



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE-MPONGWE**

**3<sup>RD</sup> CERTIFICATE GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**MR. REUBEN M. PHIRI, MP.**

**(MoA)**

**HELD AT**

**ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE-MPONGWE**

**MAIN CAMPUS**

**14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024**

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER-MONZE DISTRICT

THE ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRESENT

THE DIRECTOR-HRA - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

THE PACO -COPPERBERT

THE PRINCIPAL - ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE -  
MPONGWE

THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON-MPONGWE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRINCIPALS FROM OTHER COLLEGES

DISTRICT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

COLLEGE STAFF AND WORKERS

PARENTS AND GRADUATING STUDENTS

DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS MY SINCERE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE THIRD GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE - MPONGWE, AS WE GATHER HERE TO RECOGNIZE THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES IN THE CERTIFICATE IN GENERAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM. TODAY'S CEREMONY IS HELD UNDER THE THEME,

***“CULTIVATING PROSPERITY: EMPOWERING GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURAL TRAINING FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW.”***

THIS THEME RESONATES DEEPLY WITH OUR NATIONAL VISION, A VISION THAT IS EMBRACED AND PROMOTED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, AND PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.

OUR PRESIDENT HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE AS A PILLAR OF ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION. THIS EMPHASIS IS CLEAR: WE

MUST INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, INTEGRATE INNOVATION, AND TRAIN SKILLED PERSONNEL TO ENSURE AGRICULTURE DRIVES OUR ECONOMY FORWARD. TODAY'S GRADUATES ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS VISION AND THE DEDICATION TO ITS ACHIEVEMENT.

*TO THE PRINCIPAL, LECTURERS, AND STAFF,* ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE COMMENDABLE NUMBER OF GRADUATES WE CELEBRATE TODAY. YOUR COMMITMENT TO RIGOROUS TRAINING AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THESE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NOW STAND. ORGANIZING SUCH AN EVENT IS NO SMALL FEAT —IT REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE EFFORT, RESOURCES, AND COORDINATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE SPONSORS AND STAKEHOLDERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THIS COLLEGE, NOT ONLY IN HOSTING THIS CEREMONY BUT ALSO IN THE OVERALL DELIVERY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING. YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS INVALUABLE, AND AS A MINISTRY, WE RECOGNIZE AND VALUE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

AS WE CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE, I URGE THE ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE TO REMAIN STEADFAST IN YOUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE. YOUR MISSION

IS A CRITICAL NATIONAL PRIORITY—TO PRODUCE WELL-TRAINED, COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS FOR ZAMBIA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. WE ARE AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE, PARTICULARLY REGARDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS. BE ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MINISTRY IS WORKING DILIGENTLY TO ADDRESS THESE NEEDS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO FOSTERING A CONDUCTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS ALIKE, AND I AM PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE COLLEGE IN RESPONSE TO OUR ONGOING EFFORTS.

*GRADUANDS*, TODAY MARKS A NEW CHAPTER IN YOUR LIVES. YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS EVIDENCE OF YOUR DILIGENCE, DEDICATION, AND THE MASTERY OF COMPETENCIES THAT YOUR ESTEEMED INSTRUCTORS HAVE IMPARTED. AS YOU MOVE FORWARD, I URGE YOU TO EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIE AHEAD, TO BE INNOVATIVE, AND TO RESPOND MEANINGFULLY TO THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA IS COMMITTED TO AN AGENDA THAT PLACES AGRICULTURE AT THE HEART OF OUR ECONOMY. OUR AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, PARTICULARLY THE **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY** AND THE

**COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CAADP)**, ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A FERTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS. THESE INITIATIVES FOCUS ON INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY, IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SUPPORTING MARKET ACCESS FOR FARMERS. THEY ARE BACKED BY PROGRAMS THAT OFFER SUBSIDIES, TRAINING, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE. IT IS THE HOPE OF THIS GOVERNMENT THAT SKILLED GRADUATES LIKE YOURSELVES WILL HELP DRIVE THESE POLICIES FORWARD, PROPELLING OUR NATION TOWARD A PROSPEROUS, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL FUTURE.

I CALL UPON YOU, GRADUATES, TO ANSWER THIS IMPORTANT CALL AND CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO OUR NATION'S GROWTH. BE AMBASSADORS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, CHAMPIONS OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, AND LEADERS WHO WILL INSPIRE PROSPERITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

*LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,*

I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE INVALUABLE ROLE PLAYED BY THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF OUR GRADUATES. YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT, BOTH

EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL, HAS BEEN THE BACKBONE OF THEIR SUCCESS. YOU HAVE MADE SACRIFICES, PROVIDED ENCOURAGEMENT, AND STOOD BY THEM THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNEY. TODAY IS AS MUCH A CELEBRATION OF YOUR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT AS IT IS OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENT. ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY, THE COLLEGE, AND INDEED, THE ENTIRE NATION, I EXTEND MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO YOU, THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS, FOR YOUR UNWAVERING BELIEF IN THE POTENTIAL OF THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN. IT IS YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT THAT HAS FUELED THEIR ASPIRATIONS, AND WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INVESTMENT IN THEIR FUTURE AND IN THE FUTURE OF ZAMBIA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY AND ALL PRESENT HERE, I EXTEND MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU AND WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS AS YOU EMBARK ON YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEYS.

THANK YOU.