

FAREWELL SPEECH BY

HON. JUSTICE E. M. HAMAUNDU

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF ZAMBIA

ON 16TH JANUARY, 2025

Salutations

I will begin from the time that I was at the Law Practice Institute (Now ZIALE). My desire was to become a Magistrate immediately upon being admitted to the Bar. However, that was not to be because of the Government Policy that was prevailing at the time with regard to law graduates that it had fully sponsored.

So, upon being admitted to the Bar, in 1984, I started work in the Department of Legal Aid. I subsequently ventured into the corporate world where I was up to 1996. In that year my desire to be an Adjudicator again resurfaced, and I decided to give it another try.

Now, although I was already in my 12th year of admission to the Bar, I chose to start at the magistrate level. So, I

wrote to the Judiciary and I was accepted and appointed Resident Magistrate.

I first underwent an orientation programme for about two months, under the tutelage of senior experienced Magistrates, who included my Wife.

After that programme, I began presiding over cases on my own. Within two months of sitting as a Magistrate I knew that I had found my true calling.

And that is how my career on the Bench began. I must say that this is a career that has given me tremendous job satisfaction. Yes, there have been some downs along the way but those are far outweighed by the satisfaction I have received, and therefore, they simply pale into insignificance. This satisfaction has continued in all the levels of the courts that I have been. So even today as I leave, I do so as a totally satisfied Judge career-wise.

And so, I would like to say thank you to all those who have made this possible.

My gratitude first goes to the Magistrates that I found when I joined the Judiciary. Indeed, that was a unique family of very close colleagues, a family which immediately embraced me wholeheartedly.

My gratitude also goes to my colleagues whom I worked with in the High Court. They were wonderful professional colleagues and friends.

My gratitude then goes to my colleagues on the Supreme Court Bench where I have enjoyed the relationship we share as brothers and sisters. Indeed, the system where we call each other by only our initials has greatly helped to foster this close relationship.

My gratitude goes to the legal practitioners whose courtesy to the Bench has been exemplary our work has brought us close to each other. In our day to day work, advocates have won some applications and lost some and yet they have never lost the respect they have for Judges.

My gratitude goes to the support staff at all levels of the Judiciary who make the work of a Judge possible. Certainly, those that have particularly worked with me throughout my career on the Bench have been tremendous hard workers and wonderful people.

And of-course I cannot forget to extend my gratitude to my family who throughout my career have not given me any undue external pressure that would affect my work.

Lastly, may I say thank you to all those of you who have come to send me off. I truly appreciate the effort that you have made to do so. May God Bless you all.

Thank you.