



SPEECH

BY

ENG. ABEL NG'ANDU,

ENGINEERING INSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA PRESIDENT

DURING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

ON 20TH APRIL, 2023

AT AVANI VICTORIA FALLS RESORT

SALUTATIONS

- HER HONOUR, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, MRS. W.K. MUTALE NALUMANGO
- ALL CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT
- SOUTHERN PROVINCE MINISTER, HON. CORNELIUS MWEETWA
- PERMANENT SECRETARIES PRESENT
- EIZ COUNCILLORS PRESENT
- EIZ REGISTRAR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ENG. DAVID KAMUNGU
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS
- DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE ENGINEERING INSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA SYMPOSIUM AND 66TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

ALLOW ME TO BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO HER HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, MRS. MUTALE NALUMANGO FOR SPARING TIME OUT OF HER BUSY SCHEDULE TO GRACE THIS OCCASION. THANK YOU, MADAM. IT IS INDEED AN HONOUR.

THANK YOU TO ALL COOPERATING PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS FOR YOUR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT AND BEING AN INVALUABLE SOUND OVER THE YEARS. YOUR EXPRESSION OF TRUST IS SHOWN IN BELIEVING IN US. WE HAVE TOGETHER PURSUED OUR GOALS AND MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS WITH HARD EFFORTS.

MY SINCERE GRATITUDE ALSO GOES TO ALL OUR SPONSORS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS VITAL TO CONTINUE OUR IMPORTANT WORK. WE CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU.

LET ME EXTEND MY APPRECIATION KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND ALL INVITED GUESTS. YOUR SUPPORTIVE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED TO TAKE THIS PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTION TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE TRAVELLED LONG DISTANCES FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF OUR CONTINENT TO COME AND BE A PART OF THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

I AM HAPPY TO SEE MEMBERS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHO ARE PRESENT AT THIS IMPORTANT GATHERING. YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS INDICATIVE OF THE STEPS WE HAVE MADE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING AS LONG AS WE REMAIN DEDICATED AND STAY UNWAVERING.

AND FINALLY, AN EVENT LIKE THIS DOESN'T COME TOGETHER OVER NIGHT. THAT IS WHY I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE SECRETARIAT WHO COORDINATED THIS EXTRAORDINARY EVENT OVER SEVERAL MONTHS. IT IS CLEAR THAT A LOT OF HARD WORK HAS BEEN PUT IN THE PREPARATIONS OF THIS EVENT, TO ENSURE THAT IT IS SUCCESSFUL AND THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AND DELEGATES ARE COMFORTABLE.

DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT'S JUST BEEN A FEW WEEKS SINCE WE HAD THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS IN NDOLA AND LUSAKA RESPECTIVELY AND AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT THE ATTENDANCE IS STILL VERY GOOD. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK HIS

EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, MR. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA FOR ALLOWING THE TWO MINISTERS TO GRACE THESE TWO EVENTS.

THIS IS A STRONG DEMONSTRATION OF THE COLLECTIVE RESOLVE AND DEEP COMMITMENT TO ENSURING THAT WE ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES AND LIVE UP TO THE PURPOSE OF WHY THIS INSTITUTION WAS FORMED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MEETINGS PROVIDE A ROADMAP TO REVISE, REVIEW, AND CHART THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANISATION. I THEREFORE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE'S FULL PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE AGENDA THAT HAS BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ENGINEERING IS THE BEDROCK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NATION. EVERY SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS THE ROLES OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY. WHETHER IT IS RAW MATERIAL, MANUFACTURING OR DISTRIBUTION. THE CHALLENGES THE COUNTRY IS FACING IN ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT ARE ALL ENGINEERING CHALLENGES. WE MUST PLAY A MUCH STRONGER ROLE IN THE PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS TO PROVIDE THE RIGHT INCENTIVES FOR INDUSTRY AND OTHERS TO MOVE ON A SUSTAINABLE PATH SO THAT ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS CAN BE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED TO DESIGN SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT BENEFITS SOCIETY IN A HOLISTIC WAY NOW, AND IN FUTURE. THEREFORE, THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS OF THE 21ST CENTURY CANNOT AFFORD TO SIT BACK. WE NEED TO BRING OUR "A GAME".

THE EIZ HAS MADE IT A MUST LATELY TO SEEK INVOLVEMENT IN ALL ENGINEERING RELATED MATTERS OF THE COUNTRY SO THAT WE CAN OFFER OUR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. BUT IN AS MUCH AS THE INSTITUTION HAS BECOME PROACTIVE, WE MAY NOT BE AWARE OF SOME PROJECT PLANS BY THE GOVERNMENT. YOUR HONOUR, MAY I APPEAL THROUGH YOUR OFFICE TO ALWAYS INFORM US OF ALL PUBLIC ENGINEERING PROJECTS SO THAT WE CAN EFFICIENTLY OFFER GUIDANCE. IT IS A PITY THAT MOST TIMES, WE ONLY GET REGARDED WHEN THERE IS AN ENGINEERING FAILURE, BUT NEVER ENGAGED AT THE PLANNING STAGE.

YOUR HONOUR, THE RISK OF POOR DECISIONS UNFORTUNATELY INCREASES WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES ARE ALSO GAINING IMPORTANCE TO MAKE DECISIONS 'GREEN' IN THE LONG RUN. DEMAND FOR PROJECTS IN THIS RESPECT IS GETTING MORE COMPLEX NEEDING EXPERTISE IN A WIDE RANGE OF ENGINEERING FIELDS.

WE ARE ELATED THAT WE HAVE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS IN THE CABINET. IT IS TRUE THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS IN POLITICS AFFORD THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING AT A HIGH LEVEL. WE ARE ELATED AS AN INSTITUTION TO SEE THE FRUITS OF THEIR POLICY INFLUENCE, FROM THE COMMISSIONING OF PROJECTS SUCH AS THE TAZAMA, PIPELINE, INDENI AND MANY OTHERS. ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS AT THESE LEVELS USE THEIR PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO ATTRACT AND DEFEND IMPORTANT ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. SIMILARLY, ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS IN POLITICS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE WELFARE OF OTHER ENGINEERS THEREBY MOTIVATING THEM TO HIGHER

PRODUCTIVITY FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT. WE THEREFORE APPEAL TO ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS IN CABINET TO LOOK INTO THE PLIGHT OF OTHERS, BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR REPRESENTATIVES; WE LOOK UP TO YOUR CHAIRS OF AUTHORITIES TO SPEAK FOR US. YOU ARE AT AN ADVANTAGE TO LOBBY FOR EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG ENGINEERS, PARTICIPATION, POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND EVERYTHING THAT WILL PROMOTE OUR PROFESSION.

YOUR HONOUR, WE FURTHERMORE EARNESTLY APPEAL TO YOU TO CONSIDER CREATING AN ENGINEER GENERAL'S OFFICE. THIS WILL GIVE US A STRONGER POSITION IN MONITORING THE PRACTICE AND SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS AND FUTURE OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE. WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CABINET, WE HAVE SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF CABINET.

DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM HAPPY TO MENTION THAT EIZ RE-SUBMITTED THE REVISED CHARGE-OUT RATES, SUBJECTED TO AN INFLATIONARY ADJUSTMENT AND IS NOW ON STANDBY FOR THE NEXT GUIDANCE FROM THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

THE CHARGE-OUT RATES WILL HELP GUIDE OUR ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS AND CONSULTANTS ON THE RATES SO THAT THEY GET REAL VALUE FOR THE WORK THEY PROVIDE. WE EXPECT THAT VERY SOON, THEY WILL BE OPERATIONALISED.

YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE CONTINUED TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THE ACCREDITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE AND THE PROCESS HAS REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE AFTER MEETING WITH OUR LEAD MENTOR AND THE SENIOR EXECUTIVES OF THE

ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BOARD. THIS WILL RAISE OUR EDUCATION AND ENGINEERING STANDARDS AS WELL AS ENABLE OUR ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS PRACTICE ACROSS THE GLOBE.

INDEED, FROM APRIL 2022 TO DATE, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL PHYSICAL AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE ASSISTED US MAINTAIN ALL PROGRAMMES THAT WERE LINED UP FOR THE YEAR, AND IT IS AMAZING HOW WE HAVE MANAGED TO CARRY ON WITH OUR OBJECTIVES UNDER VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WE HAVE BEEN FACING NOT JUST AS AN INSTITUTION, BUT AS A COUNTRY, IS NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS AND PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT. NOW IN THIS ROOM ARE HEADS AND DECISION-MAKERS OF VARIOUS ENGINEERING INSTITUTIONS, ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING QUALIFIED PEOPLE IN THIS FIELD. I IMPLORE YOU TO BE AMBASSADORS IN ENSURING THAT WHOEVER YOU EMPLOY, IS COMPLIANT. WHICHEVER CONTRACTOR YOU ENGAGE DELIVERS HONEST WORK, DELIVERS THE BEST QUALITY WORK, AT THE RIGHT PRICE. I WILL NOT REMIND YOU THE DANGERS THAT COME WITH ENGAGING PEOPLE WHO DELIVER SUBSTANDARD WORK AT THE EXPENSE OF INNOCENT CITIZENS. THE COUNTRY CANNOT DEVELOP IF CORRUPTION IS AT THE CENTER OF EVERY ENGINEERING JOB. AS EIZ, WE ARE NOW COMING OUT STRONGER TO BRING TO BOOK ANYONE FOUND WANTING REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY ARE, OR WHAT OFFICE THEY HOLD. YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOUR PERFORMANCE OUT THERE REFLECTS VERY BADLY ON THE INSTITUTION. PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE VISION OF EIZ IS TO BE A WORLD-CLASS PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION THAT PROMOTES BEST ENGINEERING PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS. THIS VISION IS NOT JUST FOR US ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS, BUT FOR THE GOVERNMENT, FOR THE ZAMBIANS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. SO, WHATEVER WE DO IN OUR PRACTICE, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT WE ARE ANCHORING THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION AND ITS SURVIVAL. HENCE, THE FUTURE LIES WITH YOU.

SHORTLY, WE WILL BE HAVING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AND AS YOU KNOW, THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TO DISCUSS THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTION AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THINGS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

NOTE THAT THE MEETING WILL ALSO TACKLE OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS INSTITUTION AND OF EACH OF YOU AS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE BETTER AND MAP OUT HOW TO DO THAT.

THIS EVENT'S AGENDA REFLECTS THE MEMBERS' WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE FROM EVERY ANGLE AND TO TAKE HEAD-ON SOME OF THE MORE COMPLICATED CHALLENGES WE FACE IN THE RUNNING OF THE INSTITUTION. I IMPLORE YOU TO FULLY PARTICIPATE AND BRING TO THE TABLE YOUR MUCH-NEEDED VOICES, UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES AND THOUGHTFUL ANALYSES.

I WILL END WITH ONE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FAMOUS QUOTES THAT SAYS, "*THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE, IS TO CREATE IT*". SO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. LET US CREATE OUR FUTURE. AND THE TIME IS NOW.

GOD BLESS YOU,

I THANK YOU!