



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,
DURING THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR
JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT**

THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2019

STATE HOUSE

LUSAKA

LET ME START BY CONGRATULATING EACH ONE OF YOU HONOURABLE JUDGES ON YOUR RESPECTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO SERVE AS JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF ZAMBIA.

THE POSITIONS YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO, ARE NOT ONLY OF GREAT HONOUR, BUT ALSO COME WITH IMMENSE RESPONSIBILITY.

AS YOU JOIN THE BENCH, YOUR FIRST TASK IS TO ADDRESS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CONCERNS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, RELATING TO THE DELAY IN THE DISPOSAL OF COURT CASES.

I EXPECT THAT WITH YOUR APPOINTMENTS WHICH HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF HIGH COURT JUDGES WILL IMPROVE THE TIME TAKEN TO DISPOSE OF CASES. THIS THEREFORE, CALLS FOR A LOT OF HARD WORK FROM YOU HONOURABLE JUDGES. YOU ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO DELIVER QUALITY AND FAIR JUSTICE.

AS JUDGES, YOU SHOULD CARRY OUT YOUR FUNCTIONS INDEPENDENTLY AND SHOULD NEVER BE SWAYED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCES. AS THE EXECUTIVE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO UPHOLD AND RESPECT THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY.

I AM DELIGHTED TO NOTE THAT A GOOD NUMBER OF YOU ARE QUITE YOUTHFUL. MY GOVERNMENT IS PASSIONATE ABOUT CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTHS AND BUILDING THEIR CAPACITY AS THEY FORM THE MAJORITY OF OUR POPULATION.

IT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT AS PRESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 259, THAT APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC OFFICE SHOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION OF THE YOUTH, GENDER BALANCE, AND REFLECTS THE COUNTRY'S REGIONAL DIVERSITY.

FURTHER, I AM INFORMED THAT OF THE **37** HIGH COURT JUDGES, **21** ARE FEMALE AND ONLY **16** ARE MALE. THE APPOINTMENT OF MORE MALE JUDGES IS MEANT TO BALANCE THE NUMBERS IN THE COURT.

IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT YOU ARE BRINGING A BROAD DIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO THE BENCH AS YOU HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM THE JUDICIAL SERVICE, THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS COMBINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WILL ENHANCE THE SPEEDY ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

LET ME EMPHASISE THAT, AS UMPIRES OF JUSTICE, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DISCHARGE YOUR DUTIES WITH INDEPENDENCE, GOOD JUDGEMENT, COMPETENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY. YOU SHOULD, AT ALL TIMES, BEAR IN MIND THAT JUDICIAL POWER AND AUTHORITY IS DERIVED FROM THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA.

ONCE AGAIN, MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU ALL ON YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO SERVE AS JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT. MAY YOU SERVE THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA WITH DISTINCTION AND HONOUR AS YOU EMBARK ON YOUR CAREER ON THE BENCH. **I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS**