

**SPEECH BY MADAM SPEAKER ON THE FIRST SITTING OF
THE THIRD MEETING OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

Honourable Members,

I wish to welcome you all to the Third Meeting of the Third Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. Standing Order 56(1) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024, which became operational on 1st April, 2024, provides that:

"On the first sitting of a new Meeting, and following the official Ceremonial Opening of a new Assembly, the Speaker may deliver a speech to the House."

It is in accordance with this Standing Order that I am making this speech. Hon Members will recall that the House adjourned *sine die* on Thursday, 28th March, 2024. I trust that Hon Members had a restful recess period and took time to inspect various developmental projects and listen to the concerns of the people in your respective constituencies. I am therefore, optimistic that the concerns raised by your constituents will be brought to the attention of the Executive on the Floor of the House through the various platforms available to you, in the quest to find solutions

to the problems of our people throughout the country. This Meeting, the Committee Reports Adoption Meeting, the House is expected to sit for about eight (8) weeks from today, 11th June and is scheduled to adjourn on or before, Friday, 2nd August, 2024.

Let me begin by congratulating our arm of the Government, the Legislature, for being in existence for 100 years this year. This is a remarkable milestone that should be celebrated by all of us. During this period, the legislature has contributed greatly to the evolution of the country's democracy. Happy 100th anniversary to us!!

Let me now turn to the business of the House. As Hon Members are aware, this Meeting is dedicated to the consideration of Committee Reports. In this regard, the House is expected to consider about thirty (30) reports of various Committees. In addition, the House will be expected to consider Reports on the Ratification of International Agreements and Presidential Appointments as well as Reports from Parliamentary Delegations in accordance with Standing Order 146(1). Apart from the consideration of Committee Reports, the House will consider the following Bills that were presented in the second Meeting namely;

- (i) The Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education (Amendment) Bill (N.A.B 4/2024);
- (ii) The Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Bill (N.A.B 5/2024);
- (iii) The Lands Tribunal (Amendment) Bill (N.A.B 6/2024); and
- (iv) The Zambia Qualifications Authority Bill (N.A.B 7/2024).

Other Bills are expected to be presented and considered during this Meeting. Further, the House is expected to consider the realigned National Budget that will be presented by the Hon Minister of Finance and National Planning together with its attendant Appropriation Bill during the course of the Meeting. The realignment of the budget follows the drought situation the country experienced during the 2023/2024 rainy season which was declared a national disaster by His Excellency the President, Mr Hakainde Hichilema.

Other Business expected to be transacted during the course of the Meeting include:

- (i) Ministerial Statements by Cabinet Ministers;
- (ii) Questions for Oral Answer; and

(iii) Private Members' Motions.

Hon Members, during the second Meeting, we experienced some unfortunate incidents and conduct that was unbecoming the dignity, etiquette and decorum of the House that led to the suspension of some Members. Some of this conduct included:

- (i) Coming late to the House both at the beginning of a sitting and after health breaks;
- (ii) Gross disorderly conduct; and
- (iii) Members challenging Presiding Officers without following the prescribed procedure.

This conduct is unacceptable and will be met with the necessary sanctions. It is my sincere hope and trust that during this Meeting, Hon Members will adhere to the rules of parliamentary practice, dignity, etiquette and decorum of the House so that the Business of the House is conducted in a smooth manner throughout the Meeting.

Hon Members, due to the large volume of work ahead of us in the short period of this Meeting, I wish to take this opportunity to implore all Hon Members to acquaint themselves with the

provisions of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024, which came into effect on 1st April 2024. This will enable Hon Members to familiarise themselves with the new Standing Orders thereby leading to the efficient transaction of the Business of the House.

Let me end by wishing you all very fruitful deliberations throughout this important Meeting.

I thank you.
