

Wednesday, Lusaka (16th October, 2024)



CHIEF MUMENA DEMANDS PRACTICAL STEPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chief Mumena of the Kaonde-speaking people of North Western Province has called for practical solutions for environmental protection.

The Traditional Leader acknowledged the difficult environmental challenges faced, such as low water levels and increased charcoal burning, and called for practical solutions and resilience.

He emphasized the need for consistent efforts to protect the environment and the importance of legal frameworks governing environmental protection.

This came to light when he graced the 5th Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD) organized by the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ).

The Traditional Leader acknowledged the platform's growth over the years as a critical space for engagement and accountability in addressing Zambia's pressing environmental challenges.

He expressed pleasure in witnessing the commitment of all participants and looked forward to a productive three-day program aimed at finding solutions for the environmental sector.

The Kaonde Chief appreciated the participation of the private sector, traditional leadership, international bodies, youths, and children, all united by a common purpose of safeguarding the environment for the prosperity of the nation and future generations.

Dr Mumena highlighted the theme of the event, "Strengthening Environmental Law for Thriving Communities," as fundamental to sustainable development and the well-being of communities.

He stressed the importance of environmental laws and effective enforcement to protect ecosystems and the social and economic fabric of the country.

Meanwhile, Reality of Aid Africa Executive Director Mr. Vitalice Meja stated that climate change has significantly affected most crops due to rising temperatures and changing rain patterns.

Mr. Meja emphasized that high population growth and increased pressure on the environment are expanding the ecological footprint of the region.

He pointed out that most African countries' GDP heavily relies on environmentally sensitive sectors such as mining, tourism, agriculture, and forestry.

Mr. Meja highlighted that these changes have exacerbated local environmental issues, including the depletion of natural resources and pollution.

He stressed the urgency of strengthening investments in environmental protection and sustainably managing essential natural resources and related ecosystem goods and services.

Mr. Meja noted that funding for environmental programs remains key to sustainable development. There is a need to evaluate whether the current funding framework is fit for purpose, and he argued that it is not.

He called for a change in the global climate financial architecture to prioritize Africa's needs while accelerating actions on climate adaptation.

Mr. Meja mentioned that African countries lack the resources or fiscal space to tackle environmental protection challenges.

He said the international community's commitment of \$100 billion annually for climate finance has yet to be realized.

Mr. Meja criticized the current model of attracting private sector investment, which has led to high levels of debt distress in African countries.

He emphasized the importance of country leadership in prioritizing environmental protection activities and aligning support from development cooperation providers with government objectives.

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