

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today as the Chairperson of His Lordship the Hon. Chief Justice's Advisory Committee on Public Relations and Information. I am honored to welcome you all to this remarkable tripartite event, which is a convergence of three pivotal initiatives: our Open Day, the launch of the 2024 Mediation Settlement Week, and the official launch of our Communications Strategy. Each of these components represents a crucial step towards enhancing transparency, efficiency, and public engagement within our judiciary.

When the Hon. Chief Justice assumed office in December 2021, he set out his vision for the Judiciary. Part of that vision, which of course aligns to the vision of the institution was to transform the people's courts through rekindling public confidence and trust in the Judiciary. Today's Open Day is testament to the fact that we are making strides in that direction by affording us an opportunity as members of the public to gain a deeper understanding into what the judiciary is, its role in the justice system, the processes and procedures found here and the services we provide. It is a day dedicated to

fostering trust and confidence in our legal system by offering a transparent view into our operations.

We are committed to demystifying the judicial process and ensuring that justice is not only done but seen to be done.

Secondly, the 2024 Mediation Settlement Week underscores our commitment to alternative dispute resolution. Mediation serves as an effective tool in alleviating the burdens on our courts, offering a more amicable and expedient means of resolving disputes. By promoting mediation, we aim to provide a platform for parties to reach mutually beneficial agreements, thereby enhancing the efficiency of our judicial system.

Lastly, the official launch of our Communications Strategy is a testament to our dedication to improving how we engage with the public and our stakeholders. In today's digital age, effective communication is paramount. Our strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to ensuring that information about the judiciary is accessible, clear, and timely. It is designed to foster a more informed and engaged public, which is essential for the administration of justice.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, including the GIZ, for their unwavering support and collaboration in developing the communications strategy.

Your contributions have been invaluable in making these initiatives a reality. I also wish to thank the members of the Advisory Committee on Public Relations and Information, the Members of the Advisory Committee on Court Annexed Mediation and Delay Reduction and the Chief Administrator, for making today possible. I do not forget to thank all members of staff, and everyone who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this event to fruition. I also wish to thank you all for making time to attend this event.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remain committed to upholding the principles of justice, transparency, and public service. Let today's event be a reminder of our collective responsibility to serve the people of Zambia with integrity and dedication.

Once again, welcome to this significant event. I look forward to meaningful interactions, and the successful launch of these pivotal initiatives.

Thank you.

