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For Immediate Release

PRESIDENT LUNGU WARNS AGAINST PRO POOR FUNDS MISAPPLICATION

Lusaka, (Thursday, 28th February, 2019) -----**His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia** says the Patriotic Front was founded on the platform of pro poor and that it was this same platform that the party was ushered into Government, hence the need to ensure that programmes on poverty reduction benefits the vulnerable people.

Therefore, the President warns that he will not tolerate misapplication of funds meant to benefit the vulnerable people especially on programmes such as the Social Cash Transfer which are designed for vulnerable women, children and the aged.

The President impressed upon Government Officials in the Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction Cluster to ensure sustainability of the poverty reduction programmes adding that the vulnerable were the most affected by natural disasters such as flash floods and climate change effects among others, hence the need to protect them.

The Head of State also called for serious engagement of the Government with cooperating partners on matters affecting the Social Cash Transfer and other related funds meant for the poor people in the country.

"We value the contribution of our cooperating partners hence the need to seriously engage them," said the President.

Further, the President expressed worry at the erratic rainfall pattern in the country and urged the Meteorological Department to ensure that a future forecast is done to enable the country to prepare adequately.

The President is equally concerned about the culture of defaulting on loans especially those which were disbursed under the Youth Empowerment Programmes saying this was hampering the success of such programmes.

In addition, the President warned that he would hold accountable Government officials for failure to successfully implement programmes on poverty reduction.

At the same meeting, Vice-President Mrs Inonge Wina urged the Cluster on Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction to take their work seriously saying this Cluster is the one which will make or break the Patriotic Front in the year, 2021.

Today, the President received presentations at State House on the 2018 Performance of the Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction Cluster on the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan.

The Cluster comprises the Ministries of the Office of the Vice-President, Community Development and Social Services, Youth, Sport and Child Development, Lands and Natural Resources, Labour and Social Security Health, Transport and Communication, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Gender, and Local Government.

On Wednesday, the President received presentations at State House from the Cluster on Economic Diversification and Job Creation on the Implementation of the 7th National Development Plan.

Earlier at State House today, the President met Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) resident in New York, Mr Lazarous Kapambwe at State House who made a brief on some of the highlights and main decisions of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

And the President expressed satisfaction at the briefing and urged Zambia's continued positive contribution to the United Nations General Assembly.

In his briefing, Mr Kapambwe informed the President that Zambia's significant contribution to the UN Peace Keeping Missions had been highly commended by the UN General Assembly and that the country has received high proficiency rating in its operations in Central Republic.

He attributed this development to the President's commitment and positive contribution towards the UN Peace Keeping Mission and commended him for this gesture.

During the same briefing, the President was informed that Zambia and Italy have been mandated to coordinate the 2019 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum) which will take place in New York in April, 2019.

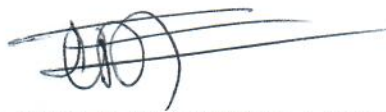
The Permanent Representative said the outcome of the consultations of this Forum will feed into the Ministerial segment of the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development Goals whose results will then be presented to the Special High-level event. The High level event will be attended by the Heads of States at the commencement of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly this September, 2019. The deliberations will consider options for facilitating the financing of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

The President was informed that the purpose of this briefing was meant to appraise him on the details and decisions of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"We undertake this event every year and we brief line Ministries on the Implementation of decisions of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. So we felt the need to appraise you with the details of the Assembly's outcomes," said Mr Kapambwe.

"I commend you Your Excellency for personally attending the 73rd Session of the General Assembly and for the leadership roles you took on various interventions such as co hosting the high level events on Accelerating the Action to end Child Marriage,' with Canada, Action for Peace keeping and the meeting on Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa among others," added Mr Kapambwe.

Issued by



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