President Edgar Lungu has expressed concern at the current project costs escalated through systematic variations in the country. He said this at AVANI Hotel when he officiated at the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) annual symposium and annual general meeting under the theme ‘Sustainable National Development: Issues and Challenges for Zambia’s Development Agenda,’ on 26th April, 2019. President Lungu said if the trend was left unchecked, it had the potential to erode the achievements that had been made so far.

He urged the Engineers to ensure that everything was factored in before venturing into a project to avoid paying more than what is budgeted for.

“I have said it before and I will say it again in a very harsh tone that I will not tolerate this unethical behavior, Mr. president (EIZ) and it needs to be curtailed henceforth,” President Lungu said.

President Lungu however, said he was confident that the engineering fraternity could make immense contributions by devising innovative solutions to the country’s development challenges and that this could only happen if Engineers were dynamic and practical.

And President Lungu has challenged the EIZ to be more proactive in finding locally grown solutions which would unlock the nation’s potential.

Mr. Lungu observed that the current situation where the country seemed to rely much on imported solutions to address local problems must end.

“I am confident that the engineering fraternity can make immense contributions by devising innovative solutions to Zambia’s development challenges,” Mr. Lungu said.

President Lungu said this could only happen when the country had dynamic, practical and forward-looking men and women in the leadership of EIZ.

“Further, there is need for you as an institution and a profession to seriously invest in research and development, for engineering to contribute to the country’s development aspiration. For this reason, our country needs a cadre of enterprising Engineers to revolutionize the practice of engineering for the country to reduce on importation of technology.

“Therefore, as you deliberate at this symposium, I implore you to focus on addressing the challenges that undermine the contribution of engineering to the development of our country. This is important because we have reached a stage where we need to harness the human capital endowment to respond to the challenges facing our country,” Mr. Lungu said.

And EIZ president Sydney Matamwandi commended Government for its support to the engineering profession in the country.
Eng. Matamwandi thanked President Lungu for being the first Republican President to officiate at the EIZ symposium and annual general meeting since its inception 64 years ago. Eng. Matamwandi said that the institution was impressed with the progress the industry had made over the years but acknowledged that more needed to be done by individual professions and the institution.

He pledged EIZ’s support to the Government, pointing out that the vision 2030 of the Government and that of his organization was intertwined and shared the same aspirations.

The President also took time to tour the Expo stands. The President toured RDA stand where he urged the Agency to begin testing materials for constructing houses to avoid houses collapsing in case of adverse climate change effects. During this year’s, Symposium, the President conferred Fellows which is the highest class of membership in the Institution.