



11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PSZ STATEMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ) is a professional body that represents Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technologists, and endeavours to inform government policy direction on medicines, medical devices and allied substances in order to ensure that the highest standards of pharmaceutical training and practice across all sectors are maintained, to preserve and protect the integrity and safety of the people of Zambia and in so doing to safeguard the nation.

The PSZ has learned with optimism, the appointment of Dr. Jonas Chanda as the new Minister of Health. We would like to congratulate the Minister and wish him well in his new role. We would also like to urge him to foster objectivity, transparency and an unbiased policy of interacting with all stakeholders equitably on matters relating to the preservation and enhancement of the health of the people of Zambia. We further wish to express our sincere hope, that the Minister will create an environment in which pharmacy professionals in all government and parastatal departments/agencies, including but not limited to Medical Stores Limited (MSL) and Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), will be allowed to execute their duties diligently and professionally without undue influence for the benefit of the people of Zambia. We also urge Government to create a directorate of pharmaceutical services and employ more pharmacists and pharmacy technologists in the ministry of health so as to enable optimal pharmaceutical service to both government and the Zambian people. This will create confidence among the Zambian people across the country in that they will receive high standard of pharmaceutical care and services as well as quality medication to optimize their health outcomes.

The PSZ will work closely with the new Minister to help foster new and invigorated public confidence in our health-care institutions and systems more so in the current circumstances surrounding the ministry of health and the current global crisis the world is grappling with (COVID 19) whose effects are so devastating to all nations of which Zambia is no exception.

***“EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE”***

Lastly, we would like to urge the nation to continue observing the guidelines outlined for curbing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic such as masking up, washing hands frequently or sanitising where necessary, avoiding unnecessary movements or large social gatherings and maintaining social distancing.

*“Excellence in practice”*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Saini Kennedy L.', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Saini Kennedy L.**  
PRESIDENT

***“EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE”***