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PRESS STATEMENT

OPERATIONAL BUT UNREGISTERED MINES DISTURB CEJ

Centre for Environment Justice -CEJ is disturbed that some mining firms with mining rights have been operating in Zambia without being registered with the Patent and Company Registration Agency- PACRA.

Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Paul Kabuswe recently revealed that a current audit shows irregularities in the issuance of mining licenses in the cadaster department. CEJ Head of Research Freeman Mubanga says it is strange that a business firm as large as a mine can operate without being registered.

Mr. Mubanga says the development raises questions regarding historical corruption in the mining sector. He has since praised the New Dawn administration which is keen in harnessing transparency and accountability in the mining sector.

The CEJ Head of Research has urged Government to probe how the development came to pass and ensure stringent measures to prevent this from happening moving forward. Mr. Mubanga calls on Government to ensure that the issues of beneficial ownership are heightened. He says companies that have multiple mining licenses using the same names or different names must be prosecuted as the move is against the law.

"The agriculture department is a vital forest governance link because as demand and agriculture commodity price increases coupled with favorable agribusiness environment and land allocation policies, it triggers forest conversion to agriculture land use," he said.

The CEJ Head of Research further stated that inter-department cooperation provided opportunities for Information exchange which was considered valuable in itself because of the insight it provided into other sectors, as they are the main determinants of a broad forest sectoral approach.

"It also permits collaborating department to leverage funds more effectively, which allow them to: coordinate resources, rationalize engagements with local governments and support objectives beyond the scope of the inter-department mechanism," he said.

Issued By:

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