

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY HER HONOUR MRS INONGE MUTUKWA WINA,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, REGARDING THE STATE
FUNERAL OF THE FIRST REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA, HIS
EXCELLENCY DR. KENNETH DAVID KAUNDA.**

Further to the earlier Press Statement on 17th June, 2021, in which His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, informed the Nation of the sad passing on of our beloved Founding Father, His Excellency Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, His Excellency the President has directed me to update the Nation on the programme that the Government of the Republic of Zambia has prepared for the period of national mourning until the burial day.

You will recall, that His Excellency Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, declared 21 days of national mourning in honour of His Excellency Dr. Kaunda, effective **17th June, 2021**, until **7th July, 2021**. I would like to state, at the outset, that the bereaved family of His Excellency Dr. Kaunda and the Government are deeply grateful for the outpouring of love and support from not only the Zambian people, but also the international community at large.

We are, of course, mourning our Founding Father during a very difficult time as we continue to battle with the raging COVID-19 pandemic. It is, for this reason, that I would like to emphasize the need for each and every one of us to continue, to the greatest extent possible, to comply with COVID-19 regulations as set out by the Ministry of Health. Government shall, therefore, put in place further measures that will enable us pay our last respects to our Founding Father and First Republican President in the most befitting manner. These measures may be reviewed as and when would be required.

The programme for Dr Kaunda's funeral will therefore run as follows:

1. Provincial Visits; 2. State Funeral; and 3. Burial

1. Provincial Visits

It is the wish of the family of His Excellency Dr. Kaunda, that the remains of our Founding Father be taken around to all the 10 Provinces of our great country and the Government has agreed to respect this wish. The programme for the Provincial visits, will commence in Choma, Southern Province on **Wednesday 23rd June, 2021** and end in Lusaka Province on **Monday 5th July, 2021**. The detailed programme for the Provincial Viewings, which will be conducted in the Provincial Capitals, shall be issued in due course.

To accord our Founding Father respect and dignity, while showing love and support to the family and in compliance with our national COVID-19 protocols, I would like to state that there shall be no physical body viewing. However, the entire procession including the church service will be carried live on TV. This arrangement will enable the millions of viewers at home to follow the proceedings and have a closer view of the remains of the late President. The Provincial Programmes shall include route lining where residents in the Provinces shall line designated routes to view the cortege and pay their last respects. However, in order to control anticipated crowds, the Military shall manage these Provincial Programmes to ensure orderliness and compliance to COVID-19 measures.

In each provincial capital, there shall be a short church ceremony conducted by the Military, in conjunction with the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) to which His Excellency Dr. Kaunda belonged. The Military will, again, be on hand to ensure compliance. I would like to emphasize that physical attendance to these provincial church services shall be extremely limited and short in nature. Both the route lining and church services shall be broadcast live on television, radio and social media and so members of the public are encouraged to

follow the proceedings on the various media platforms in order to avoid mass gatherings.

2. State Funeral

His Excellency Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, the father of the liberation struggle was an icon, a pan-Africanist and an international Statesman. The humbling and touching manner in which many of our neighboring countries are mourning Dr. Kaunda, including the declaration of periods of national mourning, is a clear testament to the kind of leader our Founding Father was, and the indelible impact that he had on the region and beyond.

It is, in this regard, that the Government of the Republic of Zambia has designated **Friday, 2nd July 2021** as the date for the State to accord His Excellency Dr. Kaunda a Ceremonial State Funeral to allow for the participation of international dignitaries. This State Funeral will be held at Heroes Stadium here in Lusaka.

Once again, the Government will ensure the strictest adherence to COVID-19 Guidelines by firmly restricting participation to the State Funeral to Heads of State, to be accompanied by one (1) Official. All the relevant COVID-19 measures, including social distancing, will be managed by the Military during the State Funeral. To allow for our visiting dignitaries that wish to bid farewell to their elder Statesman, the ceremony will be short, yet befitting, to enable them arrive in time and depart immediately after the ceremony.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide further details on administrative and logistical arrangements to the Diplomatic Corps at a Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021**.

3. Burial

His Excellency Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, shall be put to rest at the Presidential Burial Site on **Wednesday 7th July, 2021** at a very private

ceremony for family and selected invited mourners only. This will be broadcast live on television, radio, and social media to allow Zambians and the international community to follow the proceedings.

His Excellency the President would like to reiterate the need for the country to mourn our Founding Father with the dignity, respect and calm that is deserving of this great man. His Excellency the President would also wish to emphasize that this is a national programme, honouring KK who lived his life unifying the nation regardless of race, tribe, creed or political affiliation under the “**One Zambia, One Nation**” motto.

In conclusion, therefore, and in respecting his legacy, Party regalia or Party Symbols of any kind, including Party-branded face masks, will **not** be allowed at any activity during this period of mourning His Excellency Dr. Kaunda. We are mourning Dr. Kaunda as Zambians and so let us do so, while observing the strict COVID-19 Guidelines that the Ministry of Health continues to remind us of.

May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

I THANK YOU.