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Press Statement
For Immediate Release

PRESIDENT LUNGU LOOKS AT RECYCLING

Lusaka, (Monday, 15th June, 2020) ----In his continued monitoring of economic activities under the 'New normal', **His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia**, today focused on 'recycling' by visiting two companies and a dumpsite.

The President this morning visited L and N Matrix; and M and F Packaging, companies situated in Chinika area of the Heavy Industrial area in Lusaka where he was shown the recycling process which involves converting waste materials into new materials.

The President and his entourage that included the Ministers of Finance; Commerce, Trade and Industry; Local Government; Health; National Development Planning, Water Development, Sanitation, and Environmental Protection; Youth and Sport; and Lusaka Province, later drove to Chunga Dumpsite where he was briefed about waste management. The President acknowledged the challenges that local authorities are facing in managing waste at the dumpsite.

But there was a surprise for the President as he, and his entourage entered the dumpsite, a crowd of women and a few men were waiting for him with some familiar songs in his praise. They are involved in the recycling businesses. Their preoccupation is at source where they pick recyclable materials like glass and plastic and sell them to recycling companies like L and N Matrix; and M and F Packaging.

The President was happy to address them and to listen to them through their 'association' called the Waste Recyclers Association. Their chairperson Harrison Musonda said the women and their male counterparts are earning a living rather than begging. Clearly their working environment could be better even if it is a dumpsite and the President was, particularly, concerned that they did not

have protective equipment in such an environment. But one thing is clear, as the President acknowledged; they are earning a living.

Recycling is an alternative to "conventional" waste disposal that can save material and help lower greenhouse gas emissions. As the President heard from Cleansing Manager Kachikoti Banda at the dumpsite, recycling reduces air pollution caused by incineration and water pollution caused by landfilling.

As the President observed, recycling of a material would produce a fresh supply of the same material—for example, used office paper would be converted into new office paper. More importantly, the President remarked, "you can make cash from trash."

What was heartening about the business the President witnessed today was the involvement of women at both the dumpsite in the receiving recycling companies where other women are mainly involved in sorting out recycling materials.

At L and N Matrix, the materials are being converted into foam which is exported to South Africa for value addition. Chief Executive Officer Newton Masiya hopes to expand his businesses by completing the construction of the plant soon. At M and F Packaging, the materials are not just processed but are converted into finished products like cups, toys, and pipe fittings. After the tour, Director Marwan Fayad in the company of Factory Manager Riyaz Patel asked the President whether he was impressed, and the Head of State answered in the affirmative. As the President observed; the bigger picture is that recycling companies are not just helping stem environmental degradation, they are creating employment. And in the words of Finance Minister Bwalya Ng'anda, "why waste foreign exchange when these companies can produce such products from waste?"

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