

Wednesday, Luangwa (7th January 2026)



CJC PROJECT ENGAGES LUANGWA ON EMPOWERMENT FEEDBACK

The Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) has underscored the importance of honest feedback under Climate Just Communities (CJC) project from communities in Luangwa District, regarding awareness of government empowerment programmes if they are to benefit.

This came to light during a Community Awareness Engagement conducted in Cluster 3, Mphuka Ward in Luangwa District under the Climate Just Communities (CJC) Project supported by the Scottish Government through NIRAS Zambia.

CEJ Projects Coordinator, Engineer Gabriel Mukuka, explained that the event was necessary because the CJC project has existed in Luangwa for three years now.

Eng. Mukuka highlighted that the CJC project is addressing climate challenges based on community-specific needs in four districts, including Luangwa, Sioma, Sinazongwe, and Shangombo.

CEJ is focusing solely on Luangwa alongside the Council of Churches in Zambia.

He clarified that CEJ's role in the project is advocacy which includes raising awareness and facilitating informed discussions around climate finance, mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.

Eng. Mukuka reiterated that CEJ's role is to raise awareness and facilitate informed discussions on climate issues.

He urged participants to engage in constructive advocacy, ensuring their voices are well-informed and persuasive when addressing government officials and policymakers.

Eng. Mukuka mentioned that experts from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Community Development were initially invited to provide detailed insights into the programmes.

He pointed out that under this project, when addressing issues related to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), CEJ invites officials from the council who handle CDF.

Eng. Mukuka noted that when discussing Social Cash Transfers, they invite representatives from the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.

He added that for matters concerning agricultural inputs, they bring in experts from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Eng. Mukuka, however, emphasised that the recent focus was on getting feedback on issues raised by communities that require government action.

At the same function, Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) Project Coordinator for Luangwa, Gift Chipso Mubambe, encouraged communities to report any challenges to the CJC project or its partners so that appropriate steps can be taken by the government to resolve them.

Mubambe stressed that what is important is that when issues are raised, they must be followed up with action so that meetings are not held just for the sake of meeting.

He explained that all concerns raised during the meeting would be compiled into a report.

Mubambe said the concerns will be categorised, and a copy will be shared with the community for verification before being submitted to the relevant government offices.

He said another copy will be sent to the Council Secretary, and the project will retain one for future reference to help in following up with government departments and ensuring accountability.

Mubambe thanked councillors, WDC chairpersons, community representatives, and government officials who attended the event.

He emphasised that such meetings are important because opportunities exist, but many community members may not know how to access them.

Mubambe explained this is why experts are invited under the CJC project to explain issues related to the CDF, persons with disabilities, and other empowerment programmes.

He observed that challenges such as repeated beneficiaries and bureaucratic hurdles often prevent ordinary people from accessing support.

Mubambe said sometimes communities are not well organised, making it harder for them to benefit.

He remarked that the project's role is advocacy to open minds and connect people to government systems that can improve their lives.

Mubambe also highlighted that previous meetings under the project have addressed issues like transparency and whistleblowing.

Issued By: CEJ Communications Unit

.....
Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ)

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

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

Call: +260 954 713003 / +260 964 244255 / +260 973 389859

Email: info@cejzambia.org