

**VERY
URGENT**



State House
Lusaka
Republic of Zambia
Press Statement

For Immediate Release

PRESIDENT LUNGU MEETS SIERRA LEONE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL ELECTRIC CHIEF

New York, (Tuesday, 24th September, 2019)----- His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia has met his Sierra Leone counterpart, His Excellency Mr Julius Maada Bio and held bilateral talks.

The President has also met President and Chief Executive Officer for General Electric Global and General Electric Africa Farid Fezoua and Company Managing Director, Government Affairs and Policy, Mr Philippe Dongier.

President Lungu told Mr Bio that it is time Africa claimed its place on the United Nations Security Council.

"It is our desire to cooperate as Africa and fight for reform of the UN, especially the Security Council," President Lungu said.

President Bio has, meanwhile, urged President Lungu to help resuscitate diplomatic relations between Zambia and the West African nation.

"This is an opportunity to start talking for mutual benefit of the two nations," President Bio said.

Mr Bio, who is chairman of the Committee of 10, agreed with President Lungu that Africa needs permanent representation on the Security Council.

"Africa cannot afford not to be represented with 1.2 billion people," he said.

He said his country wants to enhance human capital by providing free education in primary and high school.

He said Sierra Leone is encouraging girl child education and is undergoing political and economic reform.

He mentioned Zambia's Copperbelt Energy Corporation as one Zambian company building a power station in his country.

President Lungu said African countries should talk to each other before trading outside the continent.

The President also encouraged value addition to African raw materials.

The President also said Africa can only flourish if there was peace on the continent.

During the meeting with the General Electric officials President Lungu thanked the officials for supporting Government's commitment to universal health coverage.

General Electric and Power China, under a Build Operate Transfer Contract, are going to develop Batoka Gorge Power Station to produce 1,200 mega watts in Zambia and Zimbabwe, respectively.

Issued by:

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