



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022 Tel: +1(212) 888-5770 Fax: +1(212) 888-5213 Email: Zambia@un.int

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil on Friday June 22, 2012 – Government has invited American investors that make machines for building low-priced, environmentally-friendly and fire resistant houses to visit Zambia and explore business opportunities.

This was during a meeting that Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Given Lubinda, his counterpart in the Ministry of Land, Water and Environmental Protection Wylbur Simuusa, Zambia's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota and lands permanent secretary Daisy Ng'ambi held with Enviro Board Corporation and South South News officials.

Enviro Board Corporation co-chairman Glenn Camp said the technology use agricultural materials like rice straw, wheat straw, elephant grass, sugar cane and sisal to make about 200, 000 building panels per year.

“The machine is none toxic, very environmentally friendly and green technology. One machine can make about 6, 000 homes per year. You can build one home per day with a small crew of people,” Mr Camp said. “To build a 50-square-meter house, it's about US\$ 9000 (about K46.5 million). The rooms are very energy efficient such that when it is hot outside, it's cool inside and vice versa.”

According to Mr Camp, the machine cost about US\$5 million (about K25 billion) but “it pays for itself within nine months”.

He explained that foreign financing could be found to kick start the project.

“If you were to finance it through the US Export and Import Bank, they only require a 15 per cent down payment, so only US\$ 750, 000 and they can finance over a 10-year period. So the total cost can be less than US\$2 million that is the down payment, setting up a building, getting some people trained, buying a truck, fork lifter, a few essentials,” he said.

Responding to Mr Simuusa's query on whether they could engage with the Zambian private sector to implement the project, Mr Camp said that the opportunity extend to the private sector.

"The Government can come in if necessary, in some cases for sovereign guarantee," he said, adding that financiers usually ask for a sovereign guarantee from the Government to the private sector.

South South News president Ambassador Francis Lorenzo, who linked the Zambian officials and Enviro Board Corporation, said a check at Export and Import Bank of the US in Washington showed that Zambia has credit opening, which could enable it undertake this project.

Ambassador Dr Kasese-Bota said it would be good for Enviro Board Corporation to travel to Zambia and demonstrate how beneficial the project would be.

Mr Lubinda said: "It's a project which the Government would have interest in it and if as Government, we don't want to handle it ourselves, we can give sovereign guarantee to the private sector."

The minister said the National Housing Authority (NHA) could be a beneficiary.

"Therefore, include Zambia on your August tour of Africa. We could arrange your meetings with our housing authority, ministries that have relevance to this and the private sector," Mr Lubinda said. "The private sector and public sector can go for it together."

According to Mr Camp, similar houses would be built in Rwanda, Kenya, and about 1, 000 in Zimbabwe and 30, 000 in Southern Sudan.

Zambia's housing stock deficit currently stands at between 2 million and 3 million, according to the Ministry of Local Government and Housing.

Issued by:

CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA (Mr.)

First Secretary for Press

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations