



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**  
**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC**

**Eulogy Statement by H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairperson of SADC at the State Funeral of His Excellency Kenneth David Kaunda, Former President of the Republic of Zambia.**

**Lusaka, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**

Your Excellency and Dear Brother Edgar Chagwa Lungu President of the Republic of Zambia;

Esteemed Kaunda Family;

Your Excellencies;

Brotherly Zambian People!

The peoples of SADC Member States are in mourning. The voice of the Father of the Zambian Nation, the one that sprang up in Lubwa, near Chinsali, in 1924, His Excellency Dr **Kenneth David Buchizya Kaunda** has been silent, suddenly and forever.

In difficult situations such as this, extraordinary strength and clarity are required to overcome emotions. In the face of death, words become empty, dry and sterile.

In fact, death is the only certainty that floods us, in the midst of all our uncertainties, awaiting us as a destiny.

Comrade **Kaunda** was indeed, a Statesman who always stood up against racial oppression and injustice. He was a passionate promoter of Zambian Humanism, based on the African system of values and ethics. He worked to build a country where resources would serve the people.

Internationally, **Kaunda** used diplomacy to help legitimize and garner support for the liberation movements. **Kenneth Kaunda** was the ambassador of the oppressed at international forums.

How to accept that SADC has lost its founder?

The collective presence of SADC leaders at this solemn farewell is an expression of the priceless respect and gratitude for the immense contribution of the Forever

President, **Dr Kenneth David Kaunda**, to the cause of the liberation struggles of our Southern Africa Region.

**Comrade Kaunda** has offered his country as a safe haven for many Mozambicans, Namibians, Angolans, Zimbabweans, South Africans and others who left their countries because of oppression and racial injustice.

Zambia paid a big bill. Zambia became the target of sabotage and military incursions by racist and minority regimes, resulting in the loss of human life and massive economic damage over a long period.

In Zambia, **Kaunda** has always worked to build a united nation without discrimination based on race, tribe, gender or religious belief, under his famous motto: ***“One Zambia, One Nation”***. No one is surprised that Zambia is a cohesive country of recognized political stability. This is the work of Kaunda.

The way in which **Kaunda** led the struggle for the independence of Zambia in 1964 was a strong inspiration in the peaceful struggle for the independence of some sister countries such as Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Eswatini and Seychelles.

Due to his spirit of dialogue, based on a profound humanism, the name Lusaka is engraved in the collective memory of Mozambicans. It was here in Lusaka, in the early afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> September nineteen seventy-four (1974), in a room at the State House, where the Agreement for Independence and the Ceasefire Agreement were signed between our Liberation Movement, FRELIMO and the Portuguese colonial government that paved the way for the proclamation of the independence of Mozambique on the 25<sup>th</sup> June nineteen seventy-five (1975).

How to forget a child of Africa who devoted his whole life for the liberation of the continent? How to accept the demise of someone who has gone through hard times to see the region free from exploitation, enjoying peace and democratic rights?

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

I have a recent memory when, in 2014, I visited President Kaunda in his private home to ask for his blessing. He took me to the sacred place where our dear Mother - **mama Betty Kaunda** rests. Back home, he placed his traditional white handkerchief over my head and said, "GOD BLESS THE NEW GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS!"

This vision was evident in his last voice message recorded and addressed to the Heads of State and Government of SADC Member States who met after his demise, at the Extraordinary Summit in Maputo, on 23 June. His message calls for the Union and the maintenance of the spirit that was behind the inception of SADC.

**Kaunda** was a man with a multifaceted character. His passion for music left us the famous song "*Tiyende pamodzi ndi mtima umo*", which continues to be sung in many countries in the region and around the world.

His love for football resulted in the national team, bearing the name Key-key Eleven. From **Kaunda**, we learned that when elections are lost, the loser recognises the loss and congratulates the winner.

We also learned that, with the end of a presidential term, the work does not end. He left us with a good example of philanthropic work in combating HIV and AIDS and other humanitarian crises after he left power. Nobody can erase these and more deeds of this great son of Zambia and of Africa.

**Your Excellencies!**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

Let me, on behalf of the peoples and governments of the SADC Member States, the Mozambican people I lead, and indeed on my own behalf, convey our most heartfelt condolences to the bereaved **Kaunda** family, as well, as to the brotherly Zambian people, and to you my dear brother President Edgar Lungu.

**MZEE KAUNDA!**

Men of your stature never die, for there is no tomb they can fit into. The deep-rooted tree you have planted, will remain with us, and we will continue to water and care.

May Comrade **Kenneth Kaunda's** soul be at eternal peace with our heavenly father.

I Thank you!