

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL, MR DANIEL FWAMBO AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 2018-2021 EVELYN HONE COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN ON 6TH JULY 2018

- THE GUEST OF HONOUR
- THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON, PROFESSOR FASTON GOMA
- THE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
- THE VICE CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA, PROFESSOR LUKE MUMBA
- MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
- DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

LET ME START BY WELCOMING ALL OF YOU AND THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE RENDERED TOWARDS OUR INTENDED GROWTH OF OUR INSTITUTION, THROUGH YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY.

OUR INSTITUTION AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE IS THE LARGEST TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE 25 PUBLIC TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND TRADES TRAINING INSTITUTES IN ZAMBIA. IT HAS EXISTED FOR 55 YEARS, HAVING OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC IN MAY 1963, AS SIMPLY A COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION. ITS NAME WAS CHANGED TO THE EVELYN HONE COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND COMMERCE IN 1972, THEREBY ATTRACTING ITS FURTHER ENHANCED STATUS. IT HAS EXISTED UNDER THIS OFFICIAL NAME SINCE THEN AND THROUGH ITS CURRENT LIFE.

UNDER GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTION AND FACILITATION, AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE IN 1997 TO TRANSFORM THE INSTITUTION INTO AN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. AT THAT TIME, A CONCEPT DOCUMENT WAS DEVELOPED, THOUGH, FOR SOME REASON THE POLICY WAS NOT FOLLOWED TO ITS FRUITION. THIS COULD NOT BE REALISED, PARTLY

BECAUSE OF A MAJOR PARADIGM SHIFT BY GOVERNMENT WHICH RESULTED IN ALL 23 INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING THE THEN DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING (D.T.E.V.T) BEING ABOLISHED OR RESTRUCTURED THROUGH THE TEVET ACT OF 1998. RESULTING FROM THIS ACT, ALL INSTITUTIONS WERE TO RUN AS SELF SUSTAINING UNDER MANAGEMENT BOARDS APPOINTED BY GOVERNMENT. THE 1997 WISH HAS RESURFACED THROUGH THIS STRATEGIC PLAN. ***THE TRANSFORMATION QUEST PROVES THAT WHILE CHANGE MAY BE DELAYED IT CAN NOT BE STOPPED.***

THE DEMAND BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND INITIAL FACILITATION BY GOVERNMENT HAS NOW ADDED FURTHER MOMENTUM TO THE REVOLUTIONARY TRANSFORMATION OF OUR COLLEGE TO A MUCH HIGHER INSTITUTION THAN IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

THE 2013-2017 STRATEGIC PLAN UNDER THE POLICY DIRECTION OF THE BOARD WAS THE INITIAL ATTEMPT TO REALISE THE 1997 PRONOUNCEMENT FOR THE INSTITUTION TO TRANSFORM INTO A HIGHER AWARDING INSTITUTION. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES WERE FACED, THE MAJOR ONE OF WHICH INCLUDED LIMITED FINANCIAL FLOWS FOR AN AMBITIOUS TRANSFORMATION. THE OTHER WEAKNESS WAS THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR SP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO GUIDE THE ATTAINMENT OF THE MAJOR MILESTONES.

THE 2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN WAS A CONSEQUENCE OF FAIRLY WIDE CONSULTATION WITH BOTH THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT STAKEHOLDERS. THIS COULD BE SEEN AS ONE STRENGTH OF THIS PLAN BECAUSE ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF ACROSS ALL RANKS WERE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THEY ENVISAGED THE PLAN TO ADDRESS THEIR INTERESTS. WORKSHOPS WERE HELD AT DIFFERENT LEVELS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CONSENSUS OF ALL. THIS WAS DONE TO AVOID THE PITFALLS ASSOCIATED WITH OWNERSHIP OF THE CONTENT OF THE SP.

THE CHOICE OF SP CONSULTANTS ALSO TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT AS A PUBLIC INSTITUTION WHOSE ULTIMATE BENEFACTOR REMAINED GOVERNMENT, EXPERTS IN PUBLIC POLICY WERE HIRED TO GUIDE THE PROCESS IN LINE WITH THE 2017-2021 SEVENTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

WHILE WE SEEK HIGHER TRANSFORMATION AS AN INSTITUTION, WE SHALL BY NO MEANS NEGLECT OUR PRIMARY MANDATE OF OFFERING ESSENTIAL SKILLS BASED PROGRAMMES AT DIPLOMA LEVEL BECAUSE WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THEIR VALUE IN THE DIRECT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY. THE ENVISAGED HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS BEYOND DIPLOMA QUALIFICATIONS SHALL CONFORM DIRECTLY TO THE DEMAND AND DICTATES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA.

OUR HOPE, THEREFORE, IS THAT GOVERNMENT THROUGH OUR BOARD WILL SUPPORT THE 2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN IN ORDER FOR US TO APPROPRIATELY RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS WHICH SO FAR, WE HAVE CARRIED OUT WITH FULL COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION. OUR REBRANDING WILL FULLY ACCOUNT FOR OUR PRESENT STATUS AND PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT EXPECTATION.

I THANK YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN AND GOD BLESS US ALL.

**DANIEL FWAMBO
PRINCIPAL**