



**ADDRESS BY COPPERBELT ENERGY CORPORATION PLC
MANAGING DIRECTOR, OWEN SILAVWE, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE INTER-COMPANY FIRST AID
COMPETITION HELD ON SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2018 AT
ARTHUR DAVIES STADIUM, KITWE**

- *The Minister of Mines and Minerals Development, Hon. Richard Musukwa, MP*
- *Representatives of Government Departments and Agencies*
- *The Representative of the Chamber of Mines Council for First Aid*
- *The Competition Adjudicators*
- *Executives of CEC and other Participating Companies*
- *Competition Participants*
- *Distinguished Invited Ladies and Gentlemen*

A warm and very hearty welcome to CEC and Arthur Davies Stadium. You have, without any doubt, come to the right place that could host such an event and should rest assured that your safety is our priority because it [safety] precedes everything we do as a company.

Hosting the 13th Inter-company First Aid Competition gives us an opportunity to not only show our capabilities in that area but to also share insights others on our approach to and performance in the area of workplace safety.

Over the years, we have as a business cultivated a culture of safety excellence for both plant and people, which we keep improving on by adopting systems and encouraging behavior that shifts our thinking and practices to one of safety consciousness at all times. By placing occupational safety at the highest peak of our operations and activities, I can share with you that CEC has, as at the end of June 2018, clocked a record 3.882 million man-hours without a system-based lost time accident – extending from 3.094 million hours at the end of December 2017. That is a record we are proud of but more importantly, one that we collectively and consciously work to maintain and exceed.

There are more insights I could share but recognizing that now is not the place for it, I will hasten to focus on today's competition, reminding us that ***“LIFE IS PRECIOUS, HELP THE INJURED”***.

A 2017 study published by the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work states that approximately 27.8 million deaths attributed to work, occur annually and account for 5% of the total global mortality. 14% of these deaths are attributable to fatal accidents at places of work.

Honorable Minister, I dare state with certainty that all the companies represented here have formulated policies, programmes and systems for the prevention of occupational injuries and deaths at the workplace. That is as it should be and there are benefits to it because statistics show that companies that implement effective health and safety programs in their workplace environments can expect a reduction of around 20 to 40 per cent in illness and injury; and it does not stop there. Increased productivity, reduced medical and related costs positively impact the bottom line.

In addition, occupational safety and health at work are vital components of decent work and we believe that providing employees with a safe work

environment is simply the right thing to do. But we know that systems alone do not prevent accidents and injuries neither do they ensure health and safety. The correct implementation is necessary and that is where first aid is cardinal to any company's emergency preparedness strategy because it offers first line life-saving treatment to victims of accidents before their evacuation to medical facilities.

Honorable Minister Sir, participation in this Inter-company First Aid Competition is, in itself, a demonstration by all the companies involved of their commitment to creating and maintaining a safe work environment for their employees and visitors alike.

I urge all the participating first aiders present that what you do does not go unnoticed and that while you may at times consider yourselves unsung heroes, I speak on behalf of all employers here represented that we appreciate your efforts and dedication to making and keeping our places of work safer. The stage is set for you to show your competence.

This is not a competition to simply produce a team that will show themselves better than the rest but more importantly, it is a platform to increase on your skill, aptitude and knowledge. Whether you are adjudged to have won or not, the experience must still be beneficial to you and your company.

Myself, the management and staff of CEC sincerely thank each one of you for being present here today. I also extend my gratitude to the organizers and everyone that have contributed to the successful hosting of this competition.

I thank you all.