

Thursday, Rufunsa (24<sup>th</sup> August, 2023)



**RUFUNSA GRZ, CIVIC LEADERS WORRIED ABOUT DEFORESTATION AS CEJ LAUNCHES 'CLIMATE ADVOCACY, ACTION'**

Rufunsa District Commissioner Richard Mabena is disturbed by the high rates of deforestation in his area.

Mr. Mabena has since thanked Centre for Environment Justice - CEJ for launching a project dubbed “Strengthening Civil Society Voices for Climate Advocacy in Zambia”.

He said Government in Rufunsa will support the project funded by United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), covering five districts namely Lusaka, Chirundu, Luangwa, Chongwe and Rufunsa.

And Rufunsa Council Chairperson Kennedy Mailoni said Government is committed to environmental protection as can be seen from the creation of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment.

Mr. Mailoni said the CEJ project is in line with Government’s vision to address Climate Change which has affected Rufunsa.

Meanwhile, Centre for Environment Justice - CEJ Executive Director Maggie Mapalo Mwape said the transformative initiative aims to empower Civil Society Organizations in Zambia to play a pivotal role in advocating for climate action and environmental sustainability.

Ms Mwape said CEJ will continue engaging with the local authorities and stakeholders.

"Now that the project has been launched in Luangwa and Rufunsa, we shall proceed to launch the project in Chongwe, Chirundu and Lusaka respectively. I am accompanied by Acting Head of Programmes Mr. Haggai Nyambe and Head of Logistics Mr. Patrick Kashanga to ensure a smooth Programme," she said.

Ms Mwape said the success of Zambia’s National Adaptation Planning (NAP) processes and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) implementation in the country hinges on the participation of several stakeholders including the Civil society movement.

"It is for this reason that CEJ is building the capacity of CSOs in climate adaptation and implementation of nationally determined contributions," she said.

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