

Launch of the National Dialogue & Reconciliation Opening Remarks

By Bish. Paul E. Mususu

Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia Board Chairperson
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Your excellency, former presidents, presidents of political parties, distinguished country men and women, brothers and sisters.

We gather here today as one people bearing a common identity of primarily being Zambians; we share a common heritage and identity. We share common challenges and aspirations. We have a common agenda of wanting to see ourselves living peacefully, moving freely and relating lovingly with one another through various human endeavors, leading to a common objective of transforming our society.

This gathering is critical. It has been long awaited. We meet because we are fully aware that some challenges can be resolved by talking and by effective dialoguing. It is a choice we make. We have learnt from our own past experiences of how this venue has been used to resolve some of our very serious national challenges. Conflicting parties have been brought into this building and they have been made to dialogue and later they were reconciled. This venue is rich in that history. It is synonymous with indabas, peace accords, dialogue, prayer, forgiveness and reconciliation.

In the last couple of months, there has been so much divisive talk in the country and anxiety was building up. However, many people were hoping that someday there will be good news coming out of a start of the dialogue process. That day has finally come. This gathering is the first stepping stone of that process.

As a church, we have prayerfully considered the challenges of our country in the last 2 to 3 years and have been seeking modalities of ensuring that we contribute to peace-building, dialogue and reconciliation. This is our godly assignment and a biblical mandate as to why we exist.

Today we are officially launching our national dialogue. The national dialogue will have various activities and involve a cross section of our Zambian society. It is not a process for a few individuals. This concerns every Zambian and therefore representatives of various stakeholder groups will be contacted to solicit their participation.

Various activities will be conducted in the next 2 or more years on dialogue and reconciliation. We seek the positive participation of every Zambian and make contributions that will enable us to achieve the desired goal for a reconciled nation where there is love and unity at all levels of our society and where everyone enjoys mutual co-existence with one another.

On behalf of the three church mother bodies (namely The Council of Churches in Zambia, Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia and the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops) that are facilitating and leading this process, I delight in welcoming you all to this launch event at this Cathedral. We urge you all to positively respond whenever we call upon you in the future events because we don't want to leave anyone behind.

Find something positive you can contribute to this process rather than hindering the process from yielding the desired outcomes. Let us stand together and work together AND ensure that we succeed in this endeavour.

Thank you