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PRESS STATEMENT

GOVT GETS TOUGH ON LAND RIGHTS

Sinazongwe District Commissioner Nchimunya Siakole says the New Dawn Government will not tolerate investors that do not respect communities land rights. Mr. Siakole says the New Dawn Government has political goodwill to ensure that citizens land rights are protected and are fairly compensated by new investors.

The Sinazongwe District Commissioner has since thanked Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) for facilitating a community Symposium to sensitise stakeholder on land rights. He was speaking when he officiated a Community Symposium organized by Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) in Sinazongwe District, Southern Province.

Speaking earlier, Land Rights Expert Bruce Chooma commended the New Dawn Government for it's stance on upholding the rule of law to protect the dignity of citizens. Mr. Chooma says the 2013 Compensation Guidelines under the Office of the Vice President in Article 6 of the 2015 National Resettlement Policy stresses on the need for fair compensation for displaced communities.

He says a developer must provide housing shelter as opposed to money only. Mr. Chooma says Zambia needs to review some land laws that draw their roots from the colonial era. Mr. Chooma urged Government to further control the new mafia style of land racketeering of selling prime land at exorbitant prices when land is a free resource from God.

And Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) Head of Research Freeman Mubanga says his organization is complementing Government efforts in fostering cooperating platforms for coal mining companies in the district to better the lives of citizens.

Mr. Mubanga says the current situation where mining houses are working in isolation is not helping Sinazongwe District to grow as compared to districts such as Kalumbila in North Western Province.

He says CEJ is working closely with coal mining companies in the district to establish a first ever district corporating platform for all mining companies. Mr. Mubanga states that the platform will help to facilitate joint Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility- CSER projects in the district, thereby, harnessing sustainable development.

Issued By:

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

Plot 269, Off Twin Palm Road, Ibex Hill Lusaka – Zambia Website: <https://cejzambia.com>; Twitter: @CEJZambia2010
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/cejzambia.org>