



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF GENDER**

SPEECH BY HON. ELIZABETH PHIRI, MP., MINISTER OF GENDER, DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 50/50 CAMPAIGN AT GOVERNMENT COMPLEX ON TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2020.

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF GENDER

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT PARTY MR. DAVIES MWILA

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LUSAKA

COUNCILLORS FROM CITIES REPRESENTED HERE

FORMER FIRST LADY, MRS. MAUREEN MWANAWASA

**SECRETARY GENERALS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES
REPRESENTED HERE**

**CHAIRPERSONS OF WOMEN AND YOUTH WINGS OF THE VARIOUS
POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED HERE**

THE SADC EXPERT MISSION

**REPRESENTATIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND OTHER
COMMISSIONS**

THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON OF THE GENDER LINKS ZAMBIA

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- WOMEN AND LAW IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA**

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NON-GOVERNMENTAL GENDER
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NATIONAL WOMEN WOMEN'S LOBBY
GROUP**

**EXECUTIVE AND COUNTRY DIRECTORS OF ALL CIVIL SOCIETY
BODIES REPRESENTED HERE**

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TODAY MARKS THE END OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE LAST TWO DAYS IN WHICH YOU ENGAGED EACH OTHER ON THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE THAT WE ATTAIN 50/50 REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AND DECISION MAKING.

AS INDICATED IN MY OPENING SPEECH, REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING IS VERY LOW DESPITE THE MEASURES THAT GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE TO POSITIVELY CHANGE THE SITUATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE EQUITABLE WITHOUT THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN, MEN, GIRLS AND BOYS. FEMALES IN ZAMBIA COMPRISE MORE THAN 51 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION.

DESPITE THIS, WOMEN AND GIRLS STILL LAG BEHIND THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND THEY CONTINUE TO FACE HIGH LEVELS OF POVERTY IN THE COUNTRY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES AIMED AT INCREASING WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN KEY DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS IN ZAMBIA TO ATTAIN GENDER BALANCE AND EQUALITY IN ALL SPHERES OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT, CHANGING THE GENDER SITUATION IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ZAMBIA MAY TAKE TIME OWING TO THE ENTRENCHED CULTURAL BELIEFS AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES THAT ARE DEEPLY ENTRENCHED AND DRIVEN BY MALE VALUES. GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, DESPITE THE RECENT TEMPORAL SET BACK OF THE FALLING OF BILL 10

THEREFORE, IT IS THE POSITION OF GOVERNMENT THAT MEASURES, BE STRENGTHENED TO REPOSITION AND ACCELERATE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN ALL SPHERES OF DEVELOPMENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TOGETHER WE HAVE REVIEWED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIZED THE WAY FORWARD THEREBY ENSURING THAT WE ATTAIN THE 50/50 WOMEN AND MEN'S PARTICIPATION IN KEY DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS AT ALL LEVELS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IAM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT TODAY IAM LAUNCHING THE 50/50 CAMPAIGN WELL AHEAD OF THE 2021 GENERAL ELECTIONS. I AM HAPPY BECAUSE VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS HAVE COME TOGETHER TO LOOK AT THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN POLITICS. I

CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY
DR EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU IS CONFIDENT OF DEALING WITH
ELECTORAL VICES SUCH AS VIOLENCE, HATE SPEECH,
INCLUDING CYBER BULLYING ESPECIALLY TO WOMEN.

I WANT TO ONCE AGAIN, URGE WOMAN IN ZAMBIA STAND AS A
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OR AS A COUNCILORS.

I WISH TO NOW DECLARE THE 50/50 CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.