

ZICA re-affirms its support to Government on matters of public interest

By Moses Chitoshi

The Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) has pledged its support to the Government on national and economic development matters.

During a courtesy call on the Minister of Finance Honourable Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane at his office in Lusaka on 14th September 2021, ZICA President Mrs. Cecilia Zimba assured the Minister of the Institute's support towards attainment of Government's agenda through providing a cohort of skilled and conversant members capable of providing solutions aimed at fostering national and economic development.

"We have members of the Institute who are conversant with matters of green economies and collaborations on this front could be initiated to ensure success of this new Ministry," said Mrs. Zimba.

She further said that the Institute supports the creation of ministries with key focus on the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Development as this will ensure growth of the SME sector, in turn widening the tax base and ensuring household food and finance security.

Mrs. Zimba further emphasised the need for Government to strictly adhere to the Constitutional provisions in relation to debt contraction, which demands that the National Assembly shall approve public debt before it is contracted.

She further requested the Government, through the Ministry of Finance, to operationalise the sinking fund to enable it meet its debt obligation when they fall due.

"In an effort to eliminate revenue leakages and harness Government resources, we further request Government to employ gatekeepers at provincial and district levels who are schooled in the theory and practice of Accountancy. The Institute has enough registered members ready to serve as gatekeepers for Government," submitted Mrs. Zimba.

Among other reforms, Mrs. Zimba presented on the importance of:

1. The operationalisation of the State Audit Commission;
2. Strengthening of the Public Accounts Committee; and
3. Migration to the Accrual based Integrational Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Mrs. Zimba was accompanied by ZICA Council members, namely: Mr. Bbenkele Haachitwe (Vice-President), Mr. Julius Zgambo, Ms. Peggy Banda, Ms. Changwe Mulimbika, and Ms. Thulile Kavimba. The ZICA management officials present were Mr. Bonna Kashinga (Secretary and Chief Executive Officer), Mrs. Elizabeth Musukwa, Mr. Charles Mutale, Mr. Mwelwa Mwaba, Ms. Patricia Hantumba, and Mr. Moses Chitoshi.

The Minister, who was accompanied in the meeting by Ministry of Finance Accountant General Mr. Kennedy Musonda, who is also a member of the ZICA Council as an Ex-officio member and Head of Public Relations Mr. Chileshe Kandeta, welcomed the submissions and indicated that the Ministry would consult ZICA further on the submissions.

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