



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**SPEECH BY PERMANENT SECRETARY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, MR.  
JOEL KAMOKO AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2024 ZANEC  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS SECTOR MEDIA AWARDS AT GOLDEN  
PEACOCK HOTEL IN LUSAKA**

**19TH DECEMBER, 2024**

## **SALUTATIONS**

- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT
- COOPERATING PARTNERS PRESENT
- INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE
- MEDIA INSTITUTE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA ZAMBIA REPRESENTATIVE
- POLICY MONITORING RESEARCH CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE
- REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS MEDIA HOUSES
- ZANEC BOARD AND MEMBER ORGANISATIONS PRESENT
- DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS,
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS AN HONOUR TO OFFICIATE AT THIS PRESTIGIOUS ZANEC EDUCATION AND SKILLS SECTOR MEDIA AWARDS FOR 2024. MY MINISTRY IS ALWAYS PLEASED TO BE PART OF SUCH PROGRESSIVE EVENTS THAT RECOGNISE AND APPRECIATE KEY STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS THE MEDIA. THE MEDIA IS VITAL IN RAISING AWARENESS OF VARIOUS SECTORS WHICH INCLUDE EDUCATION.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S MEDIA AWARDS IS "**TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH INCLUSIVE REPORTING: AMPLIFYING VOICES FOR EQUITY AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION**". MEDIA IS A CRITICAL ALLY IN ENSURING THAT EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF GENDER,

ABILITY, LOCATION AND STATUS HAVE ACCESS TO EQUITABLE AND QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH INFORMATION DISSEMINATION. THIS THEME ALSO REMINDS US OF ZAMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SUMMIT (TES) HELD ON THE SIDELINES OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER 2022.

SEVERAL AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, ATTENDED (TES) AND MADE BOLD COMMITMENTS ABOUT HOW THEY WERE GOING TO TRANSFORM THEIR EDUCATION SYSTEMS TO AVERT THE CRISIS DRIVEN BY COVID 19. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE MEDIA CONTINUES TO REMIND US OF ZAMBIA'S COMMITMENTS. I URGE THE MEDIA TO KEEP US ON OUR TOES SO THAT TES COMMITMENTS ARE OPERATIONALISED IN THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION SERVICES.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT WAS PUT IN PLACE IN 2023, THE MEDIA IS EXPECTED TO REPORT ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE LIVES OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE. BE UP TO DATE WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING ESPECIALLY IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR.

THE MEDIA IS SO POWERFUL, USE THE POWER YOU HAVE MEANINGFULLY BY PROMOTING TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION WHICH IS ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. CONTINUE TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF THE VULNERABLE IN OUR COUNTRY TO ACCESS EDUCATION.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

MY GOVERNMENT NOTES WITH SADNESS THAT MOST MEDIA PERSONNEL ARE AMONG THE LOWLY PAID IN THIS COUNTRY ESPECIALLY IN THE PRIVATE MEDIA HOUSES WHICH IS NOT RIGHT. I WOULD LIKE TO URGE THE PRIVATE MEDIA HOUSES TO ENSURE THAT YOUR MEDIA PERSONNEL ARE WELL-REMUNERATED BECAUSE THEY DO A LOT OF WORK. AS GOVERNMENT, WE WILL NOT TOLERATE COMPANIES THAT DO NOT RESPECT LABOUR LAWS WHICH PROVIDE FOR DECENT PAY.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,**

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR THE EFFORTS ZANEC HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE TO MOTIVATE THE MEDIA TO REPORT MORE ON THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS SECTORS. THIS IS COMMENDABLE.

**DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

FINALLY, CONGRATILATIONS TO ALL THE AWARD WINNERS! KEEP INFORMING OUR PEOPLE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY. CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN OUR PROFESSION AND BE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MEDIA IN RAISING THE EDUCATION BANNER HIGH. WITH THESE FEW REMARKS, MAY I NOW DECLARE THIS ZANEC 2024 MEDIA AWARDS OFFICIALLY OPEN.

**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**