

Monday, Lusaka (16th February 2026)



CEJ SUPPORTS PARLEY MOTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COURT

The Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) has endorsed Kanchibiya Member of Parliament Sunday Chanda's motion to establish a specialised Environmental Court in Zambia.

Kanchibiya Lawmaker Sunday Chanda has announced that he will formally move the motion in Parliament this week to press for the establishment of the Environmental Court.

In a statement, Monday, CEJ Executive Director Maggie Mapalo Mwape described the proposal as timely and essential for national sustainability.

Mwape emphasised that Zambia faces severe environmental degradation, particularly in mining regions where pollution has harmed communities and ecosystems.

She highlighted incidents of manganese poisoning in Serenje and tailings collapses in Mwense, Kasempa, and Chingola as urgent examples requiring judicial intervention.

The CEJ Director explained that a specialised court would strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws and ensure accountability for polluters.

Mwape noted that environmental disputes are often complex and technical, demanding judges with expertise to deliver fair and swift rulings.

The environmental defender underlined that affected communities deserve access to justice and protection from environmental harm.

She argued that the court would also promote sustainable development by balancing economic growth with ecological preservation.

Mwape reaffirmed that environmental justice is inseparable from economic justice, as livelihoods and public health depend on a healthy environment.

She recalled that the Environmental Protection Dialogue in 2024 had already called for stronger governance and legal mechanisms.

Mwape confirmed that CEJ and its partners will continue engaging stakeholders, including the Judiciary, to address challenges and opportunities.

She urged leaders and citizens to support the motion, stressing that protecting Zambia's environment is vital for present and future generations.

Issued By: CEJ Communications Unit

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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