**PRESS RELEASE**

**FIVE LEGAL LUMINARIES CALLED TO THE INNER BAR**

**Lusaka, 17th June 2024** – His Lordship the Hon. Chief Justice Dr. Mumba Malila, SC this morning admitted five lawyers to the much-esteemed rank and file of State Counsel. This follows their appointment on 16th February 2024 and subsequent swearing-in by the President of Zambia, His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, on 13th March 2024.

The newly admitted State Counsel include the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Mutti Kashumba Butete Nelly, SC, MP; the Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Hon Mr Mwiimbu Jack Jacob, SC, MP; the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Zambia, Mrs Zaloumis Ifunga Mwangala Frances, SC; the Managing Partner of Musa Dudhia & Co., Mr Musa Abdulla Arshad, SC; and the Vice Chairperson of the Judicial Service Commission and Managing Partner of JB Sakala & Co., Mrs Chibiya Sakala Emily Kondwa, SC.

In his address, the Honourable Chief Justice congratulated the new State Counsel, noting that they are all distinguished senior lawyers who had highly notable careers at the Bar well before taking up their current public service roles. He highlighted that this honour acknowledges their outstanding abilities and significant contributions to the legal profession and the advancement of the law.

"This honour and dignity sets you apart among your peers, for it represents a public recognition by the appointing authority of your exceptional abilities as advocates. You should consider it a personal turning point in your professional careers and as a just and deserved reward for the many years of hard work, dedication, and contribution to the legal profession and the development of the law," the Chief Justice said.

Reflecting on the significance of the State Counsel title, the Chief Justice added that, "Indeed, this rank and dignity, I dare say, is not just an honour bestowed on you for the legal profession; it is a national legal honour of the highest rank. You therefore owe a duty, not only to fellow legal professionals but to fellow citizens and indeed to the nation, to guide and offer your dispassionate legal service when called upon to do so."

The Chief Justice also commended the gender balance among those called to the Inner Bar this morning, with three out of the five being female. He reminded the new State Counsel of their ongoing responsibility to exemplify impeccable conduct and integrity, both in their legal practice and public roles. He urged them to continue their good stewardship, as the status of State Counsel is a lifelong honour that carries public expectations even beyond their current assignments.

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