



In reply please quote:

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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA **THE JUDICIARY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE JUDICIARY RECEIVES ICT EQUIPMENT FOR E-JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Judiciary of Zambia has received Information Technology equipment from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in support of the E-Justice Initiative for the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Fast Track Courts.

The support includes projector stands, projectors, laptop trolleys, webcams, laptops, speakers, as well as the SADC Handbook for the Judiciary on the Management of Gender-Based Violence. This support forms part of a pilot project aimed at strengthening the Judiciary's capacity to conduct virtual and technology-assisted court proceedings, particularly in GBV matters.

Speaking during the handover and capacity-building workshop, Hon. Lady Justice Yvonne Chembe, Judge of the Court of Appeal, delivered the keynote address on behalf of the Chief Justice's Advisory Committee on Gender and Development Chairperson, Hon. Lady Justice Anessie Michael-Banda Bobo. Justice Bobo stated that the intervention marks a critical milestone in the Judiciary's ongoing efforts to build a justice system that is efficient, technologically progressive, and responsive to the lived realities of survivors of gender-based violence. She further reaffirmed the Judiciary's commitment to ensuring that court processes are victim-sensitive and grounded in principles of dignity, fairness, and confidentiality.

She added that the Judiciary is grateful to UNODC for its continued partnership and support. This initiative follows earlier engagements between the Judiciary, UNODC, and justice sector stakeholders, including the August 2025 meeting

where technical presentations and operational frameworks for the e-Justice system were discussed. The equipment received will enable remote testimony, reduce direct confrontation between victims and alleged perpetrators, facilitate secure digital evidence presentation, and improve overall courtroom efficiency.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Gilbert Phiri SC, also highlighted the increasing need for innovative, lawful, and trauma-informed approaches for adult victims of GBV. The DPP cited recent successful applications for video-link testimony in the High Court as a progressive step toward ensuring that justice processes do not expose victims to further harm.

Speaking at the same event, the UNODC Regional Coordinator for the Southern Region, Dr. Linda Naidoo, stated that virtual and technology-assisted proceedings are essential for reducing retraumatisation, expanding access to justice, and supporting survivors who may face geographical, emotional, or security barriers.

Welcoming participants to the event, Hon. Mr. Justice Zulu, Judge-in-Charge of the High Court General List, emphasised that the handover represents the success of a collaborative, multi-institutional effort involving the Judiciary, NPA, Gender Division, Zambia Police Service, and the Department of Social Welfare. He noted that the accompanying capacity-building session focused on virtual hearing protocols will ensure that judicial officers, court staff, and IT personnel are fully prepared to operationalise the system.

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