# PRESS RELEASE

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## ANNOUNCMENT TO HOST THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE RALLY 2025

GOOD MORNING, FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OUR PARTNERS AND INDEED THE PUBLIC.

I AM HONOURED TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE (CEJ) TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE THE **CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE RALLY 2025** A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION FOR A FAIR, INCLUSIVE AND URGENT RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS THAT IS ALREADY RESHAPING LIVES ACROSS ZAMBIA. THE RALLY WILL TAKE PLACE ON **10 OCTOBER 2025** AT **WOODLANDS STADIUM, LUSAKA**, UNDER THE UNIFYING THEME: **"JUSTICE HAS NO BORDERS, UNITED FOR A GREENER TOMORROW."**

WHY THIS RALLY, AND WHY NOW? ZAMBIA IS FACING ESCALATING CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS FROM PROLONGED DROUGHTS AND ERRATIC RAINFALL TO FLASH FLOODS, DEFORESTATION AND WATER SCARCITY. THESE SHOCKS ARE NOT GENDER NEUTRAL: WOMEN, YOUTH AND RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED, YET TOO OFTEN REMAIN EXCLUDED FROM DECISIONS THAT DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE.

THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE RALLY 2025 IS OUR NATIONAL RESPONSE: A VISIBLE, INCLUSIVE AND STRATEGIC PLATFORM TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF THOSE MOST AFFECTED, SHOWCASE COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS, AND DEMAND STRONGER, GENDER-RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTORS.

OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE RALLY ARE CLEAR AND FOCUSED:

- **RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS** ABOUT THE LINKS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY, AND WHY JUSTICE MUST SIT AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION.
- **AMPLIFY GRASSROOTS VOICES**, ESPECIALLY WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS, YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, SO THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES AND DEMANDS SHAPE NATIONAL POLICY AND PRACTICE.

- **MOBILISE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY** BY BUILDING STRONGER INTER-PROVINCIAL NETWORKS FOR COORDINATED, SUSTAINED CLIMATE JUSTICE ADVOCACY.

WHAT WILL THE DAY LOOK LIKE? WE WILL BRING HUNDREDS OF DELEGATES (OVER 600) FROM ALL 10 PROVINCES, INCLUDING COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, YOUTH AND STUDENT GROUPS, FAITH AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS, GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS, UN AGENCIES, MEDIA, ARTISTS AND CULTURAL INFLUENCERS. EXPECT POWERFUL TESTIMONIES FROM CLIMATE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, POLICY CONVERSATIONS WITH DECISION MAKERS, CREATIVE PERFORMANCES THAT MOVE HEARTS AND MINDS, AND THE LAUNCH OF A CONSOLIDATED **ADVOCACY THAT CALLS FOR JUSTICE** THAT WILL CARRY OUR DEMANDS BEYOND THE STADIUM INTO THE CORRIDORS OF POWER.

WE ARE ORGANISING THIS RALLY NOT MERELY TO MAKE A STATEMENT, BUT TO SECURE CONCRETE OUTCOMES: GREATER POLICY ATTENTION TO CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, STRENGTHENED GRASSROOTS SOLIDARITY ACROSS PROVINCES, BROAD MEDIA COVERAGE, AND A POST-EVENT PACKAGE — INCLUDING PHOTOS, VIDEOS, SPEECHES AND PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIES, THAT WILL FUEL ONGOING CAMPAIGNS AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT.

THE 30-DAY COUNTDOWN LEADING TO THE RALLY, WE SHALL UNVAIL OUR STRATEGIC CONVENING PARTNERS AND PARTICIPATE IN MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS.

IF YOU CARE ABOUT A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ZAMBIA, WHETHER YOU ARE A STUDENT, A FARMER, AN ARTIST, A FAITH LEADER, A BUSINESS, OR A MEMBER OF CIVIL SOCIETY, WE WANT YOU AT WOODLANDS STADIUM ON 10 OCTOBER. THE RALLY IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WE WARMLY INVITE YOU TO REGISTER AND TAKE PART IN SHAPING ZAMBIA'S CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AGENDA.

WE THEREFORE ENCOURAGE YOU TO LOOK OUT FOR AN OFFICIAL CALL FOR REGISTRATION SOON. FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES TO STAY UPDATED.

BRING YOUR VOICE, BRING YOUR STORY, BRING YOUR NETWORK. SHARE THE RALLY WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT CLIMATE AND ENVIROMENTAL ACTION THAT IGNORES JUSTICE IS NO ACTION AT ALL.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL AND LASTING IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING IN ZAMBIA.

END!

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