

PRESIDENT MICHAEL SATA'S INAUGURATION SPEECH

MY LORD THE CHIEF JUSTICE,

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME AND HIGH COURT, HON SPEAKER,

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. K. D. KAUNDA

HIS EXCELLENCY R. B. BANDA

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES; THE VISITING HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT AND OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES THE AMBASSADORS AND HIGH
COMMISSIONERS**

FELLOW COUNTRY MEN AND WOMEN

I stand before you; before the women and men of Zambia and before our children with humility, with honour, and with hope for our future. An era for real transformation has dawned!

Our primary task and duty is to thank God almighty who in his infinite mercy and compassion has guided us peacefully through these elections. Our gratitude goes to all the churches and individuals for their faith and prayers which has manifested in the process we are witnessing today. Throughout our vast country, in our urban habitats and in all the far-flung areas, we made a deliberate and profound decision to change the course and direction of the country. I plead to each one of you to continue praying for wisdom from above.

As we move into this next chapter of Zambia's history, I would like to recognize the peaceful and orderly transition of power. It will be amiss of me if I did not acknowledge and thank my predecessor President Rupia Bwezani Banda's contribution to this transition. This precedent, which has been with us since we gained our independence, is a virtue which I will treasure and respect.

PLEDGE

As our democracy now passes its 20th anniversary, my first pledge as president is to fully commit myself and my party not only to the rule of law, but truly to a fresh start of transformation on a change which focuses attention on the issue, systems, offices and institutions which have not effectively served the best interest of all our people.

Our country has huge problems which have been compounded by acts of bad governance and fiscal irresponsibility in recent years. The gap between the small group of “haves” and the “disadvantaged” is getting wider. The much talked about stability can never be sustained under such circumstances. We have to go back to the drawing board and come out with plans and workable solutions to redress the situation.

The changes needed to achieve real change are drastic!

It's against this background that I pay tribute to the ordinary Zambia that voted for this change. To you my great countrymen and women I say a million thanks for the categorical mandate and above all; the confidence you have reposed in me and the Patriotic Front to take charge of our destiny. I sincerely pray that our God will heal this nation and reconcile all of us. We may have different ideological principles but lets agree to live side by side in harmony as Zambians. We must not allow violence to separate us; WE ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

BETTER ZAMBIA

I thank my fellow presidential contenders for the good fight. I am sure that together we will continue the fight for a better Zambia in which poverty and injustice are totally banished.

To my wife, children and indeed all members of my wider family I say thank you for standing by me. My gratitude also go to all my friends in Zambia and outside and professionals who have contributed to the various assignments, to men and women who sacrificed the live assets, gave us the voice and platform to give our message to the Zambian people. I can only pray to God to reward you for your kindness and generosity.

Lets us not forget to thank through the chairperson all the hard-working men and women in the Electoral Commission of Zambia for their diligent service despite the glaring defects and challenges. Our thanks also go to the law enforcement agencies and security wings.

Fellow countrymen and women, Its not the wish nor intention of the incoming Government to victimize anyone but as indicated during our campaigns, we shall have zero tolerance for corruption. We shall ensure full accountability of national resources

As president, I give my solemn promise to the citizenry of this country, as well as to our partners who entrust us with their money that this government will steadily tackle this scourge with the vigour it deserves.

Corruption is morally unacceptable and those charged with the responsibility of looking after our resources should guard it jealously.

NEW ERA

Zambians can now look forward to a new era, an era for real transformation of our society. I shall demand of myself and my cabinet, which I will soon constitute, boldness and effective leadership. We shall work to address the perverse poverty and to bring about prosperity to every hard working Zambian. My vision, the vision for which my colleagues have struggled and for which Zambians have voted, is simple.

The citizens of this great land not only deserve better lives, but are entitled to better lives.

IT'S TIME TO PUT ZAMBIANS FIRST AND ZAMBIA TO WORK.

It will not be my choice as President to determine who can access livelihoods, education, health and other services – no, it is my obligation to ensure that everyone has fair access to the services, protection and rights that they should be able to expect from Government.

The change that people have voted for is of course widely understood to be about sharing in the benefits of development.

If there is prosperity, then this should be appropriately distributed amongst those involved in generating growth, not only those who may be employed but in important instances also by those who hold claim to natural resources.

Many thousands of people have voted for the Patriotic Front cry for “more jobs”.

My vision, and my commitment to you today is to ensure that all our efforts are directed to creating opportunity for Zambians to participate in the economy, to provide for their families with pride and security, and to develop livelihoods and careers to utilize their talents and fulfil their aspirations.

Foreign investment is important to Zambia, as it does not only create jobs but equally contributes to the economic empowerment of Zambians. We will continue to work in fair partnership with the investors already in the country and welcome new ones. It's our hope that Investors will abide by the labour laws of the country ensuring that Zambians are not disadvantaged.

It is my intimation to give our policy directive to the nation when I address the new parliament

Finally For this occasion, I call upon every Zambian to be prepared for hard work, Yes; BRACE YOURSELVES FOR HARD WORK. This is your country and there is no other you can look for your livelihood and security.

DREAM

The Patriotic Front Government which I am privileged to preside over shall work hard to help each Zambian realize their dream.

Zambia is a proud member of the international community. Since independence, we have played our role as a proud member of the United Nations, the African Union and various regional bodies.

Your government will honour and develop these relationships. I can assure these partners today that our commitment to poverty reduction, to the improvement of services for all, and the renewed fight against corruption will create a basis to strengthen these relations around our shared commitments.

To all the people of Zambia; these are my solemn commitments to you, as President.

I am mindful that I cannot achieve all these pledges on my own. I therefore extend an invitation to all the Zambians to join me in building our nation based on human right and, equitable development.

THE TIME IS NOW.

As we embark on this journey, I ask that God Almighty Bless Zambia and the gallant people of this God- fearing Nation. May this be the place where each Zambian will find their security and realize their dream.

I thank you for your attention.

President Michael Chilufya Sata

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