



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE-  
MPONGWE**

**3<sup>ND</sup> CERTIFICATE GRADUATION  
CEREMONY  
SPEECH BY THE PRINCIPAL  
ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
(MPONGWE)**

**TO BE HELD AT  
ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE-  
MPONGWE  
MAIN CAMPUS**

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

- THE GUEST OF HONOUR SIR/MADAM
- PERMANENT SECRETARY; MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
- THE DIRECTOR HQ
- HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, CHIEFTAINESS LESA,
- THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER- MPONGWE
- THE CHIEF COORDINATOR FOR ATIs
- FELLOW PRINCIPALS – AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS,
- THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL COORDINATOR- COPPERBELT PROVINCE,
- SENIOR MEMBERS OF STAFF – MOA HQ,
- SPONSORS OF VARIOUS PRIZES,
- GRADUATING STUDENTS,
- DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS,
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ON BEHALF OF ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE – MPONGWE AND INDEED ON MY OWN BEHALF, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO OUR 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY!

GUEST OF HONOUR SIR, WE ARE HONOURED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US HERE TODAY, AS WE CELEBRATE OUR OUTSTANDING GRADUATES ACHIEVEMENTS AMIDST YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE. WE ARE THRILLED

TO SHARE THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION WITH YOU. MAY I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF **HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, CHIEFTAINESS LESA** AND WELCOME HER TO THIS GALLANT FUNCTION.

TODAY AS A COLLEGE TOGETHER WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WE ARE GRADUATING A TOTAL OF 130 CERTIFICATE GRADUANDS.

HONOURABLE MINISTER SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE HOLDING THIS GRADUATION CEREMONY UNDER THE THEME:

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

HONOURABLE MINISTER SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ALLOW ME TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT THE COLLEGE HAS SCORED SINCE THE LAST GRADUATION; THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MINISTRY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS. HONOURABLE GUEST OF HONOUR MADAM, I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE HERE, THAT, THE COLLEGE STILL RECEIVES SUPPORT THROUGH THE DUTCH FOUNDATION GIVE THE CHILDREN OF MPONGWE A FUTURE (GKMT).

#### ACHIEVEMENT

- ✓ INCREASE IN NUMBER OF GRADUATING STUDENTS FROM 99 IN 2023 TO 130 STUDENTS IN 2024
- ✓ INTRODUCTION OF DIPLOMA PROGRAMME BOTH FULL TIME AND OPEN DISTANCE TRAINING
- ✓ CONSTRUCTION OF A TUCKSHOP, GUARD HOUSE, AND AN EXTENSION TO THE MALE ABLUTION BLOCK

- ✓ INSTALLATION AND FENCING OF A ONE HECTOR DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- ✓ STOCKING OF SECOND BATCH OF FINGERLINS FROM 6,000 IN 2023 TO 10,000 IN 2024
- ✓ WE RECEIVED THE PRINCIPLE WHO HAS SINCE RETIRED, ONE TRAINING STAFF AND FIVE (5) SPPORT STAFF.
- ✓ INCREASEIN THE NUMBER OF GOATS FROM 13 IN 2023 TO 23 IN 2024
- ✓ PATNERSHIP WITH ASTRIA LEARNING FOR STUDENT PORTAL, STUDENT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND THE E-LIBRARY

AMONGST THESE ACHIEVEMENTS, THE COLLEGE FACED A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

### **CHALLENGES**

- ✓ WE ARE IN NEED OF A COLLEGE BUS FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS TOURS
- ✓ MORE ARABLE LAND. TO DO MORE FARMING AS AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE WE SHOULD BE PRODUCTIVITE
- ✓ SHORTAGE OF STAFF, CLASSROOMS, HOSTELS, AND OFFICE SPACES.
- ✓ NO ACCOMONDATION FOR MEMBERS OF STAFF

### **FUTURE PLANS**

- ✓ A NEW THREE-CLASSROOM BLOCK WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO ENHANCE THE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, CREATING A CONDUCIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES.
- ✓ TO SOURCE ADDITIONAL LAND FROM HER LOYAL HIGHNESS FOR TWO PURPOSES: CONSTRUCTING HOUSING FOR STAFF MEMBERS AND ALLOCATING SPACE FOR FARMING TO EXPAND PRACTICAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH.
- ✓ ACQUISITION OF HOSSANA SECONADRY SCHOOL WHICH IS ON SALE AND IS VERY CLOSE TO THE COLLEGE, FOR EXPANSION.
- ✓ INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR SYSTEM

HONOURABLE MINISTER SIR, THOUGH WE ARE FACED WITH THESE CHANLLENGES WE HAVE NOT SAT BACK BUT MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT PREVAILS FOR THE STUDENTS.

### **MESSAGE TO GRADUATES**

TODAY MARKS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN YOUR JOURNEY. AS YOU STAND HERE, READY TO RECEIVE YOUR CERTIFICATES, I AM FILLED WITH PRIDE AND A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. YOUR ACHIEVEMENT IS A TESTAMENT TO YOUR HARD WORK, PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION.

YOUR TIME AT ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE - MPONGWE HAS PREPARED YOU FOR THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. YOU HAVE GROWN INTELLECTUALLY, SOCIALLY, AND EMOTIONALLY. YOU HAVE FORMED LASTING BONDS WITH YOUR PEERS AND MENTORS.

AS YOU MOVE FORWARD, REMEMBER THAT EDUCATION IS NOT LIMITED TO THE CLASSROOM. IT IS A LIFELONG PURSUIT. CONTINUE TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE, ASK QUESTIONS, AND EXPLORE.

YOU ARE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SHAPE THE WORLD. USE YOUR ACQUIRED SKILLS, TALENTS, AND COMPASSION TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT THUS BY CULTIVATING PROSPERITY.

AS YOU CLOSE THIS CHAPTER AND BEGIN ANEW, REMEMBER THAT ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE - MPONGWE WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR HOME.

**TO OUR FACULTY AND STAFF;** I EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR YOUR DEDICATION, HARD WORK AND EXPERTISE THAT HAVE SHAPED THESE GRADUATES INTO ACCOMPLISHED PROFESSIONALS.

**TO OUR PARENTS AND FAMILIES;** THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT, YOUR LOVE AND GUIDANCE WHICH HAVE NURTURED THEIR GROWTH.

**ON BEHALF OF THE COLLEGE STAFF, MAY I SIMPLY SAY CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022!**

**FAREWELL, GOD BLESS YOU AND BEST WISHES FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE!**

THANK YOU.