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## REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA THE JUDICIARY

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **CHIEF JUSTICE DR. MUMBA MALILA, SC, OPENS NCHELENGE URBAN LOCAL COURT AND RECEIVES NINE JUDICIAL PROJECTS NATIONWIDE**

**Nchelenge, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – His Lordship the Hon. Chief Justice, Dr. Mumba Malila, SC, has today officially opened the newly constructed Nchelenge Urban Local Court in Nchelenge District of Luapula Province. The ceremony also served as the national platform for the official handover of nine (9) newly constructed and rehabilitated judicial infrastructure projects delivered across the country.

The infrastructure projects, largely implemented by the Zambia National Service (ZNS) Builders Brigade, covers Local Courts and judicial residences in Kasama, Nchelenge, Mwense, Kalindawalo, Kitwe, Mwinilunga, Mporokoso, Munkonge, and Samfya.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Chief Justice noted that the Nchelenge project represents both a local milestone and a national achievement in the country's ongoing investment in justice infrastructure. He stated that Local Courts remain the "face of the Judiciary" as they handle the highest caseload and serve communities in all corners of the country. He further underscored the need for sustained funding to address infrastructure backlogs, noting that several Local Courts nationwide remain in deplorable condition.

Speaking at the same event, Chairperson of the Chief Justice's Advisory Committee on Infrastructure Development, Hon. Mr. Justice Justine Chashi, reaffirmed the Judiciary's appreciation for the partnership with ZNS. He said these courts stand not just as improved infrastructure, but as symbols of collective efforts to foster trust in the judicial system, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that every individual has access to justice within their community.

Representing the Zambia National Service, Brigadier General Manamakwa Samanyama highlighted the technical scope of the works, which included complete rehabilitations, electrical and plumbing works, and water reticulation. He reaffirmed the Service's commitment to supporting national development through high-quality infrastructure solutions.

In her remarks, Principal Resident Magistrate Hon. Peggy Banda emphasised the transformative impact of the project on access to justice in Nchelenge. She noted that the newly constructed modern facilities will significantly enhance access to justice and promote efficiency and a culture of respect for the rule of law in the community. She further highlighted that before the new structure was completed, the court operated from a small and inadequate building, which posed challenges for both staff and litigants.

The Nchelenge Urban Local Court project is valued at K3,661,636.18 and includes a modern court building, a litigants' shelter, a sanitation facility, water reticulation, electrical works, and boundary fencing.

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