



SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
AND
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE
DURING THE SPECIALIST OFFICER CADETS INTAKE
08 OF 2019 COMMISSION PARADE
IN KOHIMA BARRACKS, KABWE
ON FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **HONOURABLE MINISTERS;**
- **THE ARMY COMMANDER;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

FROM THE OUTSET, I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE ON THE INVITATION TO GRACE THIS COMMISSIONING PARADE FOR SPECIALIST OFFICER CADETS INTAKE **08** OF **2019**. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED TO ME AND MY ENTOURAGE.

ARMY COMMANDER:

IT IS GRATIFYING THAT THE TRAINING WHICH THE OFFICER CADETS UNDERWENT, COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, ALL AIMED AT MOULDING THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTO PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY ARE NOW CAPABLE OF LEADING AND ADMINISTERING TROOPS IN BOTH PEACE AND WAR TIMES.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO PAY GLOWING TRIBUTE TO ALL THE STAFF AT THE MILITARY TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

LET ME NOW ADDRESS YOU SPECIALIST OFFICER CADETS ON PARADE. THIS CAREER YOU HAVE JOINED DEMANDS A LOT OF DISCIPLINE, DEDICATION TO DUTY, RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO DEMANDING SITUATIONS AND, ABOVE ALL, RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW.

THE BASIC MILITARY TRAINING YOU UNDERWENT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF YOUR MILITARY CAREER. THUS, YOU HAVE A HUGE TASK AHEAD OF YOU.

PROFESSIONALISM SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN YOUR EXECUTION OF LEADERSHIP ROLES. SIMILARLY, YOUR PERSEVERANCE, FOCUS AND RESILIENCE DURING TRAINING SHOULD EQUALLY BE A BEACON AND AN INSPIRATION THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER.

THIS WILL ENABLE YOU TO SERVE DILIGENTLY, WITH INTEGRITY AND SELF SACRIFICE. I URGE YOU TO PUT TO GOOD USE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE ACQUIRED THROUGHOUT YOUR TRAINING.

AS SPECIALISTS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE FIELDS, I CHALLENGE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEFENCE FORCE.

AS JUNIOR LEADERS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROACTIVE WHEN CARRYING OUT YOUR DUTIES AS TRAINED MILITARY PERSONNEL TO MEET SOCIETY'S SECURITY DEMANDS.

I AM CERTAIN THAT THE TRAINING YOU HAVE ACQUIRED HAS EQUALLY EMPOWERED YOU WITH A SIXTH SENSE TO ASSIST YOU IN MAKING SOUND INFERENCES AND WORKABLE SOLUTIONS.

AS MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCE, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, DEMANDS YOU TO BE NATIONALISTIC, PATRIOTIC, PROFESSIONAL, DISCIPLINED, COMPETENT AND NON-PARTISAN.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE, BUT YOU CANNOT BE PARTISAN. THIS ENTAILS THAT YOU WILL REMAIN LOYAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY.

YOU WILL NOT HAVE ANY INCLINATION TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY, PRESSURE GROUPS AND MEMBERS WITH NEGATIVE PUBLIC OPINIONS. THEREFORE, IF ANYONE OF YOU IS FOUND WANTING IN THIS AREA, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PART COMPANY WITH THE DEFENCE FORCE.

THE CAREER WHICH YOU HAVE JOINED IS ONE THAT REQUIRES YOU TO TRAIN REGULARLY TO ENHANCE YOUR MILITARY AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS.

IN THIS REGARD, THE TRAINING AND OPERATIONS MAY REQUIRE YOU TO BE OUT OF YOUR STATIONS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. AS SUCH, THIS WILL REQUIRE YOU TO BE HIGHLY DISCIPLINED IN THE WAKE OF THE HIV AND AIDS PANDEMIC.

**ARMY COMMANDER:
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

I NOW WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE EXEMPLARY CONDUCT THAT THE ZAMBIA ARMY HAVE DISPLAYED IN TIMES OF THE COUNTRY'S DISASTERS. IN THIS RESPECT, I WISH TO EXPRESS GOVERNMENT'S SATISFACTION AT YOUR QUICK RESPONSE IN TIMES OF DISASTERS.

RECENT EXAMPLES BEING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WASHED AWAY BRIDGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY DURING THIS RAIN SEASON, AND THE MODERNISATION OF SELECTED MARKETS.

THIS INDEED IS, HOW YOU OUGHT TO WORK AS MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE READY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION AT LARGE.

FURTHER, I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT FOLLOWING THE TRANSFORMATION OF MILTEZ INTO ZAMBIA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY (ZDU), THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IS WORKING HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE UNIVERSITY BECOMES OPERATIONAL.

GOING FORWARD, I URGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO EXPEDITE THIS PROCESS AND WORK WITHIN THE GIVEN TIME FRAME WITHOUT FURTHER DELAYS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ONCE AGAIN, LET ME COMMEND THE ARMY COMMANDER, THE COMMANDANT MILTEZ AND HIS INSTRUCTORS, FOR ENSURING THE SUCCESSFUL TRAINING OF SPECIALIST OFFICER CADETS ALBEIT A FEW LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES.

GOVERNMENT WILL ALWAYS ENDEAVOUR TO FOSTER TRAINING AND ENSURE THAT HIGH STANDARDS IN THE DEFENCE FORCE ARE UPHELD.

IT IS NOW MY RARE HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE, AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE, TO BESTOW UPON YOU, THE SPECIALIST CADETS, THE APPROPRIATE OFFICERS' RANKS IN THE ZAMBIA ARMY.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL,

I THANK YOU.