

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY**

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**AT**

**THE LAUNCH OF THE SECOND LUBUTO LIBRARY**

**PROJECT AT NGWERERE BASIC SCHOOL**

**ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2010**

- **THE PRESIDENT OF LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT**
- **THE FIRST REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT DR. KENNETH KAUNDA**
- **SENIOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS**
- **THE HEAD OF NGWERERE BASIC SCHOOL**
- **DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I am grateful to be accorded this opportunity to officiate at the launch of the Lubuto Library Project at Ngwerere Basic School. This is a very important milestone the Project has achieved since its inception. The Ministry has appreciated the efforts that Lubuto Library Project has embarked on to ensure that the model of the Lubuto Library is emulated by other libraries in our Schools. As a Ministry, we have put emphasis on the value and contribution libraries can make to the education of our children.

Libraries hold resources that can help everyone improve their lives by being literate. Within a

School, a Library is an indispensable resource which establishes an environment for continued learning outside classroom.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Research has shown that the levels of reading ability among Zambian basic School pupils are dangerously low. The development of reading skills and the formation of reading habits are heavily dependent on the availability of suitable and varied reading materials. Hence, the presence and active use of School Library can be said to boost pupils' reading achievement. Further, the virtual impossibility of developing a reading culture in the absence of libraries has retarded the development of both local authorship and the contribution to the local publishing industry. This therefore, poses a great challenge to nurture and preserve literacy skills gained by our pupils in Schools, by disseminating of suitable reading materials especially in rural areas.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The Lubuto Library Project is a partner to the Ministry of Education who has come up with the model of construction using indigenous styled libraries for orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia including the local community. I am informed that this Library Project supplies libraries

with an initial collection of books organized according to a specially developed classification scheme, trains staff to maintain the libraries and offer user services, arranging for programs and acquisition of relevant local publications. It is therefore, evident that this library project will strive to give children in this local community an opportunity to participate in the informal education improvement of literacy, language skills and above all accord children the sense of self-worth and general knowledge of their own environment and the world at large. With this responsibility, I would like to implore the host School to work closely with the project in order to achieve the ideals of the project in Ngwerere Basic School. It should not be taken as a project but an integral part of the School system for the benefit of both pupils and those out of School in the local community.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

With these few remarks, I would like to take this rare opportunity to officially launch the Opening of Ngwerere Basic School Lubuto Library. This library will go a long way to benefit all our children in their locality and subsequently improve the literacy levels, reduce poverty and mitigate the scourge of HIV/AIDS through literacy empowerment.

May God bless you. Thank you.