



SPEECH BY MR. LUNGISANI ZULU, PRESIDENT OF THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE VALEDICTORY SESSION OF THE RETIRING SUPREME COURT HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE EVANS HAMAUNDU, HELD AT THE SUPREME COURT IN LUSAKA ON 16TH JANUARY, 2025.

“A JUSTICE HUNTER”

My Lord, the Honourable Chief Justice, Dr. Mumba Malila SC., my Lords and Ladies, Judges of the Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Court of Appeal and High Court here present; the Learned Attorney-General, State Counsel, Senior Counsel, learned members of the Law Association of Zambia, may I simply say fellow mourners.

This special valedictory session has been assembled to honour and celebrate the illustrious service of Hon. Mr. Justice Evans Mweembani Hamaundu, Judge of the Supreme Court, as he retires from the Judicial Service.

Firstly, permit me to extend our sincere gratitude to you my Lord the Chief Justice and Judiciary as whole, in hosting this special session in honor of Justice Hamaundu, not when he is dead, but when he is still alive. This kind gesture allows the legal profession to join the judiciary and the entire nation in celebrating truly the life, not death, of a living person while they are still alive. As a country, we need to do more of this, create living stars, celebrate lives and show appreciation to those who have contributed immensely to the growth of our society.

Every time I interact with Justice Hamaundu, I am always amazed by his calm demeanour, his patience with parties, sober decision-making skills and a firm commitment to ensure justice is done to the parties.

Now in our times of Artificial Intelligence, research is easy, so I punched into ChatGPT, the qualities of Judge Hamaundu. This is what it retained:

“A good hunter is physically fit, mentally tough, and has a deep understanding of life-wildlife. He or she is also patient, disciplined, and has good decision-making skills”.

Eureka! Justice Hamaundu is a good hunter, even AI knows it. I then immediately remembered some of the photos in his chambers, showing him hunting. And a number of Judge Hamaundu’s conversations with counsel after concluding a hearing are on hunting.

For this reason, permit me to entitle my reflections as we celebrate this great Judge, **A JUSTICE HUNTER.**

Hon. Mr. Justice Evans Mweembani Hamaundu, Judge of the Supreme Court, is one of our national stars whose life in the legal profession is worthy celebrating.

Indulge me My Lords and Ladies, on behalf of the membership of the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) and indeed on my behalf, to congratulate Hon. Mr. Justice Evans Mweembani Hamaundu, Judge of the Supreme Court on a successful legal career.

For a lot of us, yours My Lord, is a life dreams are made of. I mean, you served the indigents at Legal Aid Department as Legal Aid Counsel from 1984 to 1986. Enjoyed the glamour of private practice as Assistant

Advocate at the prestigious Mbaluku Sikazwe and Company from 1986 to 1987. The comfort and assuredness of in-house Counsel did not escape you as you served as Legal Counsel/Administration Manager at Maamba Collieries Limited and Group Company Secretary for the National Media Corporation Limited before completing your practice as a legal practitioner as Company Secretary for Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company Limited from 1995 to 1996.

It is from there that Justice Hamaundu joined the Judiciary of Zambia as Resident Magistrate in 1996 and rose through the ranks until he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court. How truly patient.

On Friday, 28th February, 2014, Dr. Effron Chakupa Lungu, Chama South Member of Parliament, sharing the Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee appointed to scrutinise the Presidential appointments of Justice Evans Mweembani Hamaundu to serve as Supreme Court Judge made a profound prediction of Judge Hamaundu's contributions as Supreme Court Judge, he said:

"Mr Speaker, your committee is satisfied that the nominee is a suitable person to serve as judge of the Supreme Court, having served as High Court Judge since May, 2003 and Acting Supreme Court Judge since October, 2012, effectively. The nominee is not only eminently qualified and well experienced for the position, but he has also distinguished himself as a fearless Judge. He will, indeed, be an added asset to the Supreme Court Bench."

Judge, you have been a true asset not only to the Bench, but to the entire legal profession. As a good hunter, you have shown us, through deeds,

that being a Judge does not mean you must scream at Counsel. You are calm, you approachable, you are reasonable and respectful. We love that in Judges. The bar loves to be treated as equal partners in the hunt for justice with the Bench. That we are only but different sides of the same coin, the justice coin. Though it would appear obvious that there can be no bar without the bench, sometimes, we at the bar, and a few on the bench, may yield to the fleeting temptation to gloss over this fundamental unity. But you Judge, always reminded us of this, through your conduct. You knew, that without respect for each other, patience with each other, we would not achieve justice, we would not touch lives effectively, and ultimately, we would not succeed in using the instrument of the law to further the growth of society, as we are all commanded to do under our founding statute.

My Lord, your contributions to the legal profession and society at large will remain immortal. Your name is in our law reports. Your contributions to the development of our jurisprudence shall remain a part of us. You have been a good justice hunter, eager to assist your fellow citizens, uplift their cause, using your legal skills. Your fearlessness, though natural for a hunter, will always inspire us to choose to do what is right, what is just, no matter the perceived or potential cost to ourselves.

My 5,000 members at the bar are proud of you, my Lord.

My Lords and Ladies, Permit me therefore to place the following on record:

“MY LORDS and LADIES, the legal profession is not only satisfied but grateful for the tremendous contributions of Justice Mweembani

Hamaundu. We find him worthy and suitable to have served as judge of the Supreme Court as well as in all other previous positions he held. Indeed, may the record reflect that he was and remains an asset not only to the Supreme Court Bench but the entire legal profession and the country at large."

My Lord, your contributions to justice and humanity will never be forgotten and will always be celebrated. And you are still young, continue doing your all for your country.

You have been a good hunter, a justice hunter, and you have hunted plenty of justice for all. Your reward is assured. A hearty congratulations once again to you My Lord, Hon. Mr. Justice Evans Mweembani Hamaundu, a justice hunter.

I am most obliged.
Lungisani Zulu
PRESIDENT