



# The Adjudicator

## Judiciary Newsletter





## Table of Content

- i.** Advisory Committee on Public Relations and Information
- 01.** Mobile Court - Revolutionising Justice in Zambia's Prisons
- 02.** Time is Money - A Reflection on the Commercial Court Division
- 03.** More Than Quoting the Law: A Reflection on the Shaping of Jurisprudence
- 05.** Mr. Tedd's Journey of Hard Work and Growth
- 06.** Protecting Children from Defilement: Our Collective Responsibility
- 08.** Lions at the Gate: Symbols of Justice in Zambia
- 09.** Justice Albert Mark Wood Retires from the Supreme Court
- 10.** Poetry: Entanglement of Justice
- 11.** Embracing Change in the Judiciary of Zambia: A Call to Transformation with Purpose
- 12.** Obituaries
- 16.** This Quarter in Photos

### Editorial Team

- Hon. Mr. Justice Kelvin Muzenga
- Hon. Mr. Justice Charles Zulu
- Hon. Lady Justice Bubile Shonga
- Mr. Sangwani Nyimbiri
- Mrs. Kalumba Chisambisha-Slavin
- Ms. Chishala Nkalamo
- Mr. Champemba Chileshe

### Contributors

- Hon. Lady Justice Bubile Shonga
- Mrs. Kalumba Chisambisha-Slavin
- Ms. Patricia Sipatisiwe Tembo
- Ms. Masuzyo Chilambwe
- Mr. Moses Mukinga
- Ms. Thabitha Kawama
- Mr. Champemba Chileshe

## Advisory Committee on Public Relations and Information



Hon. Mr. Justice Charles  
Zulu - Member



Hon. Mr. Justice Kelvin  
Muzenga - Chairperson



Hon. Lady Justice Bubile  
Shonga - Member



Mr. Sangwani  
Nyimbiri - Member



Mr. Timothy Daka  
- Member



Ms. Idah Phiri  
Mupemo - Member



Mrs. Kalumba  
Chisambisha-Slavin Secretary



## Protecting Children from Defilement

### Our Collective Responsibility

By Lady Justice Bubile Shonga



The recent surge in defilement cases in Zambia is a stark reminder of the vulnerability of our children to sexual abuse.

According to the latest statistics coming from the Zambia Police Service, a total of 11,177 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases were reported in the first quarter of 2025, with 2,474 cases involving child victims. Among these, 941 were sexual offences. Alarmed by the ostensible rise in defilement and other sexual offences against children in Zambia, the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) issued a statement, on 28th March 2025, expressing deep concern. In the statement, titled "A Call to End the Alarming Rise in Child Defilement Cases in Zambia", the JCTR highlighted several disturbing cases of child sexual abuse reported in the first quarter of 2025.

These included:

- \* The brutal rape and murder of a 16-year-old in Lusaka.
- \* The reported rape of an 18-year-old girl by a pastor.
- \* The reported sodomising of a five-year-old girl in Mtendere East by four men.
- \* The reported sodomising of a three-year-old girl in Lusaka-West by a neighbor.
- \* The reported rape of a seven-year-old cancer patient by her own father.
- \* The reported defiling of a 13-year-old girl, a murder suspect, by a 40-year-old male police officer while in custody in Itezhi-Tezhi.

The JCTR called for urgent action to address this issue and protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

In a similar call made through a statement issued on 1st April 2025, the Joining Forces Alliance Zambia strongly condemned the increasing cases of rape and defilement in Zambia. The Joining Forces Alliance Zambia is comprised of six international child-focused organizations working together to secure children's rights and end violence against them. These organizations include: Child Fund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International.

A key concern raised by the alliance is that children are being violated in spaces meant to be safe, such as homes, schools, and orphanages. That people entrusted to protect children are perpetrating these heinous crimes.

As we rally to address the pressing concern of child defilement, this article seeks to mobilize a unified response and foster a sense of community accountability. Together, parents, caregivers, and the broader community can unite to take proactive steps to safeguard children and combat defilement and other sexual offences against children.

As we strive to create a safer environment for our children, it is essential to understand some of the tactics used by sexual predators and take proactive measures to prevent abuse. In this article, which will be published in two parts, I will explore the process of grooming, a manipulative strategy used by predators to prepare children for sexual abuse. Practical safety tips will be explored to help parents, caregivers and even astute neighbors protect their children and other children in their circle of influence.

In this edition, we will look at three ploys that have been identified as tactics often used by predators: Targeting, Gaining Parental Trust and Gaining the Child's Trust.

However, it is important to note that although we will look at a specific sequence, predators do not always follow a set sequence, these are merely common tactics that serve as indicators.

#### Stage 1: Targeting

In the initial stage of grooming, predators often identify and target children who exhibit vulnerabilities such as a need for love and attention, lack of supervision, low self-esteem or social isolation.

Children coming from homes with domestic turmoil or instability are sometimes an open target because of their emotional vulnerability, which may prompt them to seek attention, affection, or validation from others.

## Safety Tips:

- *Ensure your child receives adequate love, attention, and support to reduce their vulnerability to predators.*
- *Be cautious of individuals who are overly eager to befriend or shower your child with attention or gifts.*

By recognizing the signs of grooming and taking proactive measures, parents and caregivers can significantly reduce the risk of their child becoming a victim of sexual abuse.

## Stage 2: Gaining Parental Trust

After identifying a potential target, predators often focus on gaining the trust of the child's parent, guardian, family, or community. This is a critical step in the grooming process, as it allows the perpetrator to gain access to the child.

You may wonder how predators gain trust. Predators may offer valuable services, such as babysitting, tutoring, or coaching, to gain the trust of parents and caregivers. They may also shower the family with kindness and generosity, making it seem like they have the child's best interests at heart. As parents and caregivers begin to trust the predator, they may become overly comfortable with the person's presence in their child's life. This can lead to a lack of vigilance and a failure to recognize warning signs of abuse.

## Safety Tips

- *Beware of the danger of blind trust. Not all acts of kindness are genuine. Be cautious of individuals who seem overly eager to help or befriend your child.*
- *Always conduct a background check on service providers, regardless of whether you're paying for their services.*
- *Trust your instincts. If you have a nagging feeling about someone, don't let them have access to your child.*
- *Pay attention to your child's feelings. If they're uncomfortable with someone, don't ignore their concerns.*
- *Don't hesitate to distance your child from someone you suspect may be a predator, even if it means losing their assistance.*

## Stage 3: Gaining a child's trust

Predators often use manipulation to gain a child's trust. They often find common ground with the child, such as shared interests or hobbies. They gradually build trust by being sympathetic and showing interest in the child's life.

The child is encouraged to discuss the child's concerns, needs,

fears and worries. The predator becomes a sympathetic listener and shows the child that they will keep the child's secrets and even try to solve their problem.

They make the child feel like they share a 'special relationship'. A relationship of trust is developed, often accompanied by some form of allegiance, loyalty, affection and love. Then, the predator begins to test the trust by introducing apparently harmless secrets with the child. Examples include asking the child to keep a secret relating to being given a toy, money or even buying a child ice cream. The secret itself may not be offensive. This is to test the child's ability to keep a secret. Subsequently, the predator introduces intimate conversation or other visual content of a sexual nature to assess the child's interest, curiosity, or reaction. Here, the predator is laying a ground for physical intimacy and body secrets.

## Safety Tips

- *Teach children the importance of openness and honesty, and encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings with you.*
- *Emphasize that it's never okay to keep secrets about their body or personal safety.*
- *Educate your child to be cautious of anyone who tries to show them inappropriate content or have conversations about sensitive topics outside of a safe and regulated environment, such as a classroom.*
- *Encourage your child to come to you if they encounter someone who makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.*
- *Watch for inconsistencies. Pay attention to inconsistencies in someone's words and actions, especially if they're trying to build a relationship with your child.*
- *Teach children to be wary of strangers. Educate them on the risks of trusting strangers, even if they seem friendly or kind.*
- *Monitor relationships. Pay attention to new relationships in your child's life, especially if someone is trying to isolate them from others.*
- *Encourage critical thinking. Teach your child to think critically about people's intentions and motivations.*
- *Discuss boundaries. Educate your child on setting healthy boundaries and saying "no" to uncomfortable requests.*

In our next edition, we will consider three other tactics often employed by predators.

We will also shift the focus to exploring the often-overlooked threat of familiar danger, highlighting the importance of recognizing risks from known individuals, rather than focusing on stranger danger.



*“When one works hard,  
results show”*

## Mr. Teddy’s Journey of Hard Work and Growth

By *Thabitha Kavama*

In commemorating Labour Day, the Judiciary of Zambia proudly shines a spotlight on Mr. Teddy Mukumbwa, popularly known as “Mr. Teddy,” a dedicated General Worker at the headquarters. Mr Teddy’s consistent hard work has played a vital role in maintaining clean, orderly and safe workspaces, helping to create an environment where judicial officers and staff can carry out their duties efficiently.

With over 25 years of service, Mr. Teddy’s contributions embody the theme “Shaping Zambia’s Future of Work through Home-Grown Solutions for Inclusive Economic Growth.” Through his hands-on approach, resilience and strong work ethic developed from personal experience, he demonstrates how local effort and dedication at every level of work can drive progress. His story shows that meaningful contributions to national development do not only come from high-level roles, but also from those who consistently carry out essential tasks with pride and commitment.

Coming from one of the most rural areas of Kasama, Mr. Teddy started manual work at a young age to support his father after the death of his mother. He worked in Tanzania ploughing fields, then in Mkushi where he reared cattle. He later moved to Kafue and took on casual jobs before joining a bakery as a baker. When he was retrenched from the bakery, he made a living by crafting pots and weaving mats.

In September 2000, Mr. Teddy joined the Judiciary as an office orderly at the Kafue Magistrate Court. After eight years of dedicated service, he was transferred to the Judiciary Headquarters.

He attributes his resilience and growth to the lessons learned

throughout his life journey, particularly the values and morals instilled in him from a young age.

This connection to personal values aligns well with this year’s Labour Day theme, “Shaping Zambia’s Future of Work through Home-Grown Solutions for Inclusive Economic Growth.” From the beginning, Mr. Teddy viewed his role in the Judiciary as more than just a job, it was a calling. This mindset has earned him recognition over the years, including in 2017 when, even while on sick leave, he was recognized for his hard work during Labour Day celebrations and honoured with a certificate, a fridge and a suit in recognition of his outstanding work ethic. His journey shows that building the future of work in Zambia starts with individuals who embrace their roles with purpose and integrity.

Mr. Teddy’s story is a clear example of this year’s Labour Day theme, “Shaping Zambia’s Future of Work through Home-Grown Solutions for Inclusive Economic Growth.” His commitment to his work, shaped by personal values and life experiences, reflects how home-grown qualities such as discipline, perseverance and a strong work ethic can contribute to national progress. By taking pride in his role and consistently giving his best, he has not only supported the Judiciary’s operations but also demonstrated how locally rooted dedication can lead to personal growth and recognition.

A major turning point in Mr. Teddy’s career came in 2012 when the government introduced a salary increase. This change enabled him to access a loan of K24,000, which he used to purchase a house for K22,000. Before then, he had struggled to make ends meet, often spending half of his salary on rent. The loan gave him the financial breakthrough he needed to gain stability and independence.

Five years later, building on that progress, Mr. Teddy secured another loan and constructed two additional flats. He became a landlord with three tenants and today takes pride in the financial security his job has helped him achieve. His ability to turn modest means into long-term gains is a testament to what can be accomplished through steady effort and careful planning. Over the years, Mr. Teddy has witnessed many changes in the Judiciary. While he acknowledges improvements, he also notes that bureaucracy has become more challenging, especially when requesting for tools and materials needed for his work. Despite occasional difficulties, including unfair treatment from some supervisors due to the nature of his role, he has remained grounded.

Mr. Teddy holds his job with deep appreciation, recognizing the many ways it has empowered him. For him, Labour Day is a reminder that effort does not go unnoticed. His life journey continues to inspire him to maintain high standards, avoid mistakes and give his best each day.



## Time-is-Money

By Masuzyo Chilambwe



## A Reflection on the Commercial Court Division

The old adage: “time is money” is often used loosely in various spheres of life. But it finds its most solemn and practical application in the realm of legal practice. In this profession, every moment counts. For those who serve at the bar or on the bench, time is not merely a resource; it is a duty.

In the judiciary, nowhere is this principle more evident than in the Commercial Division of the High Court for Zambia, established under Article 133(2) of the Constitution. This specialized division was created with deliberate foresight and intent to provide a streamlined and expeditious forum for resolving disputes that directly impact commerce, industry, and investment. As a fast-track court, it is designed to ensure that justice is not only rendered but done so with the swiftness that commercial matters require.

The legal foundation of the Commercial Court is found in Order 53 of the High Court Rules, Chapter 27 of the Laws of Zambia, which provides for the procedure in commercial matters. The Rules demand strict timelines, case management conferences, and pre-trial orders. Its very architecture is one of precision, responsiveness and timeliness.

The Commercial Court is more than a court; it is a pillar of economic infrastructure, a courtroom where business confidence is tried and tested. Businesses thrive on certainty and predictability. The delay of justice, particularly in commercial disputes, can result in significant financial losses, disrupted operations, and diminished opportunities. The timely dispute resolution process of the Commercial Court permits businesses to refocus on their core activities rather than being embroiled in protracted litigation

Accountability is a cornerstone of the Commercial Court's operations. And so, in its wisdom, the Judiciary instituted a mechanism for accountability and performance appraisal: The Commercial Court Users' Committee. This Committee is

composed of Judges and key stakeholders which include the Law Association of Zambia, the Bankers' Association, Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and civil society representatives. Through the Committee, Judges are held accountable to the public via periodic engagement with stakeholders. This mechanism promotes transparency and ensures that the Commercial Court remains responsive to the needs of those it serves, the business world.

Thus, in the Commercial Court, timekeeping in law is not mere clerical diligence. It is a statement of professionalism. It is a mark of discipline. It is the bedrock upon which case management and performance appraisal are built.

Nugget: As we continue in service, as judicial officers and judicial staff, may we remember always that time is not a gift to be squandered, but a resource to be stewarded. From the Commercial Court to every courtroom in our land, the call is clear, justice must not only be done, but done without delay. For in the temple of justice, time is not merely a measure; indeed, it is value. It is accountability. It is trust. And above all else, “time truly is money.”

*“In the temple of justice, time is not merely a measure; it is value, it is accountability, it is trust, and above all else, time truly is money.”*



## Mobile Courts

### Revolutionising Justice in Zambia's Prisons

By Kalumba Chisambisba-Slavin

In an innovative and pioneering initiative designed to enhance access to justice and significantly alleviate overcrowding in correctional facilities, the Judiciary of the Republic of Zambia, together with key stakeholders in the criminal justice sector, has launched mobile courts at three major correctional facilities.

This ground-breaking initiative has been undertaken in close collaboration with the Zambia Correctional Services, National Prosecutions Authority, Legal Aid Board, Irish Rule of Law International, and Undikumbukire Project Zambia (UP Zambia). The initiative kicked off with an impactful pilot session at Lusaka Central Correctional Facility (Chimbokaila) on 20th February 2025, rapidly extending to Mukobeko Correctional Facility in Kabwe and Kamfinsa Correctional Facility in Kitwe on 2nd and 4th April 2025, respectively.

#### Streamlining Justice: How Mobile Courts Operate

Mobile courts uniquely deliver judicial services directly within correctional facilities, transforming the traditional courtroom setting into a dynamic, onsite legal environment. During each mobile court session, adjudicators, prosecutors, court personnel, and legal aid representatives travel directly to prisons to administer justice on-site. These courts primarily focus on bail hearings, minor offenses, and addressing cases involving inmates who have been held in pre-trial detention longer than

legally permissible periods. Integral to the effectiveness of these mobile courts is the robust participation of the National Prosecutions Authority and the Legal Aid Board. Immediate legal representation provided by the Legal Aid Board ensures that inmates' rights are thoroughly safeguarded and justice is both fair and timely.

#### Transformative Benefits and Lasting Impact

The introduction of mobile courts has already begun to show transformative effects on Zambia's judicial landscape. By significantly reducing case backlogs and facilitating rapid decision-making processes, mobile courts have directly contributed to the reduction of prison congestion, alleviating stress on the broader judicial infrastructure.

Moreover, this initiative significantly improves equity within the judicial process, providing swift justice particularly to inmates unable to afford private legal counsel.

As the Judiciary continues to innovate, these mobile courts underscore Zambia's dedication to redefining justice delivery, creating a justice system that is more accessible, fair, promotes human dignity, and is responsive to the needs of its most vulnerable citizens.



## More Than Quoting the Law:

### A Reflection on the Shaping of Jurisprudence

By Patricia Sipatisiwe Tembo



*“If we never do anything which has not been done before, we shall never get anywhere. The law will stand still while the rest of the world goes on, and that will be bad for both.”*

*Lord Denning, Packer v Packer*<sup>1</sup>

In the majestic chambers of the English bench, a quiet, yet impactful storm once brewed between two renowned jurists: Lord Denning and Lord Diplock. Denning- unapologetically liberal, and acutely persuasive, believed the law should serve the living society, not the flat hand of precedent. Diplock-strict, razor-sharp and doctrinal, feared that in Denning’s hands, the law might become a creature of impulse.

This rivalry was not personal; it was philosophical, making their era a particularly rich one for the development of English common law. To Denning, the law had to adapt, stretch, even rebel, if necessary, to deliver justice. In *Miller v Jackson*<sup>2</sup>, he famously sided with village cricketers against a homeowner claiming nuisance: “*In summertime, village cricket is the delight of everyone,*” he stated.

To Diplock, that kind of sentimentality was dangerous. To this effect, in *Duport Steels Ltd v Sirs*<sup>3</sup>, Diplock drew a sharp rebuke: “*It endangers confidence in the legal system if judges, by purporting to fill gaps in the law, usurp the functions of Parliament.*”

The two philosophies of judicial activism and judicial restraint continue to shadow benches far beyond England, including our Zambian courts. And now, we ought to ask ourselves: in this time of digital complexity, economic crime, and constitutional tension amid political friction, what kind of judging should we idealize?

#### Defining the Divide

Kmiec defines judicial activism in these terms; ‘(1)invalidation of arguably constitutional actions of other branches, (2)failure to adhere to precedent, (3)judicial “legislation”, (4)departures from accepted interpretive methodology, (5)result-oriented judging’.<sup>4</sup>

Black’s Law Dictionary defines judicial restraint as; “*A philosophy of judicial decision-making whereby judges avoid indulging their personal beliefs about the public good and instead try merely to interpret the law as legislated and according to precedent.*”<sup>5</sup>

Put differently, judicial activism occurs when judges interpret the law expansively, sometimes departing from precedent to advance broader principles like justice, equity, or human rights. It requires courage and, occasionally, controversy. Lord Denning was [infamously] one of the first unremorseful recipients of the label of a judicial activist judge.

Judicial restraint, on the other hand, holds that judges must stick closely to the literal meaning of laws and the binding precedent set by higher courts. This approach is grounded in advancing the consistency and predictability of the law and the principle of separation of powers.

1. [1954] P 15 (CA)

2. [1977] QB 966

3. [1980] 1 WLR 142

4. K D Kmiec ‘The Origin and Current Meanings of Judicial Activism’ (2004) 92 CLR 1441 at 1444, 9th Ed.

5. B A Garner, Black’s Law Dictionary, (2009) West Group, 9th Ed. at 924

Considering that the term activist is usually associated with one who employs unpopular or unconventional means to advance a change or reform in a particular cause, one may, at first glance, perceive judicial activism as being innately inconsistent with the very nature of judicial work. Unsurprisingly, literature on this subject reveals that the term is often met with mixed reactions among various players in the judicial space.

## The Zambian Bench: Quiet Currents of Boldness

In his expression of the attitude that judges ought to embrace as guardians of the constitution and the rule of law in the context of judicial activism, Justice Mumba Malila, as he then was, stated that:

*“As ‘umpires’ in the democratic process, they are expected to ensure that a climate of legality prevails, a leveled playing field is created and maintained and legal protection afforded to those who stand disadvantaged. As most of the issues that arise are human rights, constitutional and rule of law related, there is an obvious case for encouraging the judicial branch of government, whenever these matters come before them, to take an interventionist stance in favour of upholding the rule of law and democratic tenets.”<sup>6</sup>*

Undeniably, the principle of *stare decisis* is foundational. Without it, legal systems risk instability, unpredictability, and even chaos. But could there be authorities whose timid application could arrest the development of jurisprudence and the advancement of the rule of law?

A recent decision from the Economic and Financial Crimes Division of the High Court calls for consideration in this regard. In reaffirming a position earlier taken by the Supreme Court, the High Court in *DPP v Esther Nyawa Tembo Lungu*<sup>7</sup> illustrated a form of restrained judicial activism; exercised not to unsettle precedent, but to restore doctrinal consistency where it perceived that the Court of Appeal in *Sydney Mwansa v The People*<sup>8</sup> had [inadvertently] deviated from the Supreme Court’s settled position in *The People v Austin Chisangu Liato*.<sup>9</sup>

Similarly, in *First National Bank Zambia Limited v Quatt M Investments Limited and Andrew Kangwa*<sup>10</sup>, the High Court, declining to adopt the Court of Appeal’s view, exercised judicial activism, not to undermine authority, but perhaps to offer a principled clarification of statutory meaning.

This is, of course, not a rallying cry to rebel against precedent or to legislate from the bench. It is, in fact, this generally undesirable outcome of judicial legislation, or judicial overreach, that the Court of Appeal avoided when it exercised restraint in the case of *The People v Abraham Phiri*<sup>11</sup>. In that case, the appellate court, in classic judicial restraint fashion, boldly refrained from legislating from the bench when it acknowledged the limited sentencing options under the Children’s Code, calling for its

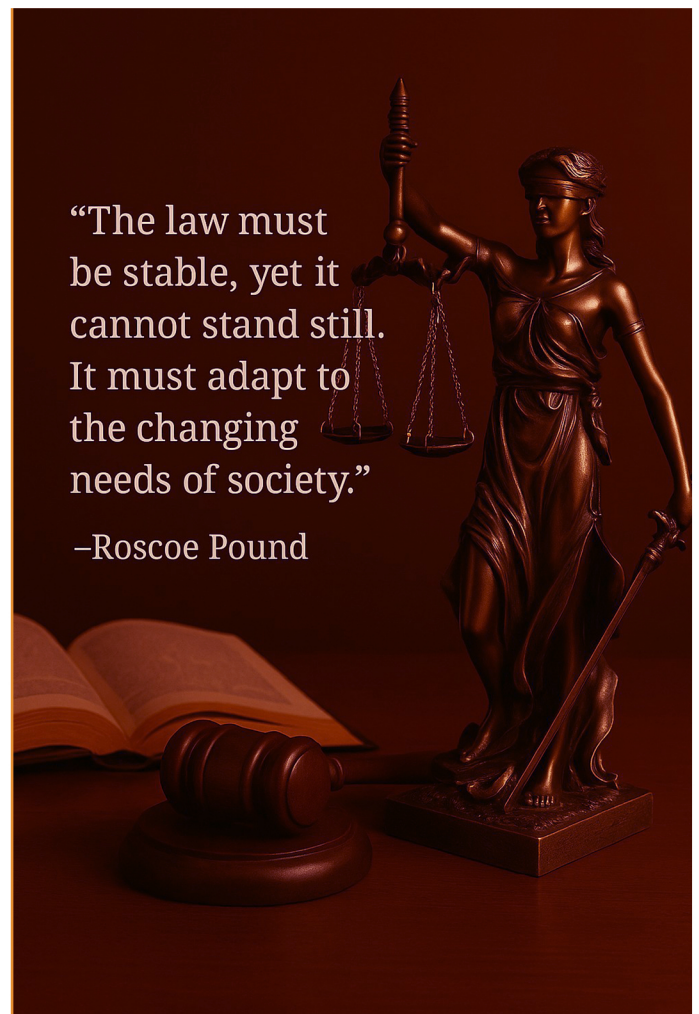
review, rather than interpreting the statute in a manner that, in the court’s view, could have contradicted parliamentary intention.

A reflection such as this one may serve as a prompt for judicial consciousness in the quiet moments of judgment writing- every precedent followed or left behind, inevitably contributes to the strength or fragility of our jurisprudential repository. It is perhaps worth pausing, now and then, to ask; are we merely quoting the law, or consciously chiselling the future of our legal tradition?

6. M Malila ‘Righting the wrongs: Justice Clever Mule Musumali’s legacy of judicial activism revisited’ (2020)
7. 2023/HPEF/23
8. Appeal No. 276 of 2021
9. SCZ Appeal Number 291 of 2014
10. 2024/HPC/0518
11. CAZ Appeal No. 09 of 2024

“The law must be stable, yet it cannot stand still. It must adapt to the changing needs of society.”

–Roscoe Pound



## Lions at the Gate Symbols of Justice in Zambia

By *Champemba Chileshe*



In the heart of Lusaka stands one of Zambia's most iconic judicial landmarks, the Supreme Court building, easily recognizable not only for its colonial-era architecture but also for the two solemn lion statues bordering its entrance. These lions are rich in historical and symbolic significance, echoing a time when Zambia, then Northern Rhodesia, was still under British rule.

The Supreme Court building was originally designed in the 1950s as the High Court of Lusaka. At the time, Lusaka lacked a permanent High Court facility, and judicial proceedings were frequently held in borrowed halls and cramped rooms. In response, architect John Albert Hoogterp was commissioned to design a dignified structure reflective of the authority and solemnity of the judiciary.

Hoogterp, a seasoned architect with ties to the British colonial establishment, proposed a grand late Georgian-style building complete with courtrooms, offices, and symbolic artistic features. Among these features were two stone-cast lion statues, an idea borrowed from British imperial architecture.

Lions have long been seen as symbols of strength, power, justice, and protection. In British and European traditions, lion statues are often placed at the entrances of important places like courts, museums, palaces, and government buildings. They are meant to show that these places are serious and are there to protect justice and the rule of law.

Architect John Albert Hoogterp suggested that the lions at the new court building should look like the ones at the Rhodes Memorial in Cape Town, which were made to honour Cecil John Rhodes. Rhodes was a well-known but controversial colonial figure who pushed for British control in southern Africa. Back in

the 1950s, symbols like this were seen by colonial leaders as a way to show power and control.

When the idea was shared, Governor Arthur Benson and Chief Justice Peter Bell liked it very much. They preferred the classic, strong-looking lions from Rhodes Memorial instead of the modern-looking ones found at the British Museum. Benson even joked that the British Museum lions looked so strange, they would be better off in a zoo.

When the court building officially opened in 1958, the lion statues became one of its most recognisable features. After 1973, when the Supreme Court of Zambia was formally created, the building, which was first meant to be the High Court, became the home of the country's highest court.

Over time, the meaning of the lion statues has changed. They were once symbols of British colonial power and legal authority. Today, they have taken on a Zambianized meaning as symbols of justice, alertness, and the lasting strength of the Judiciary. Their quiet presence reminds everyone who enters that this is a place where power is guided by fairness, and where justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done.

The lion statues at the Supreme Court are more than just decorations. They represent guardians of justice, both in meaning and in their physical position at the entrance of Zambia's highest court. As the country continues to shape its legal system by honouring tradition and moving forward with reforms, these lions stand as a connection between the past and the present. They are a powerful reminder that justice must always be protected.

## Justice Albert Mark Wood Retires

from the Supreme Court



After years of distinguished service on the bench, Hon. Mr. Justice Albert Mark Wood, Judge of the Supreme Court, officially retired on 25th April 2025. Justice Wood concludes his remarkable tenure on the Bench with a legacy defined by integrity, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to justice. His distinguished career has contributed to shaping the legal landscape of Zambia and has left an indelible mark on the nation's highest court.

Hon. Mr. Justice Wood was appointed to the Supreme Court on 16th January 2014, following a distinguished legal and judicial career spanning over four decades. A proud alumnus of the University of Zambia, Justice Wood was admitted to the Bar in 1984 and quickly rose to prominence in the legal profession, earning a reputation for excellence in civil litigation and commercial transactions. His legal journey included pivotal roles with D. H. Kemp and Company, the Bank of Zambia, and A. M. Wood and Company, where he practiced for twenty-four years.

Justice Wood's exemplary service extended beyond the courtroom. He held key leadership positions as Board Chairperson of the Zambia State Insurance Corporation Limited and the Revenue Appeals Tribunal. He was also Vice Chairman of the Law Association of Zambia from 1996 to 1997, and is a renowned and skilled Arbitrator.

In acknowledging Justice Wood's retirement, the Hon. Chief Justice, Dr. Mumba Malila, SC, highlighted his deep intellect, calm judicial temperament, and unwavering sense of fairness. He noted that Justice Wood's leadership, both on the Bench and in various roles within the legal system, had strengthened the Judiciary and enhanced public confidence in the rule of law. On behalf of the Judiciary and the people of Zambia, the Chief Justice extended gratitude for Justice Wood's exceptional service and commitment to justice.





## Poetry

By Patricia Sipatisiwe Tembo



## ENTANGLEMENT OF JUSTICE

*In chambers of the heart and corridors of power,  
the painful pursuit of justice intertwines with agony.  
Anxiety haunts this courtroom as the air vibrates with disgust,  
strings of tension, the scorch of anger,  
and the raw ache of a child's wounded spirit- a youth stolen.*

*Stolen, too, is this mother's peace;  
bound by oath and shackled by her betrayal.  
She swears to tell the whole truth, but is the truth ever whole?  
Her lover stands accused of a sin so heinous; her daughter the victim.  
And so her burden of shame looms heavier than the burden of proof.*

*Proof will soon reveal her own hands unclean;  
For did she not trespass when she stole him  
from the warmth of her friend's marital bed?  
To seek justice for her own is to condemn the father of her erstwhile  
friend's children; to risk an impoverished future for them all.*

*All eyes on the wounded girl as she takes the stand.  
Intelligent enough to know what this court demands,  
yet numbed by painful memories; how her mother's stolen lover  
stole her glory, pierced her soul with taint of venomous mischief.  
And now her belly grows.*

*Growing too, is the silence in the dock.  
Now a monument of remorse, he barely meets the gaze of the gallery.  
So he retreats behind silence; a shield the law affords, yet a grave end.  
How does he face his wife and mother- an unwilling audience  
to the tales of his fallen grace?*

*Grace long gone, now delivery awaits; of judgment  
and of offspring from seed criminally forced into an amateur womb.  
His fate now aggravated by the wreckage of his lust.  
If condemned, fifty years of hard labour may await,  
for what began in grey shadows of fifty shades of wicked desire.*

*Desire once unchecked, now caged.  
Only God can hear his appeal- He, like presidential prerogative of mercy,  
pardons even the unpardonable.  
But is triumph possible when a soul is eternally crushed?  
Will conviction fill the lacuna of pierced innocence?*



## Embracing Change in the Judiciary of Zambia: *A Call to Transform with Purpose*

By Moses Mukinga

In today's world, the demand for efficient, transparent, and responsive judicial systems is stronger than ever. While our commitment to upholding justice remains unshaken, the methods through which we deliver it must continually adapt to the needs of the people, the workforce, and the global environment in which we operate.

Through my service in the Judiciary, particularly in performance management and broader human resource functions, I have witnessed both the resilience of our institution and the challenges that often hinder progress. One of the most critical challenges we face is the slow pace at which we embrace change, particularly change that affects how we work, serve, and interact with one another.

### Understanding the Realities of Change Management

Change management refers to the structured process of moving from a current state to a desired future state. In the Judiciary, this includes refining how we manage performance, improving case flow, enhancing employee well-being, digitizing records, and strengthening accountability.

However, change is often met with hesitation stemming from deep-rooted traditions, fear of the unknown, or a lack of practical exposure to new methods. At times, unspoken internal dynamics and a focus on routine over reflection can delay the momentum required to implement transformation. Despite these barriers, change is not only possible, it is essential. And most importantly, it is within our reach.

### Practical Steps Towards Embracing Change

Let me now share practical steps that we, as a Judiciary, can take to turn the idea of change into tangible action. These steps are grounded in both best practice and our internal realities.

#### 1. Anchor Transformation in Performance Management

Every journey of change should begin with performance. Our ability to deliver timely, fair, and transparent justice is directly tied to how effectively we manage the work of adjudicators, management teams, and support staff. Setting clear expectations, measuring progress, and providing structured feedback is not about control, it is about creating clarity and shared purpose. Performance management, when done well, improves morale, builds trust, and enhances delivery across all levels.

#### 2. Foster a Culture of Dialogue and Inclusion

One of the most powerful enablers of change is dialogue. By

engaging adjudicators, senior officers, and support staff in the design and implementation of reforms, we create ownership. Change cannot be imposed from the top down; it must grow from within. This means actively listening to concerns, incorporating practical suggestions, and maintaining open channels of communication throughout the process.

#### 3. Promote Leadership that Models Change

Senior leadership plays a pivotal role in setting the tone for change. When adjudicators and administrators at the helm embody the reforms we aim to implement, through their work ethic, openness to feedback, and readiness to innovate, it creates a ripple effect throughout the institution. Leadership must move from instruction to inspiration, from preservation to progression.

#### 4. Create Opportunities for Small but Visible Wins

Change does not need to begin with sweeping reforms. Sometimes, the smallest improvements streamlining an internal approval process, improving staff orientation, or digitizing a manual task, can have significant impact. These visible results build momentum and demonstrate to all staff that progress is not only possible, but already underway.

#### 5. Adapt Systems to the Human Side of Work

We must remember that our people are not machines, they are dynamic, emotional, and evolving. Human-centered approaches such as staff wellness initiatives, flexible work arrangements, and recognition for excellence help employees feel valued and more open to change. When people feel heard and supported, they are more likely to support institutional goals.

#### 6. Evaluate, Learn, and Adjust

No plan is perfect. As we implement change, we must continuously monitor progress, reflect on lessons learned, and be willing to adjust. This does not signify failure, but maturity, the ability to adapt based on feedback and evolving realities. Learning should be embedded in the way we lead and manage.

### Conclusion

I say this not as a critique, but as a shared reflection: we must be willing to move beyond "how things have always been done." This is not to discard our values or traditions, but to refine how we achieve them. It is no longer enough to work hard; we must also work smart, collaboratively, and with a future-focused mindset. The time to embrace change is now. Let us be the champions of innovation within our courts and offices. Let us move from passively observing gaps to actively closing them. Let us encourage merit, transparency, and learning, not only as policies, but as practices.

*Change does not start in a policy document; it begins in how we think and interact each day.*

## Obituaries



### **His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu (1956–2025)**

Sixth President of the Republic of Zambia

Former President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, who died aged 68 on Thursday, 5th June 2025 at Mediclinic Medforum in Pretoria, South Africa, left an indelible mark during his time as Head of State of the Republic of Zambia.

His tenure, which began on 26th January 2015, saw a number of national reforms, some of which impacted the judiciary and contributed to the rewriting of the country's history. A month after assuming office, Zambia had its first female Chief Justice, the late Hon. Lady Justice Irene Mambilima, who was appointed on 26th February 2015.

Almost a year later, on Tuesday, 5th January 2016, President Lungu signed into law the amended Constitution, which introduced significant reforms, including the 50+1 electoral threshold and the running mate clause, both applied for the first time in Zambia's electoral process.

The same constitutional amendment also established the Constitutional Court under Article 127 of Act No. 2. Before this, all constitutional matters were primarily handled by the High Court of Zambia, with appeals proceeding to the Supreme Court.

# The Adjudicator



## Early Life and Education

Born on 11th November 1956 at Ndola Central Hospital, President Lungu began his early education at Kawambwa Primary School in Luapula Province and later completed his secondary education on the Copperbelt at Mukuba Secondary School. He pursued tertiary education at the University of Zambia, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Law in 1981 and was admitted to the Bar in May 1983.

Following his admission, he joined Andrea Masiye and Company in Lusaka. Before fully engaging in legal practice, Mr. Lungu underwent military training at the Military Training Establishment of Zambia (MILTEZ) in Kabwe under the Zambia National Service (ZNS), after which he returned to the practice of law.

## Political Career and Leadership

His foray into politics began in 1996 when he contested the Chawama parliamentary seat as an independent candidate. Two years later, he became a member of the United Party for National Development (UPND) upon its formation in 1998.

In 2001, he joined the newly formed Patriotic Front (PF) and continued his political journey, again contesting the Chawama seat. After two unsuccessful attempts, President Lungu was elected Member of Parliament for Chawama in the 2011 general

elections under the PF, which also formed government that year. His election to the National Assembly opened the door to various government portfolios. He was appointed Deputy Minister in the Office of the Vice-President on 9th July 2012 and was later appointed Minister of Home Affairs.

In December 2013, following the resignation of Hon. Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba, he was appointed Minister of Defence. He was also appointed Minister of Justice on 28th August 2014, replacing Wynter Kabimba. As President Michael Sata's health declined between 2013 and 2014, Mr. Lungu frequently acted as Republican President.

## Presidency

Following the passing of President Sata on 28th October 2014, a presidential by-election was scheduled for 20th January 2015. Mr. Lungu was elected President of the PF at a party convention in Kabwe on 30th November 2014. He went on to win the presidential by-election and was sworn in as President of the Republic of Zambia on 26th January 2015.

In the August 2016 general elections, President Lungu was re-elected for a second term in office. His tenure came to an end on 12th August 2021.

*May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.*





*Hon. Mr Justice Lloyd  
Vwambanji Siame (Rtd)*

Judge Siame was born on 25th October 1944. He completed his secondary education at Kawambwa Secondary School in 1966. He then pursued tertiary education at the College of Law in England, where he was certified in 1975 after a prescribed examination equivalent to a Bachelor of Laws Degree under the Legal Practitioners Act. He later enrolled at the Law Practice Institute and was admitted

to practice law in July 1976.

In 1978, he became the first indigenous Zambian partner at Lloyd Jones & Collins. He retired from the firm in 1980 to establish his own practice, Lloyd Siame & Company, in Ndola, later expanding to Lusaka in 1996. Over 27 years of practice, he mentored many young lawyers.

Judge Siame served in numerous roles beyond the legal profession, including as a member of the Sports Council of Zambia, Chairman of the ZESCO Board, and Chairperson of the Ndola Central Hospital Management Board.

His involvement with professional bodies included serving on the Legal Practitioners Committee of the Law Association from 1976 to 1988, convening the Law Association House Committee for the Copperbelt region between 1973 and 1974, and membership in the African Bar Association, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, and International Bar Association.

From 1996 to 2002, he was the first Chairman of the Lands Tribunal of Zambia. In 1999, he served as an observer for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) on a death sentence trial in Botswana, producing a detailed report. He was appointed High Court Judge in 2003 and served until his retirement in 2010.

Judge Siame passed away on Monday, 2nd June 2025, at Ndola Teaching Hospital, Ndola.

*May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace*



*Lady Justice Christine  
Bwalya Chileshe Phiri (Rtd)*

The late Honourable Lady Justice of the High Court, was born on 24th December 1948. She began her education at Twapia Primary school in Ndola in 1954, later attending Miller Girls Primary school in Kasama and completing her secondary education at Chipembi Girls in 1965.

She pursued legal studies at the University of Zambia, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws Degree on 2nd November 1985. Furthering

her training, she attended the Law Practice Institute and was called to the Bar on 2nd December 1988.

As a lawyer, Hon. Justice Phiri dedicated her time to legal training by lecturing at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) under the Department of Legal Training, from 1987 to 1990 where she trained magistrates, police prosecutors, military officers, and other students in law and procedure.

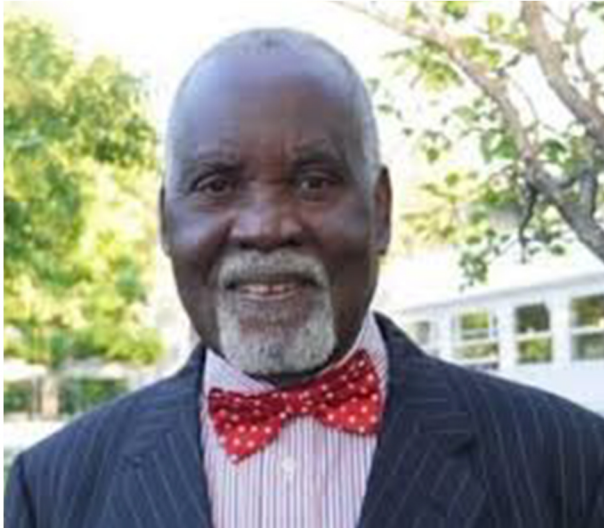
In 1990, she joined the Judiciary as a Resident Magistrate at the renowned Chikwa Court. Her dedication and commitment to justice saw her rise through the ranks, serving as Senior Resident Magistrate, Principal Resident Magistrate, and later as Registrar of the Industrial Relations Court in Lusaka. She presided over cases at Chikwa, Boma, and Kabwe Magistrates' Courts.

On 1st March 2000, she was appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the Industrial Relations Court, serving until 2006 before her appointment as Judge of the High Court in Lusaka. She held this position until her statutory retirement on 24th December 2013.

Justice Phiri was called to be with the Lord on Sunday, 23rd February 2025, at Forest Park Hospital in Lusaka, at the age of 76.

*May Her Soul Rest in Eternal Peace*

# The Adjudicator



*Dr. Rodger Masauso Alivas Chongwe, SC.*

The late Dr. Rodger Masauso Alivas Chongwe, SC, a respected lawyer, former Cabinet Minister, and advocate for justice, was born on 2nd October 1938 in Njelekwa Village, Chipangali District, Eastern Province.

He began his legal career as a Court Clerk in Kabwe and later served as a Native Court Assistant in Lusaka. In 1963, he was awarded a scholarship to study law at the Western Australia School of Law.

In 1963, he was awarded a scholarship to study law at the Western Australia School of Law.

He returned to Zambia in 1969 and joined Martin and Company as an Assistant Solicitor before becoming a Partner. In 1970, he co-founded Mwisiya, Chongwe and Company, and in 1977, established RMA Chongwe and Company, which became a well-respected law firm.

Dr. Chongwe also served as President of the Law Association of Zambia, President of the African Bar Association, and later as President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, gaining continental and international respect in the legal field. He was also conferred the rank of State Counsel in recognition of his distinguished service.

He entered politics in the 1990s and was elected Member of Parliament for Mandevu and served as Minister of Legal Affairs and later Minister of Local Government. He resigned in 1995, citing concerns over governance and human rights. In 1997, he was shot during a protest in Kabwe and later went into exile in Australia, returning to Zambia in 2003. In 2011, he was appointed Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry into the Mongu riots under President Michael Sata.

Dr. Chongwe passed away on Tuesday, 6th May 2025, at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, Gwenda, two children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

*May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace*



*Ms. Prudence Nkomeshya*

Prudence Nkomeshya was born on 29th December 1995 at Mansa General Hospital and began her education on the Copperbelt in 2000, where she completed her primary schooling. She later attended Kabundi High School in Chingola and completed her secondary education in 2012. She further enrolled at NORTEC in Ndola in 2014 to pursue a Diploma in Laboratory Technology and successfully graduated in 2017.

In October 2024, Prudence embarked on a new chapter in her career, joining the Judiciary as a Court Messenger at Chingola Local Court, where she served until her passing.

Tragically, Prudence was attacked and killed while carrying out official duties on 18th March 2025.

*May Her Soul Rest in Eternal Peace*

*“We honour the memory of dedicated individuals whose lives reflected integrity, service, and commitment. Though they are no longer with us, their contributions to the justice system and to society at large remain a lasting legacy.”*

## This Quarter in Photos



*The Hon. Chief Justice of Zambia, Dr. Mumba Malila, SC, during a site visit at the ongoing court construction works in Lusaka.*



*Judges and Magistrates at the close of a three-day training on avoiding re-traumatization, held at Protea Hotel Chisamba, with facilitators from Ireland.*

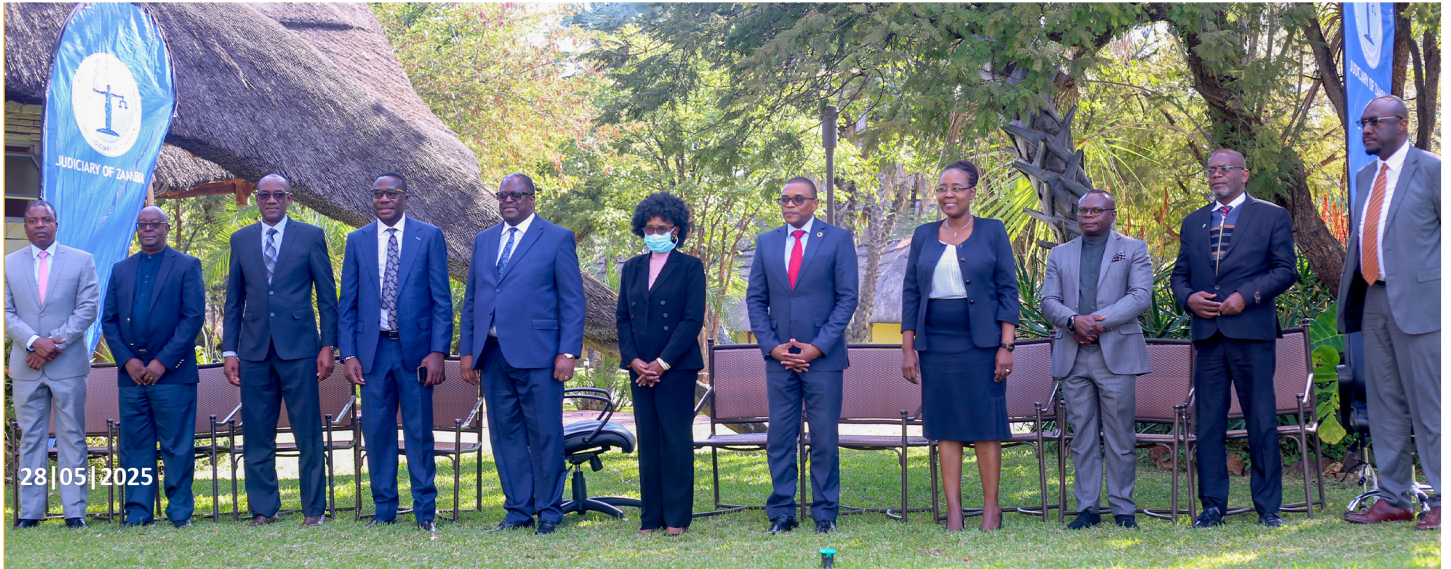


*The Judiciary of Zambia, in partnership with Pepperdine University opens the ADR training on Commercial Mediation and Plea Bargaining at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka.*



*Hon. Lady Justice Pixie Yangailo, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Training and Continuing Education; Hon. Mr. Justice Kazimbe Chenda; and a representative from the Slynn Foundation pictured during the induction of newly appointed Research Advocates at Mulungushi International Conference Centre*

## This Quarter in Photos



*The Hon. Chief Justice, Dr. Mumba Malila, SC, with the President of the Constitutional Court, Prof. Margaret Munalula, Judges of the Constitutional Court, and other participants during the Capacity Building Workshop on Constitutionalism and Electoral Justice, held in Livingstone.*



*A delegation from Malawi's Industrial Relations Court pictured with Judges of the Industrial Relations Division of the High Court and other judicial officers during a learning exchange visit to the Judiciary of Zambia.*



*The Judiciary Women's Football Club, at the Nationalist Stadium*