



STATEMENT BY

DR RODGERS LUBILO
THE PARTY PRESIDENT

ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF PARTY CONFERENCE
AT RODVILLE LODGE MSORO MAMBWE DISTRICT

26-28 MAY 2024



THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS TEAM

Mwalandilidwa, you are welcome to first conference to launch the party in the district and the country at large;

Director of Programmes,

My dear wife, Mrs. Lubilo

The representative of HRH Chieftainess Msoro,

The Secretary- General of the party

The National Chairperson of the party

All members of the Presidential Council present

District Coordinators present

Ward Coordinators present

Mdima Ward chairperson

All ward officials

All Elders present and advisors present

All village headmen and women

All invited Guests

Members of the Press

Distinguished comrades and friends

Ladies and gentlemen

All protocols observed,

You are welcome, mwalandilidwa, feel at home, nkalani okondwela zikomo. WE THANK GOD FOR BRINGING AS HERE TODAY

Choyambilila, I would like to thank my parents mum and dad for their role in my life, my upbringing, and nurturing me into a child they wanted me to be. I stand here proud of their sacrifices over my birth, early childhood life, my education and above all for their good parenting, which made me to be who am today. Zikomo wama na wata. I wish both of them long healthy life so that my dream can be realized while they are still here on Earth. Similarly, I would like to thank all your parents those living and those departed for their role in your lives.

Chachiwri, allow me to recognize and thank my dear wife, sitting next to me here as she has been my faithful partner and friend, a dear wife, a dear mother of my children, I feel blessed to have her on my side always, she is a special gift and she have over the last 30 years stood by me and I have stood by her. She has suffered and endured the suffering because of the life challenges we have gone through together because of my involvement in opposition politics since we got to become one. She has come to understand that she is married to a fighter a fearless Leopold, a fighter who is determined to succeed at all cost. I thank you my wife, and I beg that continue to be a nice one as we embark on this most important journey to save our mother Zambia and Malambo in particular. In the same vein, I extend my gratitude to my children for accepting and enduring the pain of being children of someone who is willing to sacrifice his life the people.

Chachitatu, I would like to thank all my relatives, brothers, sisters, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and all those who have been very supportive of my journey. Thank you abale onse. Mulumgu akudaliseni ngako.

Director of Programmes, I would like to thank our traditional leaders, especially our chieftainess Msoro, the Royal family, the indunas and all

village leaders for your support, we appreciate that and we wish you God's favor always.

Today marks a very important day in the political history and calendar in Mambwe District, Malambo constituency, and Zambia as a country, it is an important day as we unveil, our great organization, our great party the Liberal Democrats Party (LDP)- I would like to mention here that our party was registered on 10 August, 2023 as Environmental Democrats Party (EDP). I am delighted to inform this conference that, after various consultation and engagements with our broad membership and stakeholders, we took a bold step to change the name of the party. Our party is now existing under the new brand name of Liberal Democrats Party (LDP). I would like to thank the following people who willingly took a bold step to agree to be founding office bearers of the Party. These are Salome Precious Simaata, Jordan Kalumba, Ireen Phiri, Patrick Banda, Caroline Kunda, Siphon Nthando, Magret Zulu, Monica Mbutwana, Stephen Tandeo and Sandra Njongolo. In the midst of all these progresses, I would also like to mention a few other people that played a bigger role in ensuring that we achieve our dream. We hired comrade Mike Muyabala the son of the soil who employed all his diplomacy to navigate through the current hostile environment to successfully register our great party. Angela Ngalande, Mutende Simwanza, and lastly my lovely wife who always stood by my side and supported every step to ensure we reach here. A big thank you for all those who embraced the idea later.

Director of Programmes, we are gathered here in search of a capable leadership, a leadership that is connected to the needs of our people, a leadership that has vision to help in the eradication of poverty, a leadership that will promote development, unity and create a difference in the lives of our people.

We are here today looking for a political party that has an interest of improving the lives of the people, a political party that respect the rule of law, a party that carries the vision of the greater nation. A party that will truly uphold the one Zambia One Nation agenda.

Liberal Democrats Party,

Director of Programmes, distinguished guests, our party stand for an open liberal society, it stands for the weak, it seeks to speak for those vulnerable in society. It promotes policies and Programmes that compels government to look after its citizens. Our party stands for the youth, it stands for the women, the unemployed, employed, the marketeers, the domestic workers, the cleaners, the rural farmers, the mine workers, government employees, it stands for all citizens. It is a liberal organization that will nurture a new nation and new hope for Zambia. We will push for a more socially secured society, where citizens can call on their leaders to account for their actions. LDP is our new home, a place of peace, a place of love, unity and progress.

we know that to run a political organization is very rough in Africa including Zambia, if you belong to the opposition, you are denied all the vital services such as access to relief food, employment and enjoyment. You are subjected to all sorts of marginalization; you are denied the privileges of a citizen. As a party we will fight against these injustices, we will stand firm, and speak for the poor for the rural people, for all those whose opportunities are being denied.

Fighting for freedoms and liberties

Fellow delegates, our country is currently under political siege, where our freedoms are being infringed upon through dictatorial laws such as the public order act, that were used by the colonial rulers to imprison our leaders of yesterday. Today, as an opposition political party you

have to pray to be granted an opportunity to meet. We are lucky to be meeting today but under the strict condition that this is not a public meeting but an indoor event. It is sad in a democratic nation, when citizens' rights are being infringed upon. I am calling each one of you, to stand up and defend our rights. In saying, this allows me to remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters among them First President Kenneth Kaunda, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe, Robert Makasa, Elija Mudenda, Nalumino Mundia, Grey Zulu, Reuben Chitandika Kamanga, Aurthar Wina, Sikota Wina, Mama Julia Chikamoneka, Mama Chibesakunda among many others. These fallen comrades stood up against the white rule to fight for our independence so we can enjoy our freedoms and liberties in a free society. These values are being washed away by the current political formations. As LDP we will promote freedoms and liberties for our people.

The role of the police in a free society,

The Zambia Police is supposing to play a role in promoting co-existence, act professionally, execute their duties diligently, they are supposing to protect all citizens without discrimination, it is unfortunate that successful governments have all resorted to using the power given to the police to arrest citizens to erode citizens rights, freedoms and liberties. We are fully aware of these shortcomings, as liberals we will play our part in educating the police to operate professionally, we will therefore invest in more police intelligence leading to behavior change, we want police that serves everyone, police that can be relied upon. We will help restore the integrity of the Police, we will clothe them, provide decent accommodation, and provide incentives so they can serve all better. We look at the police today as tools for oppressing democracy, silencing divergent voices, this will be stopped immediately we assume office.

Separation of powers

In a constitutional democracy the three arms of government that is the Legislature, the Executive and the judiciary are supposed to operate independently in order to enhance checks and balances. We have noted with great concern that there are deliberate attempts by the successful governments to abrogate this fundamental principle of our governance. As LDP, we will restore this confidence by strengthening systems that will keep each arm of government independent of the other, so we can all have confidence in the administration of issues. We will specifically, advocate for more legislative powers of the legislature, by creating a lower and upper house of parliament. We will push for the current national Assembly as a lower house and introduce the senate as an upper house of representatives. We will advocate to increase the number of Members of Parliament from the current 156 to 300, and the upper house or the senate will have a composition of 100 senators.

We will review and reduce the presidential powers by distributing them to other arms of government, we will abolish the position of vice president and re-introduce the office of prime minister to be head of government. We will push a lean central government and invest in a devolved governance.

The role of defense forces and security wings,

As an LDP, we will ensure that we maintain at all times a high, and motivated national defense to ensure that our country borders are safe at all times. This means investing in modern technology in both air and ground defense mechanisms. We will modernize and continuously train our officers. We will work with the ZNS command to re-introduce compulsory mandatory military training to all school leavers at grade 12 to a one-year national service Programmes, that will prepare the

young school leavers into productive and use citizens. We will equip ZNS with the necessary support it needs to contribute the economic growth of the nation.

We will push for a robust national intelligence system to ensure that our governance and the office of the President is secured and continually well informed of all pertinent national and international matters of security nature.

National Economy and productivity

It is now a well-known fact even by a non-literate economist to explain the economic challenges we are faced with. Our economy is on its knees; the cost of living is unbearable. The prices of staple food mealie meal are too high, fuel prices, transport, cost of accommodation and basic things are too high for an ordinary person. The poverty levels are increasing. We are not seeing any seriousness with the current administration to change these things. As LDP will embark on a serious economic transformation for our country. Our interim manifesto provides a detailed Programme of policies and programmes that we will pursue to recover, and secure our economy. We will push for agri-revolution, to improve agriculture productivity, push for biodiversity economy, and a mining revolution. We will recall all the current contracts that are being fraudulently awarded to friends, so that the wealth creation can be redistributed to the people of Zambia. Our citizens are a priority, we will create an enabling private sector involvement while safeguarding our national interests.

We will invest in pro-poor agri policies, create District public farms, empower and equip cooperatively, embark on an agroecology programme to improve on food production in the face climate change

Community Based Natural Resources Management

We are fully committed as LDP to push and promote a more effective and sustainable community-based conservation practices, that protect the interest of producer communities, once we are in government, we will ensure that proceeds generated from use of wildlife resources are channeled back into the village action groups, we will re-introduce cash dividends as an incentive for upholding conservation activities. We will review the current GMA model, grant appropriate authority to the local community Natural Resources Management Authorities (NRMA) and detach government control so communities can fully take charge of their resources as producer communities. A small allocation of the community revenues shall be allocated to the CBNRM Development fund. We will also push a policy on creation of community conservancies.

Director of Programmes, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to focus on some of the issues affecting our people in Mambwe District that our leadership will commit to address.

Current problems

Today our constituency, remains under developed, we don't have good road infrastructure, our health facilities are inadequate and where they are, they are poorly equipped, the education facilities are below standards, agriculture and other productive sectors of our economy are underperforming, they are not functioning. The road connectivity between Malama and Kakumbi, Katete- Msoro, chipata-Msoro, Jembe -Msoro, Mnkhanhya -Msoro. All the connectivity roads including the Chipata-mfuwe road need serious repairs. There are limited employment opportunities because there are no village industries to help create jobs. As LDP we will introduce a Rural Economic

Development Programme to create opportunities for the people in the area.

Nationally, there is bad leadership, there is no visionary leadership, the economy is under siege, the welfare of the people and poverty has continued to increase. Our people are suffering, there is no real hope. The cost of living is too high and our people can't afford a decent meal, accommodation and have remained food insecure.

Leadership at the District and constituency is non responsive and lacks clear vision for the future, as LDP we bring that hope to the people of the area.

What we promise

Director of programmers, as LDP will promise to provide the leadership that will work for the people of Zambia, we will ensure that democracy and rule of law is upheld, specifically we promise the following:

Rural economy:

- we will establish a Rural Economic Empowerment Development Agency (REEDA)
- We will create a village development fund, so that we bring development close to the people.
- We will create village cooperatives so that they serve as mechanism for assisting small scale farmers and entrepreneurs
- We

Urban economy

- We will establish an Urban Economic Empowerment Development agency (UEEDA)

- We will facilitate township economic activities and encourage skills development
- We will create township development fund to support infrastructure and water and sanitation

Collective call to action

As LDP we are calling upon all progressive forces to join hands to rescue the country from total collapse. We need to restart, we need to reengine ourselves, and to renew our leadership. All citizens have a duty to defend this nation from all evil forces, from all practices that undermine people's rights and freedoms

Director of Programmes, as we embark of this journey, a long walk to freedom, we recall the sacrifices of Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela, Kwame Nkrumah, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Kenneth Kaunda, Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula for their contribution to the freedoms of our countries and continent. We remember the works of the young politicians like the late Dean Namulya Mungomba, Akashambatwa Mbikusita Lewanika, Omelo Mumba among other comrades for their role in advocating for a just democratic society

Political party coalitions

As Liberal Democrats Party, we subscribe to the need for a strong and well-intentioned united opposition political alliance as away to build a strong political commitment to improving governance. We believe that such an Alliance must contribute to enhancing an open society and being ready to stand as an alternative government. As a party, we are still studying the current political alliances including UKA. While we subscribe to this noble cause, we have not applied to join or we have not been approached to join any alliance. We will continue to building

ourselves into a formidable and alternative to the current failing government.

Stop harassing our sixth president

We as LDP we have noted with serious concerns on the attempts by the current government to stifle on the freedoms and privileges of the President Lungu, we are disappointed that President Hichilema has not condemned the insults beings poured onto his predecessor. Some of us would like former Presidents to be honored and respected. We would like to see President Hichilema to enjoy his life after leaving power. The current President has an opportunity to break the chain of humiliating former presidents. As LDP we welcome the democratic choices of President Lungu. We demand that President be accorded all his Presidential benefits, including proper state security that he is suppose to enjoy as long as he live. We will join forces with other political parties and stakeholders in protecting the office of the former president.

Building our party into the future

Today, we will witness, the election of both constituency and District committees, to help in the mobilization of the party membership. We will also constitute an Advisory council that will be providing political advice to the leadership. Our party statues allow for the appointment of council of Elders and we will be making an announcement soon.

We can make the change

We are determined to organize ourselves into the strongest party in District and country at large.

Distinguished delegates,



I would like to thank you once more for your commitment, and for your wise choice to join LDP. Let me use this opportunity to invite everyone in Zambia to join LDP, as this is our party of Choice.

I would also like to make this important announcement that while am a Party President, I would like to use this opportunity and occasion to declare that will be contesting again in the Malambo parliamentary elections in 2026 so that we can help our people. So go out and tell the people the truth, go out and spread the news of LDP, go out and campaign for Dr Rodgers Lubilo for MP for Malambo. Time is not with us, time is running, so let's sacrifice ourselves, lets contribute anything we can to make sure that we emerge victories in 2026. Our friends in UPND have also started their campaigns, so let's start mobilizing, when we need public gatherings inform the police, and do peaceful meetings. I stand here ready to die for you and mother Zambia. Together we can make the change.

Long live the spirit of Kaunda, long live the spirit of Grey Zulu, long live the spirit of Mandela, long live the spirit of Dean Mungomba, long live our PC leaders, long live LDP, and long live our mother Zambia.

With these remarks, it is my rare opportunity and privilege, to declare our first party conference officially opened.

May God bless our great nation.

End





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