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State House
Lusaka
Republic of Zambia

Press Statement

For Immediate Release

PRESIDENT LUNGU CUTS SALARIES OF HIGHLY PAID PUBLIC WORKERS TO CUSHION IMPACT ON THE VULNERABLE DUE TO RECENT TARIFF HIKES

LUSAKA, Friday, 27th December, 2019----**His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia**, has announced the reduction of his salary and that of his Cabinet between a range of 15 and 20 per cent.

The President has also directed the Secretary to the Cabinet to cascade the directive to all non unionised public officers including parastatal executives.

The slashing of salaries of highly paid public officers in both Government and the parastatal sector is aimed at cushioning the impact on citizens arising from the increase on fuel prices and electricity tariffs announced by the Energy Regulation Board yesterday.

The President said, "The money realised will go into cushioning the impact on the vulnerable in society."

The President says he fully understood the challenges that the people of Zambia are going through but that he is optimistic that the economy will rebound in 2020 due to the measures that government is putting in place, including the implementation of cost cutting measures relating to travel of senior officials and protecting the vulnerable through ring-fencing the resources to social sectors.

On today's directive, the President says public officers in the highest salary brackets will have their salaries cut by 20 percent whereas those in the middle will have theirs reduced by 15 percent, and those in the lower rung will be down by 10 percent.

The President says much as the increase in the pricing of the two essential commodities was inevitable, the Zambian people needed a cushion and hence the presidential directive.

President Lungu says, "The money realised from this decision will go towards ameliorating the impact that the increase would have brought on the masses.

The President says, "The reduction on the salaries will gravitate around an average of 15 percent, meaning one cluster of highly paid having their salaries reduced by 20 percent while those on the lower side having theirs reduced by 10 percent. So the average reduction is 15 percent."

The President added, "I have shown the way and those willing to work with me should be ready to sacrifice."

Issued by:



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