



## **ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

**SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS (ZICA), MR. JASON KAZILIMANI JR AT THE PRE AGM  
WORKSHOP HELD AT FALLS PARK MALL ON 16 OCTOBER 2020**

**FORMER ZICA PRESIDENTS PRESENT**

**THE ZICA VICE PRESIDENT & OTHER ZICA  
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**FORMER ZICA COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

**THE PAN AFRICAN FEDERATION OF  
ACCOUNTANTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER- MR  
VICKSON NCUBE**

**COMMISSONER DOMESTIC TAXES- MR. MOSES  
SHUKO**

**SENIOR MEMBERS AND ALL MEMBERS**

**DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS**

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**GOOD MORNING!!**

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It is indeed my singular honour and privilege to be here to officially open the Pre-AGM Workshop under the theme *“Managing disruption through Innovation and Adaptation”*. Let me first and foremost express happiness

that we are able to finally hold this event under the new normal. I would want to thank the members, Management and ZICA staff for their tireless efforts to ensure that the Pre AGM and AGM takes place. I would like to thank the various sponsors and exhibitors for co-sponsoring and supporting this event.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

This Pre AGM workshop takes place in an extraordinary time and the theme managing disruption through innovation and adaption is befitting. In the current environment, accounting professionals are all searching for ways to weather the storm. While it is still too early to predict the future path of this pandemic, one thing is certain: it will be the most innovative firms and economies that will have the best chance to emerge stronger out of this crisis.

We should acknowledge as accounting professionals that Innovation is not a means to end in itself, it is a continuous

long-term endeavor. As accounting professionals existing in this highly globalized economy, innovation and adaptation has become the key driver for growth and competitiveness in developing and advanced economies. The capability to innovate will be increasingly a crucial determinant of the global competitiveness of nations over the coming decades.

The rapid pace of technological change continues to disrupt traditional procedures in all spheres, including the accounting profession. Both the accounting and auditing functions are experiencing a major wave of automation that most likely will result in substantive reduction of staff. It is predicted that the traditional mix of jobs in accounting firms will change substantially, and accountants will need to learn new skills when the more traditional tasks become automated and analytic needs of the work increase substantively.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We now have COVID-19 impacting differently on organisations and individuals, as such the demand for robust financial leadership, innovation and adaptability cannot be over emphasised. Therefore, in today's business environment, the role of the Accountant has become more strenuous, evolving and highly susceptible to external and internal scrutiny.

As accounting professionals we need to embrace agility. The world is no longer the same as it was just two months ago. The landscape has changed and will continue to change rapidly, which means accountants need to adapt to new realities quickly. Given that there are still so many unknowns surrounding COVID-19 and its ultimate impact, we need to be able to adjust quickly as circumstances warrant.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I do not want to preempt the discussions of the day, I hope that the presentations today will make a substantial

contribution to the best practical ways and means of adapting and innovating for us as accountancy professionals. Indeed all ZICA members need to be ambassadors and pioneers of innovative mind set and should be able to quick to adapt to change.

My appreciation goes to the organisers, speakers, moderators and sponsors for their commitment to the successful holding of the Pre-AGM Workshop and for allowing me to deliver these few brief remarks. I wish you all fruitful deliberations in not only assimilating information needed to enhance our professional ethos, but to also contribute and participate fully in today's discussions.

I now declare the workshop officially open.

Thank you.

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