

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

SPEECH BY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY; HONOURABLE
FACKSON SHAMENDA, MP,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE FREEDOM PARK MALL IN KITWE.

WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY, 2016

- YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU;
- HONOURABLE CABINET MINISTERS;
- MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT;
- DEPUTY MINISTERS;
- THE ADMINISTRATOR KITWE CITY COUNCIL;
- HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
- THE PERMANENT SECRETARIES;
- DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS;
- ALL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;
- THE NAPSA CARETAKER BOARD;
- THE NAPSA DIRECTOR GENERAL;
- CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS;
- REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LABOUR UNIONS;
- PATRIOTIC FRONT OFFICIALS;
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

THE GUEST OF HONOUR, SIR, ALLOW ME TO WELCOME YOU AND ALL THE INVITED GUESTS TO THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION AND THANK YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY, FOR FINDING TIME TO COME AND OFFICIATE AT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

THIS EVENT SIGNIFIES THE IMPORTANCE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES AIMED AT UPLIFTING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE NATIONAL PENSION SCHEME AUTHORITY, NAPSA IS A KEY PLAYER IN ZAMBIA'S ECONOMY AND SOCIAL SECURITY PROVISION. NAPSA'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO PRESERVE MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS AND ENSURE A REASONABLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT IS REALISED SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE SCHEME CAN RETIRE AND HAVE A REASONABLE STANDARD OF LIVING EVEN IN RETIREMENT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
I WISH TO REPORT THAT NAPSA RECENTLY REVISED ITS INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT GUIDELINES IN ORDER FOR THE AUTHORITY'S INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE ZAMBIAN ECONOMY.

THEREFORE, IT IS IN THIS REGARD THAT NAPSA HAS PURCHASED THE FREEDOM PARK MALL PROPERTY WHICH IT INTENDS TO DEVELOP INTO A MODERN RETAIL MALL. THE FREEDOM PARK MALL, WHICH HAD BEEN LYING IDLE FOR MANY YEARS, IS SURROUNDED BY ROADS ON ALL ITS BOUNDARIES WHICH MAKES IT HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
ALLOW ME TO STATE THAT THE DESIGN OF THIS SHOPPING MALL IS CONTEMPORARY IN ALL ASPECTS WITH BANKS, AN UNDERGROUND CAR PARK, ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE, A GYM, STATE OF THE ART CINEMA, RESTURANTS AND FAST FOOD OUTLETS AMONG OTHER FACILITIES.

THE MALL IS ALSO A REFLECTION OF THE DESIRES AND NEEDS OF THE MODERN DAY ZAMBIAN CONSUMER. YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT INVESTMENTS SUCH AS THE FREEDOM PARK MALL PROJECT ARE ONLY VIABLE IN A VIBRANT AND GROWING ECOMOMY LIKE ZAMBIA.

MAY I ALSO MENTION THAT THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM PARK IT IS EVIDENT THAT NAPSA IS SERVING AS A DEVELOPMENTAL VEHICLE FOR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE AND KITWE IN PARTICULAR THROUGH ITS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INFRASTRUCURE DEVELOPMENT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
THIS FREEDOM PARK MALL PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE WHEN CONSTRUCTION STARTS AND IT WILL BE THE THIRD MODERN SHOPPING CENTRE IN KITWE WHICH WILL BE COMPARABLE TO OTHER SIMILAR SIZED SHOPPING CENTRES ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

KITWE HAS BEEN REGARDED AS AN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL HUB OF THE COPPERBELT AND WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT, RESIDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE A SUPERIOR SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

AS I CONCLUDE, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY MINISTRY IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND SUPPORT TO NAPSA FOR THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT TO DELIVER ON THEIR MANDATE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NATION THROUGH SOCIAL SECURITY PROVISION AS THIS IS LINE WITH OUR GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE TO UPLIFT THE LIVES OF THE VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT NAPSA WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL ROLE OF INFLUENCING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY SUCH AS THE FREEDOM PARK MALL PROJECT WHICH WILL BENEFIT THE CITIZENS THROUGH EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND INTURN CONTRIBUTE TO UPLIFTING THEIR LIVING STANDARDS.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,
WITH THESE REMARKS, IT IS NOW MY RARE HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO INVITE YOU TO GIVE THE KEY NOTE SPEECH.

I THANK YOU