSURE **100** PERCENT ACCESS TO BOTH WATER AND SANITATION FOR OUR PEOPLE.

LET ME ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OCCASION TO SPEAK TO THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WHICH HAS BECOME A REALITY, AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN SPARED FROM ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS.

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS CONTINUED TO THREATEN THE WATER SECTOR, AS EVIDENCED BY THE LOW WATER LEVELS IN OUR WATER BODIES CAUSING LOW WATER SUPPLY.

HOW HAS THE PF GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO THIS CHALLENGE?

THIS SCENARIO HAS PROMPTED THE PF GOVERNMENT TO EMBARK ON AN AGGRESSIVE PROGRAMME AIMED AT IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY. THIS IS BEING DONE THROUGH THE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, SUCH AS DAMS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE PROJECT WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT FROM THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINA NATIONAL ENGINEERING CORPORATION.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR THIS GESTURE.

IN THE SAME VEIN, LET ME ALSO EXTEND OUR THANKS TO OTHER CO-OPERATING PARTNERS SUPPORTING VARIOUS WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECTS IN THE COUNTRY.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WITH SUCH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS AND OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS, WE WILL ACHIEVE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE THIS PROJECT OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED.

I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

