

**VERY  
URGENT**

## **PRESIDENT LUNGU TO ATTEND SADC, VISIT INDIA**

**Lusaka, (Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019) -----His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia** is scheduled to attend the 39<sup>th</sup> Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government Summit in Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.

The President is also expected to visit India from Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 at the invitation of that country's Head of State.

During the SADC Summit, the President is expected to present a report to mark the handover of the Chairmanship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation to the Republic of Zimbabwe. The President has been Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security since August, 2018.

Meanwhile, the President is scheduled to undertake a reciprocal State visit to India on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.

While in India, President Lungu will lay a wreath in a Mausoleum of that country's political icon Mahatma Gandhi, and will attend a Business Forum on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2019.

During this Visit, six Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation between Zambia and India are expected to be signed in Geology, Mining, Defence, Telecommunications, Diplomacy and Elections.

In a meeting with India's High Commissioner to Zambia, His Excellency Mr. N. J. Gangte, at State House this morning, the President said he is happy to visit India, and that the visit is a culmination of an invitation by India's President Ram Nath Kovind when he visited Zambia last year.

The President believes in private sector participation in the economy, and that Zambian business people can do better to link up with their business counterparts in India, hence the importance of the Business Forum which is scheduled to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2019.

On Climate Change, the President acknowledged that this phenomenon is a challenge facing the world, and that Zambia should use the resources available to address the negative effects of climate change.

"We can see how we can learn from our Indian colleagues on how we can harness energy sources apart from hydro electricity," the President said.

And India's High Commissioner to Zambia, His Excellency Mr. N. J. Gangte in his briefing on the upcoming Visit to India, thanked the President for accepting the invitation, and that the visit means a lot to the Indian People.

The High Commissioner said this visit is a historic event and that Zambia is being accorded due importance adding that the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of the Government of the Republic of India is ready to receive President Lungu.

"I am also looking forward to receiving you Your Excellency in India. The whole of India is waiting to receive you, Your Excellency. Zambia is a blessed country and I believe that the two countries can do more in collaborating to boost agriculture and food processing. Indian technology in food processing could be set up in Zambia. Cooperation in Defence will be one of the benefits of this trip," Mr Gangte said.

Issued by:



Isaac Chipampe  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
(PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS)  
**STATE HOUSE**

