



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**SPEECH BY THE HON. STEPHEN KAMPYONGO, MP,  
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS,  
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ZAMBIA CHAPTER OF THE  
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRRP) FOR THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) SITUATION,  
23<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2018,  
INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL.**

THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT CO-ORDINATOR,  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,  
THE HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,  
REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES,  
EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS AND HIGH  
COMMISSIONERS,  
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,  
REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS,  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
GOOD MORNING,

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR TO STAND BEFORE YOU THIS  
MORNING AND SPEAK ABOUT THE SITUATION OF  
REFUGEES IN OUR COUNTRY AND LAUNCH THE COUNTRY

CHAPTER OF THE REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC).

AS YOU ARE AWARE, SINCE AUGUST, 2017, ZAMBIA HAS RECEIVED OVER TWENTY THOUSAND (20 000) REFUGEES FROM THE DRC, MOST OF WHOM ARRIVED IN NCHELENGE DISTRICT, LUAPULA PROVINCE. THIS TRANSLATES TO THE ARRIVAL OF AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (2,500) REFUGEES PER MONTH IN THE LAST EIGHT (08) MONTHS. OVER THE YEARS, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES ENTERING THE COUNTRY IN A TWELVE (12) MONTHS PERIOD HAS BEEN THREE THOUSAND (3,000).

IN TOTAL, ZAMBIA HOSTS OVER FORTY THOUSAND (40,000) CONGOLESE REFUGEES WHO ARE LIVING IN MAYUKWAYUKWA, MEHEBA AND THE NEW MANTAPALA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT. MANY MORE ARE SELF-SETTLED

ACROSS FIVE PROVINCES, INCLUDING URBAN AREAS SUCH AS LUSAKA AND NDOLA. IN AN EVENT THAT THE SITUATION IN DRC DOES NOT IMPROVE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN ZAMBIA WILL REACH SEVENTY- SIX THOUSAND (76 000) BY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2018.

IN VIEW OF THIS SCENARIO, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT FACILITIES IN THE RECEPTION CENTRES SET UP ALONG THE BORDER WITH THE DRC ARE ENADEQUATE TO CATER FOR AN INCREASE IN NEW ARRIVALS. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THE FACILITIES IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS AND SOCIAL AMENITIES IN REFUGEE HOSTING AREAS. WHILE CREATING NEW INFRASTRUCTURE IN MANTAPALA IS URGENT, THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS AND BASIC SERVICES IN MEHEBA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT TO PREPARE IT TO HOST MORE REFUGEES IN AN EVENT OF A NEW INFLUX FROM THE DRC THROUGH

THE COPPERBELT AND NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT TO ADEQUATELY RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE CONGOLESE REFUGEES AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES, HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA WILL REQUIRE OVER US\$ 74 MILLION IN 2018.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT ITS REFUGEE PROGRAMMES APART FROM THE SUPPORT PROVIDED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND NGOS. THIS IS WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT TO LAUNCH THE COUNTRY CHAPTER OF THE RESPONSE PLAN IN ORDER TO APPEAL TO OUR ALL-WEATHER PARTNERS, DONORS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOS, AMONG OTHERS, TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVES THE SUPPORT

THAT IT NEEDS TO FULFILL ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION OF PROVIDING PROTECTION AND FINDING LASTING SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES.

ON ITS PART, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO ENSURE A COORDINATED RESPONSE BY ESTABLISHING AN INTER-MINISTERIAL STEERING COMMITTEE (IMSC), WITH MEMBERSHIP FROM ALL LINE MINISTRIES, APPOINTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU. THE COMMITTEE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A MISSION TO MANTAPALA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT AND KENANI TRANSIT CENTRE TO APPRECIATE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO FAR, IN ESTABLISHING THE SETTLEMENT. I AM GLAD TO INFORM YOU, OUR PARTNERS, AND POTENTIAL DONORS, THAT ALTHOUGH A LOT HAS BEEN DONE, THERE IS STILL A **LOT MORE** THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO FULLY SETTLE THE REFUGEES AND FOR ZAMBIA TO

CONTINUE TO ALLOCATE LAND TO REFUGEES AND KEEP ITS DOORS OPEN TO ASYLUM SEEKERS.

ALLOW ME AT THIS JUNCTURE, TO CONVEY THE GOVERNMENT'S DEEP GRATITUDE TO DONORS, NGOS, UN AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED ASSISTANCE AND CONTINUE TO DO SO TOWARDS THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEE IN LUAPULA, WESTERN AND NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES. MOST OF THE WORK THAT WE HAVE DONE IN MANTAPALA AND OTHER REFUGEE HOSTING AREAS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WISH TO CALL UPON YOU NOT TO TIRE OR RELENT IN YOUR EFFORTS BUT TO CONTINUE TO HELP THE

GOVERNMENT TO FILL THE FOLLOWING GAPS AND RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES;

- **THE REHABILITATION OF THE MULWE – MANTAPALA ROAD;** THIS IS A SHORTER ROUTE BETWEEN NCHELENGE (KENANI) AND MANTAPALA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT. DUE TO HEAVY RAINS, THE ROAD HAS BEEN DAMAGED AND IS ALMOST IMPASSABLE. THIS HAS AFFECTED THE DELIVERY OF MATERIALS TO THE SITE FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS AND THE RELOCATION OF REFUGEES TO THE NEW SETTLEMENT.
- **CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE IN PHASE TWO OF MANTAPALA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT;** IN ORDER TO ACCESS THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SETTLEMENT FOR THE DEMARCATION OF FARM PLOT PLOTS AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, THERE IS NEED TO



BUILD TWO BRIDGES ACROSS THE STREAM THAT DIVIDES THE SETTLEMENT;

- **CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADMINISTRATION BLOCK;** THIS IS NECESSARY FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND LINE MINISTRIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY IN THE SETTLEMENT;
- **CONSTRUCTION OF A POLICE POST AND STAFF HOUSES FOR GOVERNMENT, PARTNER AND SECURITY PERSONNEL;** THERE IS NEED FOR THE PLACEMENT OF PERMANENT PERSONNEL IN THE SETTLEMENT AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO REFUGEES AND THE HOST COMMUNITY;
- **ERECTION OF COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE;** THIS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES, INCLUDING

REGISTRATION, CASH BASED INTERVENTIONS AND THE PROMOTION OF LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES.

- **PROMOTION OF LIVELIHOODS;** THIS IS IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES ARE SELF-RELIANT; AND
- **PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY POWER;** THE SETTLEMENT AND THE HOST COMMUNITY REQUIRE POWER IN ORDER TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND PROMOTE LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES.

DEAR PARTNERS,

ZAMBIA, BEING ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES THAT ARE ROLLING OUT THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (CRRF), IS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING ITS SETTLEMENT APPROACH IN HOSTING REFUGEES TO ENHANCE SELF-RELIANCE AND PROMOTE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE WITH THE HOST

COMMUNITIES. THE CRRF IS A NEW STRATEGY IN THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AID MEANT TO IMPROVE THE WAY IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND PROTRACTED REFUGEE SITUATIONS, BY INVOLVING DEVELOPMENT ACTORS AND OTHER PARTNERS. MANY OF THE PARTNERS ARE PRESENT HERE TODAY. AS A ROLL-OUT COUNTRY, OUR RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE INFLUX CALLS FOR A “WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH” AND THIS IS WHY WE NEED TO BE FULLY ENGAGED WITH ALL OF YOU.

I, THEREFORE, WISH TO CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S EMERGENCY FUND, WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, WORLD VISION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION, UNITED NATIONS

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, CARE, CARITAS, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION, ACTION AFRICA HELP, NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, WORLD VISION, SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL, AND MANY OTHERS IN THE REFUGEE RESPONSE IN LUAPULA PROVINCE AS WELL AS MEHEBA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT.

I THANK YOU.