



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Zambia calls on NEPAD to promote food security, regional integration

NEW YORK, Monday, October 22, 2012 – Zambia has called on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency to continue promoting agriculture and food security, regional integration and infrastructure development, human development and ICTs.

Zambia made the call at the United Nations General Assembly plenary session discussing NEPAD's progress in implementation and international support, causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and the 2001-2010 decade to Roll Back Malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

NEPAD is an African Union (AU) programme adopted in Lusaka in 2001 meant to pursue new priorities and approaches to the political and socio-economic transformation of the 54-member continent to enhance development and participation in the global economy.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Development Cooperation and International Organisations (DCIO) Assistant Director Eliphias Chinyonga said NEPAD was a progressive initiative that promotes Africa's development.

Mr Chinyonga said Zambia identified infrastructure development as a priority area in the Sixth National Development Plan (2011 – 2015) and was encouraging the Public Private Partnership (PPP) concept to accelerate infrastructure development, especially for roads.

Mr Chinyonga said Zambia has in recent years recorded bumper maize harvests. However, he said the gains in agricultural production were yet to translate into poverty reduction, partly due to inadequate storage capacity and limited road infrastructure between rural and urban centres to smoothen crop marketing and distribution of agricultural inputs.

He said the government was working round the clock to ensure that Zambia achieves complete eradication of Malaria by 2030. Mr Chinyonga said Zambia had reduced malaria deaths by 66 per cent, thereby surpassing the 2010 Roll Back Malaria target by more than 50 per cent.

He said positive trends have been registered in fighting HIV/AIDS but the major challenge was resource availability due to reduced financial contributions from cooperating partners. He called on the UN and other cooperating partners to help fund the HIV/AIDS fight.

“The Zambian Government in its 2013 national budget, released last week, has allocated money representing 11.3 per cent of the total national budget towards the health sector, which translates to a 40 per cent increase over the previous year’s allocation,” said Mr Chinyonga. “The HIV/AIDS component will therefore benefit from this allocation.”

Issued by:

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