**REMARKS BY THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL, MR ABRAHAM MWANSA, SC, ON THE OCCASION OF THE CERTIFCATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE PRACTICAL ADVANCED PROSECUTORS’ COURSE HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 2018.**

**SALUTATIONS**

**IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BE INVITED TO OFFICIATE AT THIS VERY IMPORTANT CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY. MY PRESENCE AT THIS EVENT IS INDICATIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE GOVERNMENT AND MY CHAMBERS PLACE ON THE PRACTICAL ADVANCED PROSECUTORS’ COURSE HERE AT ZIALE.**

**I AM INFORMED THAT THIS COURSE COMMENCED ON MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2018, WITH FORTY ONE (41) PARTICIPANTS FROM BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS. THE BREAKDOWN OF THE REPRESENTATION IS AS FOLLOWS:**

* **ZAMBIA NATIONAL SERVICE - 10**
* **ZAMBIA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY - 9**
* **COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION - 5**
* **ZAMBIA AIR FORCE - 4**
* **LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL - 3**
* **CHILANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL - 3**
* **KAFUE DISTRICT COUNCIL - 2**
* **CHAINAMA HILLS HOSPITAL - 2**
* **ZAMBIA COMPULSORY STANDARDS AGENCY - 2**
* **ENTREPRENEURS’ FINANCIAL CENTRE - 1**

**I AM DISAPPOINTED TO NOTE THAT FROM THE FORTY ONE (41) PARTICIPANTS, ONLY TWELVE (12) ARE FEMALES. I HOPE IN FUTURE MORE FEMALES WILL BE SPONSORED FOR THE PROGRAMME SO AS TO ACHIEVE A GENDER BALANCE IN THE COUNTRY.**

**THE PROSECUTORS’ COURSE IS TARGETED AT NOT ONLY PROSECUTORS BUT ALSO INVESTIGATORS AND INSPECTORS.**

**PROSECUTION SKILLS IN THE LEGAL FRATERNITY ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY COUNTRY. THE PRACTICAL ADVANCED PROSECUTORS’ COURSE AIMS AT PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH BOTH A THEORETICAL AND A PRACTICAL EXPOSURE TO THE FIELD OF PROSECUTION. THE COURSE PROVIDES PARTICIPANTS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIQUE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROSECUTOR. BEING IMBUED WITH THE RULES AND STANDARDS THAT GOVERN PROSECUTORS AND THE REASONS FOR SUCH RULES INVARIABLY LEADS TO EFFECTIVE PROSECUTORS. PROSECUTION PROGRAMMES HOLD A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY OF BETTERING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. THE PROSECUTORS’ COURSE PROVIDES A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE PARTICIPANTS TO THE MANY DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES THAT COME INTO PLAY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

**PROSECUTION TRAINING PROVIDES PARTICIPANTS WITH THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF PREVENTING RATHER THAN MERELY PROSECUTING CRIME AND EXPOSES THEM TO THE REAL AND TRADITIONAL WORKINGS OF PROSECUTOR OFFICES AS WELL AS INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO CRIME FIGHTING.**

**THE ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD PROSECUTOR INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

* **ABILITY TO EXERCISE SOUND DISCRETION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF FUNCTIONS;**
* **ABILITY TO SEEK JUSTICE, NOT MERELY TO CONVICT;**
* **ABILITY TO SEEK TO REFORM AND IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE;**
* **KNOWING AND BEING GUIDED BY THE STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AS DEFINED BY APPLICABLE PROFESSIONAL TRADITIONS, ETHICAL CODES, AND LAW IN THE PROSECUTOR'S JURISDICTION;**
* **ABILITY TO AVOID A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH RESPECT TO OFFICIAL DUTIES; AND**
* **KNOWING AND AVOIDING ANY COMMUNICATION THAT HAS A SUBSTANTIAL LIKELIHOOD OF PREJUDICING A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING.**

**THE PROSECUTORS’ COURSE AIMS AT PRODUCING PROSECUTORS WHO ARE NOT ONLY STRONG, FORCEFUL AND EFFECTIVE, BUT ALSO JUST AND FAIR. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN ZAMBIA INVOLVES WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT EVERY PROSECUTION TRAINING EMPHASISES THAT THE ROLE OF THE PROSECUTOR IS NOT MERELY TO WIN BUT TO DO JUSTICE. THE LAW MUST TRULY BE A SHIELD FOR ALL THE PEOPLE, INCLUDING VICTIMS AND THE WRONGFULLY ACCUSED. THE MARVELOUS LAW OF OUR LAND IS, AND MUST BE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE.**

**AS I CONCLUDE IN MY REMARKS, I WISH TO THANK THE LECTURERS, THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS THAT SPONSORED PARTICIPANTS ON THIS COURSE, AND INDIVIDUALS THAT SPONSORED THEMSELVES. I HOPE THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS WILL USE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED TO THE BENEFIT OF THEIR EMPLOYERS AND THE NATION AT LARGE.**

**I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER.**

**THANK YOU.**