

**Address by the High Commissioner of Zambia, Mrs Patricia Chisanga Kondolo,
presenting her credentials to the PoR of the Republic of Cyprus, on June 9, 2023**

Your Excellency,

Mr Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus,

I am honoured to be here today to present Letters appointing me as High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia to the Republic of Cyprus. I am humbled by the confidence that President Hakainde Hichilema has shown in appointing me to represent him in this high capacity.

I wish to thank Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Cyprus for the warm hospitality accorded to me since my arrival in your beautiful country. May I also take this opportunity to convey heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency on your successful election during the February 2023 Presidential elections. Zambia looks forward to working with Your Government to enhance our relations and cooperation between our two countries, for the mutual benefit of our people.

As I take up this role as High Commissioner, I am encouraged by the existing warm bilateral relations shared between our two countries. There is common history in the journeys of Zambia and Cyprus. In particular, our mutual membership to the Commonwealth is a unique bond that binds us in a special way. Our collaboration at the United Nations is equally important. It is my hope, therefore, that our two countries will continue to support each other at the multilateral level, on issues of mutual interest and importance, particularly on issues aimed at achieving peace and security.

It is in this framework that Zambia, as a strong advocate for the peaceful solution of disputes encourages that the Cyprus issue be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue between the parties, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the attainment of lasting peace and stability in Cyprus and the region.

Your Excellency,

Over the years Cyprus has extended numerous scholarships to Zambian students through the Commonwealth. As Zambia places education at the pinnacle of its development agenda, I look forward to interacting with Your Government in ways in which this cooperation can be enhanced to be even more impactful.

I also wish to highlight the remarkable achievements of Cyprus in the tourism sector as evidenced by record increases in tourist arrivals. Your country has used its strategic location in the Mediterranean to grow this important sector given its strategic contribution to economic growth. My country, Zambia, also has great potential to grow its tourism industry and I would, during my tour of duty, be delighted to explore ways in which our two countries can collaborate in this vital sector. We invite Cypriot practitioners in the sector to look at Zambia as a new frontier for investment owing to the many opportunities on offer.

We also welcome collaboration with businesses and investors from Cyprus, and we hope to cultivate a more productive and industrious relationship and partnership between Zambia and Cyprus. Zambia's planned economic growth in the coming years is premised on the growth of innovative small and medium enterprises. As such, I believe that there lies great opportunity for deeper and more meaningful collaboration in value addition, sustainable energy production and agriculture. Therefore, as I begin my tour of duty as High Commissioner of Zambia to Cyprus, the promotion of Economic Diplomacy between our two countries will be one of my key areas of focus.

Your Excellency,

As I conclude, allow me to once again, thank the Government and people of the Republic of Cyprus, and indeed Your Excellency, for receiving me today on this special occasion for me and my country.

It is now my distinct honour and privilege to present to Your Excellency the Letters of Credence by which His Excellency Mr Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, has appointed me High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia to the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the Letters of Recall of predecessor.

Thank You.