



ZAMBIA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (Z.C.C.B)

CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

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14th January 2021

PRESS RELEASE

ZCCB MOURNS BISHOP MOSES HAMUNGOLE

On behalf of the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB), **I write to convey our deep and heartfelt condolences to members of the bereaved family, the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Monze, on the death of Rt. Rev. Moses Hamungole, until yesterday the Bishop of Monze. We wish to assure you of our closeness, pastoral solidarity and fervent prayers as we mourn and bid farewell to our beloved Bishop.**

Bishop Hamungole fell ill nearly two weeks ago and tested positive of COVID-19. He was briefly admitted to Monze Mission Hospital before being transferred to Levy Mwanawasa Hospital COVID-19 Centre for specialized medical treatment. He was by and large responding well to treatment but his condition deteriorated yesterday afternoon and left for his heavenly abode around 18:00 hrs, on Wednesday, 13th January 2021.

Rt. Rev. Moses Hamungole was born on 1st May 1967 in Kafue. He started his junior secondary school at Kafue Boys but went on to complete his senior secondary school education in 1986 at Mukasa Minor Seminary in Choma.

In 1987, he embarked on his journey into priesthood and was accepted at St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Mpima, Kabwe, where he undertook Philosophical and Religious Studies. Later, in 1990, he proceeded to St. Dominic's Major seminary in Lusaka where he pursued his Theological and Pastoral Training. He graduated with a Baccalaureate Degree in Theology in 1994 conferred by the Pontifical University Urbaniana (Rome).

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary General



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After his ordination as a priest of Lusaka Archdiocese on 6th August 1994, he worked as an Assistant Parish Priest in New Kanyama Parish (Lusaka) and Chowa Parish (Kabwe) before being appointed to the then Yatsani TV Production Studios (later CMS-TV Production Studios) as Studio Manager, in 1997. Two years later, he proceeded to study at the Gregorian University in Rome where, in 2002, he graduated with a Licentiate in Social Sciences with a Major in Communication. The late Bishop Hamungole also worked at the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa (AMECEA) Secretariat as Secretary for Social Communications in Nairobi – Kenya, between 2002 and 2009. During this time, he also served as President of SIGNIS Africa (*SIGNIS is the world association of Catholic communicators*). In addition, he went to pursue his doctoral studies and later graduated at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, after successfully defending his doctoral thesis in 2015.

From 2010 until 2014, he served as the Director of the English Service – Africa and Kiswahili at the Vatican Radio in Rome, Italy. It was while serving at the Vatican Radio that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, on 10th February 2014, appointed him as the new Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Monze. His Episcopal Consecration was held on 3rd May 2014, thereby succeeding Rt. Rev. Emilio Patriarca, as Bishop of Monze.

As the Local Ordinary of Monze, Rt. Rev. Moses Hamungole served the people of God with much diligence as their chief shepherd. He will be remembered and greatly missed as a humble and developmental Bishop. One example of his visionary and transformational leadership was the mobilization of the needed human, material and financial resources that led to the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the New Cathedral in Monze. *It is our hope and prayer that his departure will not derail and demotivate the key stakeholders in this noble project. Instead, let the death of our brother bishop galvanise and energise you, and thus enable you to honour his legacy by completing his dream of building a “New House for the Lord” and an inspiring symbol of ecclesial unity in the Diocese of Monze.*

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At the national level, Bishop Hamungole served with distinction in spearheading the apostolate to and through the media as Bishop Director for Communications. He thus played a critical role in the establishment and advancement of several Catholic Media outlets such as Lumen Television Zambia. Not only that, he was recently elected in the Bishops' Conference to be the Bishop Director for the Association of Zambian Diocesan Catholic Clergy (AZADCC). In this portfolio, he exhibited his immense love and deep appreciation of the irreplaceable role played by Diocesan Priests in the work of integral evangelization within the Local Church. *It is therefore our sincere hope that memories of Bishop Hamungole will always inspire the Church in Zambia to evangelise effectively by making good use of the modern means of communication as well as inspire genuine vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood.*

In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which left a number of households in need of humanitarian assistance, Bishop Hamungole spearheaded the charitable response of the Catholic Church in Zambia. On several occasions, he gladly represented the Bishops' Conference in receiving donations from well-wishers which were channeled to the most-needy in the communities across the country. **He always applauded and encouraged the frontline health workers in their gallant fight against the pandemic. In his sickness, he continued to do so.**

Lastly, Bishop Moses Hamungole from his hospital bed, urged us to remain vigilant and prevent the spread of the deadly *Coronavirus* Disease. *We therefore reiterate his clarion call and beg all mourners to strictly follow the public health regulations, especially those of religiously masking up, washing hands regularly and thoroughly with soap, sanitizing and observing the requisite social distance.* Let us indeed mourn our dear Bishop in a peaceful and orderly manner. We pray that the Good Lord may grant his servant the reward of eternal life. May the soul of Bishop Moses Hamungole rest in eternal peace!

Rt. Rev. George Cosmas Zumaire Lungu,
Bishop of Chipata,
ZCCB PRESIDENT.



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