



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
THE JUDICIARY**

REMARKS

BY THE

HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

DR. MUMBA MALILA, SC

AT THE

LAUNCH OF THE CHIFUBU SUBORDINATE COURT

IN

NDOLA, COPPERBELT PROVINCE

10TH MARCH, 2025

SALUTATIONS

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an immense privilege to stand before you today to officially launch the Ndola Subordinate Court, Chifubu Annex.

I recall being here last year, specifically on 10th June 10, to inspect this newly constructed court building. I was truly impressed by what the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) can accomplish when entrusted to dedicated civic and community leaders. The magnificent structure we shall inaugurate today stands as a testament to the immense potential of the increased CDF allocation and how the Judiciary has benefited and will continue to benefit from this vital government policy.

I am aware that this project was initiated in response to the devastating fire as the Member of Parliament has alluded on 1st August, 2020, which destroyed an administrative block here at Chifubu. The people of Chifubu were understandably concerned about the lack of reconstruction following this unfortunate incident. I am informed that in 2023, the community here, through the Fibobe Ward Development Committee, took the initiative to replace the

guttled building using CDF allocation. Remarkably, the community did not only reconstruct the gutted administration block, they went a step further and built a fully-fledged court the structure that we are seeing today. This new facility includes a courtroom, chambers, offices, toilets and a holding cell. As this initiative did not end there, the people of Chifubu also took it upon themselves to refurbish the old Chifubu Local Court. The ingenuity and commitment of the people of Chifubu is truly commendable. I urge all other communities on the Copperbelt and the Country at large to emulate resourcefulness of the people of Chifubu.

I recall during my visit to Chifubu last year, the area Member of Parliament, Hon. Lloyd Lubosha, passionately expressed his community's desire to see the structure transformed into a subordinate court to bring justice closer to the people. He assured me that if this request were granted, I would become a 'darling' of the people of Chifubu. Today, I am pleased to announce that this dream has come true. From this day forward, this building will serve as an extension of the Ndola Subordinate Court. It will house a full-time magistrate and support staff stationed here to serve the Chifubu community and the greater Ndola district.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, what the people of Chifubu have accomplished today will be etched in the annals of Zambia's history. Ndola now holds the distinction of being the first district in the Copperbelt Province to have a subordinate court with an annex capable of handling various cases within the court's jurisdiction.

I must emphasise here that this remarkable milestone would not have been possible without your collective initiative as the people of Chifubu. While words may not be sufficient to express our gratitude, we, as the Judiciary, pledge to reciprocate this noble gesture by ensuring the delivery of quality service and timely justice to your community.

Allow me to reiterate what I have spoken about at various fora regarding some constitutional imperatives. Article 120(4) of the Constitution demands that all courts, except the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court, be devolved to the provinces and progressively to the districts. The essence of this provision is to guarantee that court services are decentralized and brought closer to the people of Zambia. This initiative here squarely aligns with the broader principle of access to justice. The people of Chifubu have

indeed exceeded all expectations in achieving this objective, and you deserve to give yourselves a big hand.

In my inaugural address to Judiciary staff in December, 2021, I underscored the importance of expanding access to justice for all. I must caution that access to justice is not achieved through a single act or event; rather, it is an ongoing commitment that requires continuous effort and innovation. The opening of this subordinate court annex is a significant milestone in bringing justice closer to the people, but it does not mark the end of our journey. We must continue to increase our judicial infrastructure, embrace technology for efficient case management and ensure that our courts remain accessible and responsive to the needs of all citizens. The true access to justice is a continuous pursuit. It is one that demands dedication and sustained collaboration among all stakeholders including the community.

Access to justice is not merely a right in itself. It is the cornerstone that enables the realization of other fundamental rights. It is, in many ways, the most essential right for litigants. Without it, our other

rights, be they property rights, contractual rights, public law rights, or human rights etc. would remain mere illusions.

As we strive to build a Judiciary that is reliable and accessible to all court users, our commitment extends beyond strengthening the institution itself. We are focused on increasing the availability of court infrastructure across the country.

And our goal is clear: every person in Zambia with a legal grievance should have access to a courthouse to seek justice. Once at the court, they should receive real justice, justice that is fair, timely and dispensed in accordance with the law.

For the establishment and launch of the Ndola Subordinate Court extension brings us one step closer to achieving this vision. We deeply appreciate the invaluable partnership and support of all stakeholders who have contributed to making this dream a reality.

With these few remarks, I now have the great honour and privilege of officially launching the Ndola Subordinate Court, Chifubu Annex.

I thank you.