



ZAMBIA INSTUTUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**SPEECH BY THE ZICA PRESIDENT – MRS CECILIA ZIMBA DURING
THE 15TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (ZICA), HELD AT THE ACCOUNTANTS
PARK - ESSAU NEBWE HALL, ON FRIDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

THE ZICA VICE PRESIDENT,
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE,
COUNCIL MEMBERS,
MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE,
THE ACTING SECRETARY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ZICA,
THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF ZICA,
DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
GRADUANDS,
GOOD MORNING!!

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO ADDRESS YOU ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (ZICA) AT THE 15TH GRADUATION CEREMONY UNDER THE THEME **“CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AS DIFFERENCE MAKERS”**

LET ME START BY EXTENDING MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUANDS, YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF YOURSELVES FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS MILESTONE. I KNOW YOU MUST ALL BE EXCITED TO GET YOUR HANDS ON YOUR CERTIFICATES AND TAP INTO THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIE AHEAD OF YOU IN YOUR CAREER.

TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE GRADUATING, CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGH THIS PROCESS AND WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION WITH YOU. WE

SALUTE YOU FOR MAKING AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON THE GRADUATES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM YOU THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTE THROUGH OUR ACCREDITED TUITION PARTNERS ARE QUALITY ASSURED AND DULY REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED BY THE ZAMBIA QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (ZAQA).

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE 2022 BUDGET PRONOUNCEMENTS MADE BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING HON. DR SITUMBEKO MUSOKOTWANE REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSCORED. THE ALLOCATIONS TO RESPECTIVE SECTORS CALLS FOR FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS TO UPHOLD PUBLIC INTEREST BY BEING GATEKEEPERS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ASSETS.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, WE ARE HAPPY THAT TODAY, WE ARE GRADAUTING A COHORT OF WELL EQUIPED FINANCE AND BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS READY TO TAKE UP THE MANTLE OF CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

FURTHER, I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT ZICA IS A MEMBER OF THE AFRICA PROFESSIONALISATION INITIATIVE (API). THE API IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ACCOUNTANT GENERALS, THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION, SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS AND

ACCOUNTANCY ACADEMICS IN AFRICA. THE API IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC VALUE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE VALUE CREATION, FISCAL DISCIPLINE, EFFECTIVE RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY TO CITIZENS.

ZICA THEREFORE LAUNCHED THE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN 2017 IN THAT REGARD. WE ARE HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL HAS ASSURED ZICA THAT GOVERNMENT WILL INCREASE SPONSORSHIP OF OFFICERS WHO SHALL PURSUE THIS DIPLOMA.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT RECRUITMENT OF FINANCE PERSONNEL WILL SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE THE ZICA PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AS THIS IS A QUALIFICATION THAT DELIVERS THE EXPECTED SKILLS NEEDED BY GOVERNMENT FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS BEING ACTUALISED THROUGH THE PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT DIVISION (PSMD) AND THE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (MDD).

IN ADDITION, ZICA'S CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA IN TAXATION PROGRAMMES, ENABLES AN SME OWNER TO PREPARE AND COMPUTE APPROPRIATE TAXES, AND PREPARE STATUTORY TAX RETURNS TO FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH TAX LAW, THUS POSTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO THE TREASURY. THE INSTITUTE IS THEREFORE HAPPY TO NOTE GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF THE SME SECTOR.

MAY I ALSO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT, THE INSTITUTE IS PROUD TO SEE THE PROGRESS THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT ZAMBIA PROGRAMME IS MAKING SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 2017 IN CHURNING OUT GRADUATES WHO ARE MARKET READY. THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT ZAMBIA QUALIFICATION CONTINUES TO BE A PREMIER QUALIFICATION WITH A GLOBAL RECOGNITION AND THE RICH BLEND OF COURSES GUARANTEES GRADUATES WITH THE MUCH NEEDED SKILLS TO HELP ORGANISATIONS THRIVE REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY.

I AM PROUD TO INFORM YOU THAT, TODAY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONFER NINE (9) CANDIDATES WITH THE CA (ZM) CHARTER DESIGNATION. WITH THE REFORM IN THE CA ZAMBIA PROGRAMME COUPLED WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PRACTICAL TRAINING FRAMEWORK, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE NUMBER OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (CA's) WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AS THE WORLD STARTS TO RECOVER FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND WE EMERGE FROM A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED UPHEAVAL IN OUR ECONOMY AND OUR SOCIETY, THERE WILL BE HUGE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CHALLENGES, AND THE RIGHT ADVICE WILL BE CRITICAL. THAT IS WHY THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME FOR GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS TO WORK TOGETHER AND TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUE THAT A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT CAN BRING.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS WORLDWIDE LAUNCHED THE DIFFERENCE MAKERS CAMPAIGN WHICH IS AN INITIATIVE AIMED AT POSITIONING CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AS RELIABLE, TRUSTED VOICES AND CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE TO HELP GET BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIES TO THRIVE AGAIN. WE ARE GLAD THAT WE ARE ABLE TO ADOPT THIS THEME TODAY AND EXTEND THIS INITIATIVE. TODAY YOU GRADUATE AS ACCOUNTANTS, PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND TAXATION EXPERTS AND YOU WILL BE TAKING UP VARIOUS ROLES WHICH WILL COME WITH GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

BEING DIFFERENCE MAKERS MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD ALL BE ABLE TO APPLY YOURSELVES IN ALL AREAS. ACCOUNTANTS MUST BE ABLE TO EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY AND BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH NEW KNOWLEDGE ALL THE TIME AND IN OTHER WORDS, ACCOUNTANTS MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO LEARN, UNLEARN AND RELEARN' IN ORDER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION IS ONE THAT IS ANCHORED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ACTING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, ONE THAT'S EMPOWERED TO MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN SHAPING COMMUNITIES, ECONOMIES AND SOCIETY. I WISH TO REMIND ALL GRADUATES TODAY, THOSE ALREADY IN INDUSTRY AND THOSE WHO WILL BE APPLYING OR STARTING THEIR OWN FIRMS IN THE VARIOUS POSITIONS, ALWAYS REMEMBER TO APPLY THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

WE URGE YOU TO CONTINUE TELLING YOUR STORIES WITH THE VIEW TO CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF **BUILDING TRUST IN A HIGHLY ETHICAL CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FOR BUSINESSES.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE INSTITUTE CONTINUES TO MAKE POSITIVE STRIDES IN ITS VISION OF DEVELOPING FINANCE AND BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS THROUGH THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF ACCOUNTANTS IN ZAMBIA. MOST OF YOU HAVE LONG AWAITED FOR THIS GRADUATION CEREMONY AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESILIENCE AND PATIENCE.

HENRY FORD WISELY SAID, AND I QUOTE,

"COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING; KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS AND WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS."

AS WE LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, CERTAINLY THERE WAS A BEGINNING, AND THANKFULLY THERE WAS ALSO PROGRESS AND YES - UNDENIABLY WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL!

INDEED, IT HAS BEEN A LONG ROAD AND AS YOU MAY BE AWARE THE ZAMBIA QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (ZAQA) REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED THE EXIT QUALIFICATIONS LINKED TO THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT ZAMBIA PROGRAMME ON 1ST MARCH 2021. THIS RECOGNITION ANSWERS THE MANY REQUESTS THAT

CAME FROM YOU AS OUR STAKEHOLDERS ON THE NEED TO HAVE EXIT CERTIFICATION AT THE COMPLETION OF EVERY LEVEL.

THE CA ZAMBIA PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO BE A FLAGSHIP BRAND OF THE INSTITUTE AND WE URGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND ESPECIALLY THE GRADUATES OF TODAY TO JOIN THE CAUSE TO PROMOTE THE LOCAL QUALIFICATIONS AND BE FLAG CARRIERS OF THE CA ZAMBIA BRAND. WE ARE INDEED PROUD THAT TODAY WE WILL CONFER THE FIRST COHORT OF GRADUATES UNDER THIS NEW DISPENSATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE INSTITUTE CONTINUES TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS HAVE A SEAMLESS JOURNEY THROUGH DELIBERATE INTERVENTION TO MAKE STUDYING EASIER. THE INSTITUTE LAUNCHED THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF STUDY MANUALS AND REVISION KITS FOR THE CA ZAMBIA AND THE DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY QUALIFICATIONS RESPECTIVELY.

STUDENTS CAN ACCESS THE E-VERSION OF THE STUDY MANUALS AND REVISION KITS ANYWHERE ANYTIME USING THEIR LAPTOPS, TABLETS AND ANY PORTABLE DEVICE SUCH AS MOBILE PHONES, HENCE INCREASING PORTABILITY OF MATERIALS WHILST REDUCING THE NEED FOR STORAGE AND WASTE PROMOTING A PAPERLESS AND GREEN SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT.

THIS DEVELOPMENT IS TESTIMONY TO OUR COMMITMENT OF SERVING OUR CUSTOMERS BETTER AND ACTUALIZING OUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA. IT ALSO REDUCES ON THE TRAFFIC THE

INSTITUTE WAS FACING FOR STUDENTS HAVING TO TRAVEL TO THE HEAD OFFICE TO BUY THEIR STUDY MATERIALS.

VIRTUAL EXAMINATION ANSWERING TECHNIQUES

I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE INSTITUTE INTRODUCED VIRTUAL EXAMINATION ANSWERING TECHNIQUES WORKSHOPS WITH THE AIM OF AIDING STUDENTS TO BE BETTER EQUIPPED IN ANSWERING FUTURE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT

FURTHER, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE INSTITUTE HAS A FLEXIBLE PAYMENT POLICY AIMED AT ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO SPREAD THE PAYMENTS (I.E. PAY IN INSTALMENTS) FOR THEIR SUBSCRIPTION, EXAMINATION FEES AND MANUALS UP TO THE DUE DATE. WE URGE THOSE WITH FINANCIAL CHALLENGES TO TAKE UP THESE AVAILABLE INITIATIVES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

TODAY, THE INSTITUTE IS CHANNELLING OUT **1,380** GRADUANDS AS FOLLOWS; **19** CERTIFICATE IN TAXATION, **8** DIPLOMA IN TAXATION, **129** DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY, **3** DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, **46** CA CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTANCY, **20** CA APPLICATION ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY, **1146** CA ADVISORY PROFESSIONAL IN ACCOUNTANCY AND **9** CANDIDATES ARE BEING GIVEN THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT ZAMBIA CHARTER DESIGNATION. OF THESE **399** ARE FEMALE WHILE **981** ARE MALE TRANSLATING TO 29% FEMALE AND 71% MALE.

IN VIEW OF THE TRANSFORMATION AGENDA BEING TAKEN BY THE NEW DAWN GOVERNMENT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT MORE AND MORE FINANCE PROFESSIONALS WILL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE SOUND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECENTRALISATION AGENDA. LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE BEING CALLED UPON TO ENGAGE ZICA TO TRAIN INDIVIDUALS THROUGH OUT THE VALUE CHAIN FOR PRUDENT FUND MANAGEMENT.

ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT, THE INSTITUTE WISHES TO THANK MANAGEMENT AND THE LECTURERS OF THE ACCREDITED UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE PROVISION OF TUITION AND GUIDANCE TO ALL OUR STUDENTS. THE INSTITUTE CONTINUES TO LOOK FORWARD TO BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ACCREDITED TUITION PROVIDERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORK-READY ACCOUNTANTS, TAXATION SPECIALISTS, PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

OUR ESTEEMED GRADUANDS,

MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK AND CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUANDS OF THE DAY. WE HOPE THAT WE HAVE MOULDED YOU INTO WHOLESOME PROFESSIONALS RICH IN CHARACTER, INTEGRITY, RESILIENCE AND MENTAL PRESENCE TO WITHSTAND WHATEVER CURVEBALLS LIFE THROWS AT YOU. IN THIS RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD THAT WE LIVE IN, THE WIND OF OPPORTUNITIES WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO GRAB.

BE DIFFERENCE MAKERS!!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

FINALLY, MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA FOR THE SUPPORT IN MAKING THE INSTITUTE REACH THIS FAR BY PROMOTING THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION IN THE COUNTRY. WE ALSO EXTEND OUR WARMEST THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THE VARIOUS AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED HERE TODAY. TO THE ORGANIZATIONS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND EVERYONE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BY MAKING THIS GRADUATION A MEMORABLE SUCCESS, THANK YOU FOR WALKING THIS DREAM WITH US; THE DREAM OF DELIVERING A BETTER EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT.

I THANK YOU AND WISH YOU A REMARKABLE CEREMONY.