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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

HISTORIC REGIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS LAUNCHED AT THE 2026 SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICAN CHIEF JUSTICES' FORUM (SAECJF) AS ZAMBIA SHINES AS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COURT REGIONAL BEACON

ZANZIBAR, 5th October 2026 — The 2026 Southern and Eastern Africa Chief Justices' Forum (SEACJF) Conference and Annual General Meeting opened this morning with the simultaneous launch of two keystone legal frameworks. His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, graced the event as Guest of Honour, officially rolling out the Regional Principles and Guidelines on Judicial Financial Independence, also known as the Gaborone Principles, alongside the Livingstone Principles on the Effective Adjudication of Economic and Financial Crimes.

The conference which is taking place under the theme *"Transforming Justice Delivery: Innovation, Efficiency and Court Administration Reform,"* focuses on cutting-edge topical issues such as Court-Annexed Mediation as a Transformative Tool for Justice Delivery; Courts of Tomorrow - How AI Will Shape the Judiciary; and the Digital Transformation of the Courts, among others.

Following the launch, Zambia stood out as a beacon of light in the region for its progressive work in tackling Economic and Financial Crimes (EFC). Pointing to the newly introduced Livingstone Principles, Chief Justice Dr. Mumba Malila emphasised that a strong financial market cannot exist without a strong judiciary.

Chief Justice Malila stated that financial crimes are growing more complex, particularly with the emergence of AI and cross border crimes. He stated that the Zambian EFC model blends global standards with homegrown solutions to resolve complex financial crimes swiftly, citing, as an example, the requirement for evidentiary documents to be laid before the court well in advance of proceedings to ensure smoother, faster justice. He underscored that this focus on speedy resolution must never cut corners on due process, ensuring that illicit wealth is rapidly recovered while strictly safeguarding the legal rights of the accused.

The delegates have reiterated that while the judiciary remains strictly independent, it works in harmony with other arms of government to serve the public. By adopting these strategic plans and policy documents, the 2026 SEACJF conference aims to establish a modernized, transparent, and resilient judicial paradigm equipped to protect the rule of law across Southern and Eastern Africa.

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