



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

SPEECH BY

**MR. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**AT THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE KAZUNGULA WATER
SUPPLY AND BASIC SANITATION PROJECT**

HELD IN KAZUNGULA DISTRICT, SOUTHERN PROVINCE

ON MONDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2025

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CABINET OFFICE
LUSAKA

JUNE, 2025

- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES CHIEF SEKUTE, CHIEF MUKUNI,
CHIEF MUSOKOTWANE, CHIEF MOOMBA AND CHIEF NYAWA;**

- **MINISTER OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION, HON. COLLINS NZOVU, MP;**
- **MINISTER OF SOUTHERN PROVINCE, HON. CREDO NANJUWA, MP;**
- **OTHER CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;**
- **KATOMBOLA MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, HON. DR. CLEMENT ANDELEKI, MP AND OTHER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL JOINT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE;**
- **PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION, ENG. ROMAS KAMANGA;**
- **PERMANENT SECRETARY, SOUTHERN PROVINCE, DR. NAMANI MONZE;**
- **OTHER PERMANENT SECRETARIES PRESENT;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA, HER EXCELLENCY, MS. ANNE WAGNER-MITCHELL;**
- **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SADC SECRETARIAT;**
- **HEAD OF THE SADC WATER FUND;**
- **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KFW DEVELOPMENT BANK, DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DBSA) AND OTHER COOPERATING PARTNERS;**
- **DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS PRESENT;**
- **HER WORSHIP, THE MAYOR OF LIVINGSTONE AND COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS PRESENT;**

- **OFFICIALS FROM STATUTORY INSTITUTIONS;**
- **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTHERN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COMPANY;**
- **THE CONTRACTOR-UNIK CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING;**
- **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO OFFICIALLY COMMISSION THE **KAZUNGULA WATER SUPPLY AND BASIC SANITATION PROJECT**. THIS IS A TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE THAT REPRESENTS YET ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN OUR NATIONAL JOURNEY TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN, SAFE WATER AND ADEQUATE SANITATION FOR ALL ZAMBIANS.

KAZUNGULA DISTRICT HOLDS A UNIQUE AND STRATEGIC POSITION NOT ONLY FOR ZAMBIA, BUT FOR THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION. SITUATED AT THE CONFLUENCE OF ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, AND ZIMBABWE, KAZUNGULA SERVES AS A VITAL GATEWAY FOR TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION UNDER THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC).

THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE KAZUNGULA BRIDGE AND THE ONE-STOP BORDER POST HAS ALREADY STRENGTHENED THIS ROLE.

TODAY, WE BUILD UPON THAT FOUNDATION BY SECURING THE HEALTH AND DIGNITY OF KAZUNGULA RESIDENTS THROUGH THE DELIVERY OF RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE.

THIS PROJECT, VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY **EURO 11.9 MILLION**, IS A TESTAMENT TO WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE THROUGH STRONG AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS. IT HAS BEEN CO-FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DBSA), AND KFW, THROUGH THE SADC WATER FUND.

TO OUR PARTNERS, I EXTEND OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION. YOUR SUPPORT UNDERSCORES THE POWER OF SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING SHARED DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THIS INITIATIVE IS TO ENHANCE THE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SYSTEMS IN KAZUNGULA, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE DISTRICT'S GROWING POPULATION, PROJECTED TO INCREASE FROM 5,500 IN 2015, TO APPROXIMATELY 22,000 BY THE YEAR 2040. TODAY, THAT POPULATION STANDS AT AROUND 13,000 RESIDENTS.

WE ARE PROUD TO COMMISSION **PHASE I** OF THIS PROJECT, WHICH DELIVERS SAFE, PIPED WATER TO RESIDENTS, HALF OF WHOM LIVE IN LOW-INCOME OR PERI-URBAN AREAS. THIS INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED TO BE **CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND FUTURE-READY**.

AMONG THE KEY INNOVATIONS INTEGRATED INTO THE PROJECT ARE:

1. A **SOLAR POWER GENERATION SYSTEM** WITH A 200KW CAPACITY, COMPLEMENTED BY A **5KVA POWER STATION**.
2. A **NET METERING SYSTEM**, ENABLING SOUTHERN WATER AND SANITATION COMPANY (SWSC) TO FEED SURPLUS SOLAR POWER INTO THE NATIONAL GRID, THUS REDUCING OPERATIONAL ENERGY COSTS.
3. A **LOW-LEVEL RIVER ABSTRACTION SYSTEM** THAT ENSURES CONSISTENT WATER SUPPLY EVEN DURING PERIODS OF LOW RIVER FLOW.

THIS PROJECT IS A CLEAR REFLECTION OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY, COST EFFICIENCY, AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT. ALREADY, THE IMPROVEMENTS ARE TANGIBLE — RESIDENTS WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD ACCESS TO WATER FOR ONLY FOUR HOURS A DAY, NOW ENJOY A 24-HOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPLY.

THIS PROGRESS ALIGNS DIRECTLY WITH ZAMBIA'S VISION 2030 AND WITH **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL NO. 6**, WHICH SEEKS TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

UNDER THE NEW DAWN ADMINISTRATION, WE HAVE PLACED **WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)** SERVICES AT THE HEART OF OUR DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. THESE SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND DIGNITY, BUT ALSO FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION.

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THROUGH KFW, FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DBSA) AND THE SADC WATER FUND, FOR FACILITATING AND MANAGING THE FUNDING MECHANISM THAT MADE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.

TO THE SOUTHERN WATER AND SANITATION COMPANY, THE RESPONSIBILITY NOW LIES WITH YOU TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THIS INFRASTRUCTURE EFFECTIVELY. WITH SOUND TECHNICAL CAPACITY, ROBUST FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, AND A SPIRIT OF SERVICE, THIS INFRASTRUCTURE CAN CONTINUE TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF KAZUNGULA FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

TO THE RESIDENTS OF KAZUNGULA, THIS IS YOUR PROJECT. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF IT, PROTECT IT, AND ENSURE ITS SUSTAINABILITY. IT REPRESENTS NOT ONLY IMPROVED ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER, BUT ALSO YOUR GROWING CONTRIBUTION TO ZAMBIA'S DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION INTO THE WIDER REGIONAL ECONOMY.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

LET THIS PROJECT SERVE AS A MODEL FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT, PEOPLE-CENTRED INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ADDRESSES THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES WHILE PREPARING US FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

THIS COMMISSIONING DOES NOT MARK THE END — IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER. A CHAPTER IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF KAZUNGULA WILL ENJOY BETTER HEALTH, ENHANCED LIVELIHOODS, AND GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY **COMMISSION THE KAZUNGULA WATER SUPPLY AND BASIC SANITATION PROJECT**, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF KAZUNGULA, THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE, AND OUR NATION AS A WHOLE.

GOD BLESS ZAMBIA.

GOD BLESS YOU.

I THANK YOU.