

Mr. Justice Evans Mweembani Hamaundu's Farewell Speech

My Lord the Chief Justice, may I with your permission, simply ride on the protocols observed earlier.

Today, we gather to celebrate an extraordinary career and bid farewell to a remarkable individual, Mr. Justice Evans Mweembani Hamaundu, fondly known to us as EMH or Ol'chap. It's a bittersweet moment as we reflect on his impactful journey and the void his departure will leave in our hearts and in the Judiciary.

Our paths first crossed back in 1968 at Mongu Primary School, a connection I only discovered many years later during a conversation about our shared educational experiences. Fast forward to 1980, we found ourselves once again in the hallowed halls of the University of Zambia Law School, both embarking on our journey as law students. In class, EMH was the quiet presence—an unassuming scholar steadfastly focused on his studies.

Our camaraderie deepened when we were both called to the Bar in December 1984. Then, in 2014, we took another significant step together and were sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court on the same day. These milestones not only highlight our friendship, but also the parallel paths our careers have taken throughout the years.

EMH is one of the most down-to-earth and affable persons I have had the privilege of knowing. His willingness to lend a hand, even in the most inconvenient moments, is something I will always cherish. I recall a particularly challenging night in Chipata when I was drafting a judgment. In that moment of distress, I reached out to him, and without hesitation, he provided the guidance I needed, along with the relevant authorities, which brought me much relief.

As Supreme Court judges, we closely collaborated, and I have always admired his strength in criminal law and civil procedure. Justice Hamaundu's brilliance lies in his ability to express complex legal concepts in a brief, simple, and direct manner. He had a knack for making judgment writing appear effortless, a skill not to be underestimated. He never shied away from taking on additional responsibilities, always confidently stating, "I will handle it." This is the kind of commitment and dedication that we celebrate today.

As we honour Judge Hamaundu's retirement, we must acknowledge the profound impact he has had on the Judiciary and the Supreme Court. His absence will be felt deeply, but his legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire those of us who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Ol'chap, thank you for your unwavering support, your brilliant legal mind, and your friendship. Enjoy this new chapter of your life—you've certainly earned it!

Thank you.