

Wednesday, Lusaka (February 9, 2022)



PRESS STATEMENT

COMMIT TO NON- EXTRACTION IN ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS- CEJ URGES GOVT

CENTRE for Environment Justice -CEJ has urged the New Dawn Government to consider committing to non-extraction in ecologically sensitive areas moving forward, following the turn of events in the sector.

CEJ Head of Research Freeman Mubanga says the current government needs to re- evaluate all past approved land-based investments, especially those in ecologically sensitive areas such as forest reserves, national parks and game management areas.

In a press statement, the CEJ Head of Research says negligence regarding environmental protection is a cost that no developing country is ready to pay. Mr. Mubanga says there have been several developmental initiatives cited to be operational in protected areas such as forest reserves and national parks in the recent past. "There has never been a time in human history when land-based investments are considered more environmentally threatening than now when the pangs of climate change impacts are felt on every landscape," he said.

The CEJ Head of Research stated that Environmentalists worldwide were working tirelessly to find sustainable ways of utilizing natural resources and at the same time meeting the needs of the growing global population.

"CEJ is cognizant of government efforts to enhance environmental protection and bring about green development in the nation," Mr. Mubanga said. He added that CEJ was aware that Government was striving to mitigate deforestation which was a critical step in fostering environmental protection in response to the Glasgow declaration and our local Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

"There is a need for deliberate efforts at the country level in promoting environmental protection and biodiversity conservation if Zambia is to sit well with internationally recognised environmental commitments and treaties previously signed," Mr. Mubanga said. He said the New Dawn Government should take lead in ensuring that environmental protection is an issue of national security and as such targeted efforts are to be applied in harnessing sustainable development in Zambia.

"The greatest crime to humanity is failing to protect our environment for future generations," Mr. Mubanga said. Mr. Mubanga said CEJ believed that the current government had a great opportunity to set a standard when it came to democratic governance of natural resources and promoting the restoration of functional ecosystems across the country.

Issued By:

Freeman Chiwele Mubanga (Mr.)
Head of Research and Studies
Centre for Environment Justice