



ZICA PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ARTS

The Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) President Mrs. Cecilia zimba paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Tourism and Arts Mr. Rodney Sikumba, MP on 28th September 2021. During the courtesy call at the Minister's Office, Mrs. zimba conveyed the Institute's greetings and good wishes to him on his appointment. Mrs. zimba further reiterated the Institute's support to the Ministry in promoting local tourism in all parts of the country.

Mrs. zimba and the Minister discussed various matters of mutual interest, including the proposed removal of mandatory service charge for all restaurants and hotels, which had increased the cost of doing business and prices to local and international tourists.

"This will promote formal employment and discourage outsourcing and casualisation in the tourism sector. The Government will gain additional revenue through PAYE," said Mrs. zimba.

She further said that the actualisation of the development of the Shuungu Namutitima International Convention Centre was projected to create jobs and promote local tourism.

ZICA is poised to develop the International Convention Centre, a Five (5) Star Hotel, a Three (3) Star Hotel, 10 presidential villas and an 18-hole championship golf course.

Speaking at the same event, ZICA Secretary and Chief Executive Mr. Bonna Kashinga submitted that the Institute was of the view that Park Fees needed to be ring-fenced and specifically spent in the parks where the revenue was earned.

"Park Fees revenue is not invested in the parks and their surroundings, which means local communities bear the externalities and costs of tourism and wild animals without benefiting from the income generated, incentivising poaching, charcoal burning and general degradation of the environment and thus compromising future earnings," said Mr. Kashinga.

He further submitted that with the proposed measure, the expectation of the Institute was that the national parks would become long-term sources of revenue whilst preserving their environments and Government would receive increased income through corporate taxes.

Mr. Kashinga added that the Institute was of the view that utilisation of tax credits for hotels needed to be extended from 5years to 10years as the tourism industry had been badly affected by the pandemic leading to operations being slow and in some cases suspended. He intimated that

the effects of the pandemic would continue for years thereby increasing the cost of maintenance and operations due to reduced revenue.

In response, Mr. Sikumba welcomed the submissions and pledged to continue engaging key stakeholders such as ZICA on matters of economic and national development. He further stated that there was need to invest in tourism sites and that his ministry would spearhead development and implementation of policy guidelines that would open up tourism areas into investment hubs. “We are in the process of concluding the Tourism development master plan which will realise the vision of opening up tourism sites in Zambia for investment,” said Mr Sikumba.

Mr. Sikumba further said that Government was looking into offering tax rebates on materials needed for development of a facility such as the Shuungu Namutitima International Convention Centre to accelerate development.

The Minister, was in the company of the Ministry of Tourism and Arts Permanent Secretary Mr. Patrick Lungu and Director Planning Mr. Charles Mwenshi.

Mrs. Zimba was accompanied by ZICA management officials, including Mr. Kashinga (Secretary and Chief Executive Officer), Mrs. Elizabeth Musukwa, Mr. Charles Mutale, Ms. Patricia Hantumba, and Mr. Moses Chitoshi.

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#PublicInterest

#Localtourism

#Support

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