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Press Statement
For Immediate Release

PRESIDENT LUNGU REGRETS NO LABOUR DAY CELEBRATIONS DUE TO COVID-19

Lusaka, (Thursday, 30th April, 2020)-----His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia regrets that the coronavirus or covid-19 pandemic has robbed both the workers and employers the opportunity to celebrate this year's Labour Day by way of public gatherings.

And the President says Government will continue to act decisively to save jobs and enterprises and ensure business continuity, prevent layoffs and protect vulnerable workers.

"Citizens of this nation should have no doubt that the measures that the Government is taking today are for the betterment of the country," assures the President.

In his written address to the workers and employers to mark Labour Day which falls tomorrow on 1st May, 2020, the President notes that Government has since cancelled celebrations to mark Labour Day events at national, provincial and district levels.

"Labour Day has been commemorated by way of huge numbers turning up to celebrate the day. Unfortunately, this is not possible this year due to restrictions on gatherings such as conferences, weddings, funerals, and festivals. This means that there will be no public gatherings to commemorate the May 2020 Labour Day celebrations countrywide. Therefore, all outdoor preparations such as marching to commemorate the event will not be allowed," says the President.

However, the President has advised that this year's Labour Day award presentations should be undertaken at institutional or company level subject to complying with health regulations. "This measure is necessary in order to recognise and award deserving employees."

In his address, the President has paid glowing tribute to all frontline workers in the fight against coronavirus.

"You are the true heroes of our time. It is clear that yours is not only a decent profession, it is also a calling. Zambia will forever remain indebted to you," reads part of the President's address.

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