

**VERY
URGENT**



**Press Statement
For Immediate Release**

PRESIDENT LUNGU MEETS SAUDI AMBASSADOR

LUSAKA, (Tuesday, 25th August, 2020)---*His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia* today met His Excellency, Mr Osamah Krenshi, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who paid a courtesy call on him at State House.

The Ambassador delivered a special message from His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting, President Lungu acknowledged the excellent relations that exist between Zambia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and expressed satisfaction that the relations have grown over the years.

"I recall the state visit I undertook to Saudi Arabia in 2016 and the fruitful discussions aimed at enhancing relations and cooperation between our two countries.

"Let me thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the support rendered to Zambia in areas such as health, disaster management, agriculture, energy, financing and road infrastructure, to mention but a few," the President said.

President Lungu expressed satisfaction that the 3rd Zambia – Saudi Arabia Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) took place in 2019 that agreed on the way forward with regard to outcomes of the state visit.

And the President has encouraged the Ambassador to work closely with the relevant ministries, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to ensure the decisions made during the state visit and outcomes of the JPC are fully implemented.

The President said because of covid-19 virtual meetings could be held to fulfill the outcomes of the state visit.

President Lungu commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) through the Saudi Export Programme (SEP) and, in particular, support to the Development Bank of Zambia and NATSAVE, and called for expeditious completion of internal procedures to enable commencement of the benefits.

The President emphasised the Zambian Government's continued interest to export goats to Saudi Arabia and called for expeditious completion of the related internal procedures on both sides so that the exporting can commence as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, President Lungu has expressed gratitude for the support rendered by Saudi Arabia in the health sector, including the modernisation works at the University Teaching Hospital and commitment to construct the King Salman Bin Abdulaziz hospital.

The President called for the expeditious construction of the hospital in light of the need to enhance access and availability of healthcare to the people of Zambia.

President Lungu expressed sincere gratitude to His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for the special message; and conveyed best wishes and good health for His Majesty the King and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Issued by:



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STATE HOUSE

