

Sunday, Lusaka (26th February, 2023)



CEJ NODS GOVERNMENT DECISION ON SUGILITE SCANDAL

Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) has paid tribute to Government for responding quickly to prevent the loss of sugilite in Luapula Province.

CEJ Head of Research and Studies Freeman Mubanga further commended a local civil society organization, Care for Nature, for revealing the scandal.

Mr. Mubanga also praised traditional leaders in Luapula Province for their firm stance on protecting natural resources such as sugilite.

He was commenting on the arrest and subsequent firing of Luapula Province Deputy Permanent Secretary Roy Mwansa, Nchelenge District Commissioner Musonda Mutepuka and Mwansabombwe District Commissioner Molton Sikazwe, on allegations of stealing sugilite.

Earlier, Four Police Officers were arrested in Kabwe for allegedly stealing the precious minerals, sugilite, that they disguised as manganese when they were escorting the truck carrying the minerals.

Sugilite is a relatively rare pink to purple cyclosilicate mineral costing about \$3000 per kilogram.

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Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ)

Plot 269, Off Twin Palm Road, Ibex Hill, Lusaka -Zambia

Visit CEJ website: <https://cejzambia.com/> and Facebook: <https://facebook.com/cejzambia.org>

Call: +260 54713003 / +260 964 244255 / +260 973 389859

Email: info@cejzambia.com