***PRESS RELEASE***

**SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL**

**Lusaka, 7th June 2024 –** Her Ladyship Hon. Lady Justice Annie M. Sitali, Hon. Judge of the Constitutional Court, on Tuesday morning swore-in seven members of the Lands Tribunal, appointed pursuant to section 6 of the Lands Tribunal Act.

The Lands Tribunal, is mandated to among others, resolve disputes related to customary land tenure; land compensation under the Lands Act and the Land Acquisition Act; and to order rectifications in the lands register, as well as to cancel erroneously issued or fraudulently obtained certificates of title.

In her address, Justice Sitali congratulated the Commissioners on their appointment and reminded them of the gravity of their responsibilities. She emphasised the importance of impartiality, transparency, and expeditiousness in resolving land disputes. "As part of your jurisdiction, you will hear appeals of certain decisions made by specific authorities," she stated. "And as you undertake these determinations, you have sworn an oath to act without fear or favour, strictly in accordance with the law. In your rulings, ensure transparency by clearly explaining the basis of your decisions. Let the law and the facts guide you in making fair judgments.”

Recognising Zambia as a Christian nation, Justice Sitali urged the Commissioners to remember that it is God who entrusts humans with the responsibility to resolve of disputes "He expects us to administer justice because righteousness and truth are the foundations of the soil," she added.

The members of the Land Tribunal sworn in are as follows:

1. Shadreck Mbewe - Chairperson
2. Matidah Chileshe Kaoma - Deputy Chairperson
3. Francis Chilunga,
4. Joseph Kawangu
5. Cooper Chibomba
6. Kantu Flora Mooya
7. Glenn Mwika

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