



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

SPEECH

BY THE

PROVINCIAL PERMANENT SECRETARY, MR. PAUL THOLE

**DELIVERED DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ADAPTATION PROGRAMME**

**AT EMPHENDUKENI PALACE
ON SATURDAY, 4TH APRIL 2026**

CHIPATA, EASTERN PROVINCE

SALUTATIONS

- **THE ROYAL HIGHNESS PARAMOUNT CHIEF MPEZENI**
- **ALL THE ROYAL HIGHNESSES CHIEF MADZIMAWE**
- **THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER-MS. ELIDAH MWANZA**
- **THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHIPATA, HIS WORSHIP, MR. GEORGE MWANZA**
- **THE PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, EASTERN PROVINCE JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PROGRAM**
- **OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**
- **THE Ngoni ROYAL ESTABLISHMENT REPRESENTATIVE**
- **DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF COOPERATING PARTNERS**
- **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**
- **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
- **DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS**

1. I AM GREATLY HONOURED TO JOIN YOU TODAY AND TO OFFICIATE AT THIS IMPORTANT LAUNCH OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION PROGRAMME.
2. ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO YOU, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, NKOSI YAMAKHOSI PARAMOUNT CHIEF MPEZENI, FOR WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION PROGRAMME, WHICH WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY.
3. **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES**, I HAVE LEARNT THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS LAUNCH IS TO EMPOWER LEADERS AND ENABLE YOU, OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS, TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER SO THAT WE CAN ALL TAKE A PROACTIVE ROLE IN ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

4. FURTHER, THE LAUNCH AIMS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN TAKING PROACTIVE ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.
5. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON MOBILISING HEADMEN AND HEADWOMEN TO CHAMPION AWARENESS AND ADAPTATION MEASURES WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

6. THIS EVENT IS OF GREAT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE AS IT RAISES AWARENESS OF UNSUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE SHOCKS AND EMPOWERS TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO TAKE A PROACTIVE ROLE IN ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES.
7. FUELWOOD CONSUMPTION LEVELS IN EASTERN PROVINCE CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION. THIS PLATFORM THEREFORE REMINDS US THAT WE NEED TO PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES THAT SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE WOOD FUEL UTILISATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

8. YOUR PRESENCE HERE DEMONSTRATES A SHARED COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION. I URGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE AND COLLABORATE AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES ACROSS THE PROVINCE.
9. TODAY'S LAUNCH IS THEREFORE CRITICAL IN RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF DEFORESTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, AND CLIMATE CHANGE, WHILE ALSO EMPOWERING TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO TAKE A PROACTIVE ROLE IN ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES.

10. AS GOVERNMENT, WE ARE PLEASED THAT TRADITIONAL LEADERS HAVE TAKEN AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME-EP-JSLP. WE WILL CONTINUE WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS, INCLUDING BIOCARBON PARTNERS-BCP AND COMMUNITY MARKETS FOR CONSERVATION-COMACO, WHO ARE KEY PRIVATE CARBON DEVELOPERS IN THE PROVINCE.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

11. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE WORLD BANK, IS IMPLEMENTING THE EASTERN PROVINCE JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME (EP-JSLP) IN EASTERN PROVINCE THAT IS AIMED AT REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS FROM FOREST, AGRICULTURE, AND OTHER LAND USES.

12. UNDER THIS PROGRAMME, WE ARE SUPPORTING KEY INTERVENTIONS SUCH AS CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT GROUPS, THE DISTRIBUTION OF IMPROVED AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES, AND PARTICIPATORY LANDUSE PLANNING AT THE CHIEFDOM LEVEL. THE PROGRAMME IS ALSO TARGETING TO GENERATE CARBON BENEFITS THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL THE 56 CHIEFDOMS BASED ON PERFORMANCE.

13. **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,** MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SINCERELY THANK ALL THE CHIEFS IN THE PROVINCES FOR SIGNING THE CHIEFDOM EMISSION REDUCTION PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS (CERPA) WITH THE EASTERN PROVINCE JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME (EP-JSLP). THE SIGNING OF THESE AGREEMENTS WILL FACILITATE THE EFFECTIVE

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CARBON BENEFITS THAT WILL ARISE FROM THE SALE OF THE CARBON CREDITS UNDER THE EP-JSLP.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

14. THE EASTERN PROVINCE JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME (EP-JSLP) IS STRATEGICALLY POSITIONED TO GENERATE AN ESTIMATED 28.9 MILLION TONNES OF CARBON CREDITS, WHICH WILL BE SOLD TO THE WORLD BANK AND OTHER GLOBAL BUYERS. ABOUT 55 PERCENT OF THE CARBON REVENUE WILL GO TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE 56 CHIEFDOMS IN EASTERN PROVINCE.
15. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY SECURED 30 MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS (**USD**) FROM THE WORLD BANK FOR THE PURCHASE OF 3 MILLION TONNES OF VERIFIED CARBON CREDITS UNDER THE EASTERN PROVINCE JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME (EP-JSLP).
16. LET ME ASSURE YOU, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, THAT ONCE THE CARBON VERIFICATION PROCESS IS CONCLUDED, THE MINISTRY WILL COMMUNICATE THE SHARING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CARBON BENEFITS BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF EACH CHIEFDOM. I ALSO WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU AS VALUED PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

17. AS I CONCLUDE, ALLOW ME TO REAFFIRM THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, TO ENSURING THAT COMMUNITIES RECEIVE FAIR AND

EQUITABLE BENEFITS FROM CARBON MARKETS. OUR GOAL IS TO BUILD A GREEN ECONOMY THAT DELIVERS TANGIBLE BENEFITS FOR RURAL HOUSEHOLDS WHILE STRENGTHENING ZAMBIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS.

18. THE MINISTRY OF GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT, WORKING WITH THE EASTERN PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION, WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE STRONG POLICY DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT TO SAFEGUARD OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROMOTE TRANSPARENT AND CREDIBLE CARBON TRADING ARRANGEMENTS.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

19. IT IS NOW MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION PROGRAMME IN EASTERN PROVINCE.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.