

VERY URGENT

PRESIDENT LUNGU WILL RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW

Lusaka, Wednesday, 1st July, 2020 ---- State House has noted the concerns in some quarters of society that Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya has continued to serve despite having been charged with corruption.

State House would like to respond thus:

Despite being charged with criminal offences, in this case corruption allegations, Hon. Chilufya is currently innocent until proven otherwise by the courts of law. This assumption is predicated on the principle of **Presumption of Innocence** which is enshrined in the Constitution of Zambia and is consistent with according an accused **Fair Trial**.

According to Article **18 (2)** of the Zambian Constitution, every person who is charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed to be innocent until he or she is proved or pleads guilty. And since the Zambia Constitution, as stated in Article **1 (1)** overrides any other written law, or customary law, or customary practice, everyone must respect the **Presumption of Innocence** Law.

Therefore, a mere allegation is not a conviction and it is not the duty of the accused to prove his innocence. The principle of **Presumption of Innocence** until proven guilty by the courts of law is also enshrined in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights.

His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia will, therefore, presume the innocence of Hon. Chilufya and leave it to the prosecution and the courts to prove the minister, otherwise.

The President respects the **Independence of the Judiciary** and other Organs such as the Police, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Drug Enforcement Commission, among others, and will do nothing to interfere in the operations of these entities as long as he remains President.

Issued by:



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