

**VERY
URGENT**



PRESIDENT LUNGU EARNS RECOGNITION IN CANCER FIGHT

Lusaka, (11th September, 2019)-----His Excellency, **Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia** says it is an honour to be nominated for the "Outstanding Contribution to Cancer Control Award".

President Lungu has earned plaudits from the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) who have shortlisted him for his "Outstanding Contribution to Cancer Control".

Learning about the recognition, President Lungu said the Award is for all Zambians and praised health workers for complementing his efforts to combat diseases including cancer.

"It is truly an honour. It means we are on the right path to attain universal health care. I would like to thank all Zambians and the health workers for this award," the President said.

The President wants citizens to be free from non-communicable diseases, a campaign that has now earned him international recognition.

With the support of President Lungu, Zambia is in the process of decentralising the treatment of cancer by establishing two more hospitals in Ndola and Livingstone.

Cancer services have also been expanded to control common cancers such as cervical cancer.

Zambia has also launched the vaccination of Human Papilloma virus.

Under President Lungu's leadership, the Ministry of Health was empowered to up the tempo to implement the National Cancer Strategy, with focus on early detection of breast, cervical, and prostate cancer.

In 2018, President Lungu signed into law the National Health Insurance Bill, which aims to ensure equitable access to quality health care to all Zambians.

The UICC website reads;

"The Union of International Cancer Control (UICC) is delighted to announce the names of the three nominees shortlisted for its inaugural Outstanding Contribution to Cancer Control Award. They are:

"H.E Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of Zambia, who has been reforming his country's national health system, placing greater emphasis on primary health care in order to achieve universal health coverage. He has also ensured the health sector has the resources it needs to speed up implementation of Zambia's National Cancer Strategy."

According to the UICC Website, the President has been nominated together with His Excellency Dr Tabare Vazquez, President of Uruguay, who transformed his country's health-care system in order to achieve universal health coverage.

Professor Ian Hector Frazer, has been nominated for his pioneering work with the late Professor Jian Zhou to create the technology behind the human papilloma virus vaccine to eradicate cervical cancer.

President Lungu has been a passionate campaigner against cancer and on many occasions has tested and encouraged citizens to go for medical check-ups.

President Lungu has also embarked on an unprecedented campaign for physical fitness through Wednesday and Saturday exercises where he is joined by a cross-section of society.

The three finalists were chosen from a pool of 28 candidates by a panel comprising Board Members of the UICC. They will be honoured at the next World Cancer Leaders' summit to be held from the 15th to the 17th October, 2019 in Nur-Sultan Kazakhstan.

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