



# Luapula Province Chiefs Council

Room 1301 Ground Floor  
NAPSA Building - Mansa  
Luapula Province



## **MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

THE LUAPULA PROVINCE CHIEFS COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO DISPEL AND REFUTE MEDIA AND PUBLIC CLAIMS THAT THE ROYAL HIGHNESSES OF LUAPULA PROVINCE HAVE SOLD OR ALLOCATED 6 MILLION HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE RICE INVESTMENT PROJECT BY VIET ZAM DIVERSIFIED DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION LIMITED.

AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW AND WIDER CONSULTATION AMONG OURSELVES AS TRADITIONAL LEADERS, OUR SUBJECTS AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT. THE LUAPULA PROVINCE CHIEFS COUNCIL HAS RESOLVED THE FOLLOWING:

1. WE CANNOT ALLOW THE ALLOCATION OF LAND TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT FOR A PERIOD OF 99 YEARS. WE URGE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE RELEVANT LAND LAWS TO ENSURE ONLY ZAMBIANS HAVE ACCESS TO THOSE LENGTHY LEASE PERIODS
2. LUAPULA PROVINCE DOES NOT HAVE THE PROPOSED LAND OF 2 MILLION HECTARES TO BE ALLOCATED TO ONE INVESTMENT

3. WE CANNOT ALLOW OUR DAMBOS AND SWAMPS TO BE TITLED AS THOSE ARE COMMON USE AREAS FOR OUR SUBJECTS AND ARE RECHARGE POINT FOR OUR RIVERS
4. WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSED TAX EXEMPTIONS AS THAT WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF REVENUE FOR OUR COUNCILS AND GOVERNMENT
5. WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE VISA EXEMPTIONS FOR FOREIGN STAFF AS WELL AS GIVING CITIZENSHIP OUTSIDE WHAT THE LAW PROVIDES
6. WE CANNOT ALLOW ONE COMPANY TO HAVE MONOPOLY IN THE RICE PRODUCTION SECTOR
7. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE COMPANY HAS THE FINANCIAL CAPACITY TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSED PROJECT
8. WE FEEL THIS PROJECT IS NOT IN GOOD FAITH MOST OF THE DOCUMENTS REVIEWED SHOW THAT THE COMPANY IS INVOLVED AND MORE INTERESTED IN MINING AND NOT AGRICULTURE



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WE WOULD LIKE TO URGE GOVERNMENT AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO RESPECT THE WISHES OF THE ROYAL HIGHNESSES AND NOT USE ANY LAWS OR LEGISLATIONS THAT WILL NOT WORK FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE SUCH AS THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT.

IN CONCLUSION, WE THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF LUAPULA THEREFORE, REJECT THE PROPOSED INVESTMENT BY VIET ZAM DIVERSIFIED DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION LIMITED.

**HRH CHIEF CHISUNKA (DR.)**

**CHAIRPERSON - LUAPULA PROVINCIAL CHIEFS COUNCIL**

## On behalf of the royal highnesses present

1	SENIOR CHIEF PUTA	CHIENGE
2	SENIOR CHIEF MUNUNGA	CHIENGE
3	CHIEF KASHIBA (REP MWATA KAZEMBE)	MWENSE
4	CHIEF KAMBWALI	NCHELENGE
5	CHIEF KATUTA KAMPEMBA	MWENSE
6	CHIEF LUBUNDA	MWENSE
7	CHIEF MUTIPULA	CHIPILI
8	CHIEF CHIMESE	MANSA
9	CHIEF CHISUNKA	MANSA
10	CHIEF MATANDA	MANSA
11	CHIEF MIBENGE	MANSA
12	CHIEF KALABA	MANSA
13	CHIEF KALASA LUKANGABA	MANSA
14	CHIEF MABUMBA	MANSA
15	CHIEF KOSOMALWELA	CHEMBE
16	SENIOR CHIEF MWEWA	CHIFUNABULI
17	CHIEF CHITEMBO	CHIFUNABULI
18	CHIEF MWANSAKOMBE	CHIFUNABULI
19	CHIEF SOKONTWE	MILENGE
20	SENIOR CHIEF MUSHOTA	KAWAMBWA
21	CHIEF MUNKANTA	KAWAMBWA