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For Immediate Release

PRESIDENT LUNGU TASKS MINISTERS, PSs, DIRECTORS TO COLLABORATE

Lusaka, (Wednesday, 27th February, 2019) -----**His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu President of the Republic of Zambia** has called for closer collaboration among Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Directors who constitute the Economic Diversification and Job Creation Cluster on the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan.

The President expressed concern that lack of collaboration among Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, and Directors was hampering progress on the implementation of Government projects and programmes.

The President observed that Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Directors don't seem to be working together in the execution of their respective mandates.

"It's important that we enhance our cooperation as Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Directors to ensure the speedy implementation of Government projects and programmes. I wish to encourage you to work closely as a cluster. You should avoid duplicating the work of the cluster," said the President.

The Head of State said this at State House today when the Cluster on Economic Diversification and Job Creation on the Implementation of the 7th National Development Plan made a presentation to him on the 2018 performance.

The meeting was also attended by Her Honour the Vice-President Mrs Inonge Wina.

The Cluster which was represented by Water and Development Minister Dr. Dennis Wanchinga comprises the Ministries of Finance, National Development Planning, Commerce, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Mines and Minerals Development, Labour and Social Security, Tourism and Arts and Energy respectively. Today's meeting was a continuation from yesterday (Tuesday, 26th February, 2019).

Other Ministries include Fisheries and Livestock, Transport and Communication, Housing and Infrastructure Development, Works and Supply, Foreign Affairs, Higher Education, Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection.

And in reference to one of the key result area, Improved Energy Production and Distribution for Sustainable Development, the President prodded the Minister of Energy to expedite the diversification of energy by exploiting alternative sources of energy to further improve power supply.

"We are not moving fast in view of the negative effects of climate change. We need to be interrogating the alternative sources of energy. We have to escalate our efforts," added the President.

Meanwhile, the President has expressed concern at the continued sell of imported products by Chain stores at the expense of local products and questioned what the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry was doing about this issue.

Earlier, the President met former Chief Justice Mathew Ngulube at State House who briefed him on the progress made on activities by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Oversight Committee on the Kingdom of Lesotho.

In response to the briefing, the President said in his capacity as Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation that he wished peace and stability for the people of Lesotho.

The President assured Mr Ngulube who is the Chairperson of the SADC Oversight Committee on the Kingdom of Lesotho of total support to the Committee to ensure that peace prevailed in Lesotho.

The Committee was constituted to monitor progress on the implementation of the reforms and national dialogue in the Kingdom of Lesotho, as well as to serve as an early warning mechanism.

President Lungu appointed Mr Ngulube as Chairperson of the Committee in 2018. The Committee has been undertaking a series of deployments to Lesotho.

The meeting was also attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Joseph Malanji and Permanent Secretary Mr Chalwe Lombe.

Issued by



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