

Thursday, Lusaka (April 14, 2022)



PRESS STATEMENT

DISCOURAGE FLOOD IRRIGATION IN SUGAR PLANTATIONS- CEJ URGES GOVT

Centre for Environment Justice - CEJ has urged Government to discourage flood irrigation in sugar plantations in Zambia to save rivers.

CEJ Head of Programmes Ricky Kalaluka says flood irrigation is discouraged across the world because of excessive loss of water through evaporation, infiltration, and runoff.

He says sugar companies must explore eco- friendly methods such as the Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) systems as opposed to on surface systems.

Mr. Kalaluka has since commended Water Resources Management Authority- WARMA for making a similar observation during the Agric Expo in Chisamba last week on the unsustainability of flood irrigation in sugar plantations.

The CEJ Head of Programmes says the New Dawn Government has made serious commitments to climate change issues which calls for reviewing methods of growing sugar especially along the Kafue River which feeds many towns and the ecosystem.

Mr. Kalaluka has called for more investment in research for the adoption of more efficient irrigation systems and water management practices.

Issued By:

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