



JUDICIARY OF ZAMBIA

WELCOME REMARKS

**BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZAMBIA**

MRS JUSTICE IRENE C. MAMBILIMA

AT THE ANNUAL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

14TH – 18TH NOVEMBER, 2016

AVANI VICTORIA FALLS RESORT

LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Guest of Honour,

Former Chief Justices,

Acting Deputy Chief Justice

President of the Constitutional Court

Supreme Court Judges and Constitutional Court Judges

Judge President of the Court of Appeal

Deputy Judge President of the Court of Appeal

His Lordship Justice Torgbor

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice

His Worship the Mayor

District Commissioner

Resource Persons

Chief Administrator and Senior Management, Judiciary

I am very excited to welcome each one of you to the 2016 Judicial Conference. Let me start by acknowledging the presence of the Honourable Minister of Justice, Honourable Given Lubinda, MP, who is officiating at this year's Conference on behalf of his Excellency the President, Mr. Edgar C. Lungu. Honourable Minister, you are most welcome to our Annual Judicial Conference.

Let me also cordially welcome our resource persons who have left their equally important responsibilities to come and share their knowledge with us. For our resource persons joining us from outside Zambia, please do not go back without visiting the marvellous tourist sites which Livingstone City, our tourist Capital, has to offer.

Let me also take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the United Nations Development Programme for the financial support towards the holding of this Conference.

As you may know, Annual Judicial Conferences are now a permanent feature of our Annual Judicial Calendar. These Conferences give us an opportunity to take stock of activities of the Judiciary, the successes recorded and the shortcomings encountered during the year and to chart the way forward for the following next year, and beyond. Further, the Conferences provide us with a platform where we can share experiences and best practices in the administration of justice. The Conferences also generally provide us with an opportunity to interact with each other, as members of the Bench, away from our busy court work schedules.

This year's Conference is unique in that it is being attended by not only our eminent retired Chief Justices but also some of our retired

Honourable Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court. I am happy that our retired Chief Justices and Judges accepted our invitation for them to come and share their vast experience on the Bench and their knowledge of the law. Please do not get tired of our constant knocks on your doors; although you are retired you have continued to be important members of our Judiciary family.

The Theme for this year's Conference is ***“strengthening the capacity of the Judiciary to respond to the needs of the public”***. This Theme is particularly suitable for this Conference because the Conference is being held in the year in which our court structure has undergone the most extensive transformations by the introduction of the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeal and Specialised Divisions of the High Court. These changes, coupled with consequential enactments of other pieces of legislation following the amendment to the Constitution, makes discussions on how we can strengthen the capacity of the Judiciary, very timely.

This year's Theme also embraces the continued desire by the Judiciary to ensure efficient dispensation of justice to the people of Zambia. To this end, a big portion of the conference programme has been dedicated to an intensive discussion of arbitration and mediation.

It is hoped that refreshing our knowledge of the principles governing these alternative dispute resolution mechanisms will impact positively on our efforts to decongest our court system and ultimately ensure speedy resolution of those cases that cannot be resolved through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The discussion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms will be complemented by a discussion of the causes of delays in the dispensation of criminal justice. We have invited the National Prosecutions Authority and the Zambia Correctional Services to come and highlight their perspectives of the causes of delay in the administration of criminal justice.

I am confident that this Conference will have a positive impact on administration of justice in Zambia.

With these remarks, I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.