



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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Media statement

For Immediate Release

CEEC says empowerment funds target youth, women to grow economy

UNITED NATIONS, New York, Friday, June 28, 2013 –Involvement of women and youths in economic activities is the key to the socio-economic development of Zambia and Africa, according to the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC).

Contributing to the United Nations General Assembly thematic debate on entrepreneurship for development at UN Headquarters in New York, CEEC Director General Likando Mukumbuta said bridge the economic divide between the rural and urban people as well as incorporation of women and youths was very important to achieve national development.

He told the UN Member States that CEEC channels about 90 of empowerment funds to rural areas to promote rural development.

“About 40 percent of resources are targeted at young entrepreneurs while 30 per cent is going to women,” Mr Mukumbuta explained. “If the empowerment does not transform the society as a whole, then it is probably not achieving what we would like do to improve the wellbeing of our people in Africa, and Zambia in particular.”

He said the Government had initiated the Rural Industrialisation Programme meant to transform Zambia into an industrial state.

The CEEC chief said Zambia has one of the strongest growth rates in Africa with an impressive growth rate over the last decade.

“The track record of Zambia is impressive,” said Mr Mukumbuta, adding that the Government was encouraging entrepreneurs to engage in value addition to the abundant natural resources.

Mr Mukumbuta said Zambia, through CEEC had partnered with international and local organisations to implement the empowerment programmes.

Several delegates and speakers, including Australians commended Mr Mukumbuta for his eloquent presentation that highlighted Zambia's empowerment initiative.

The CEEC is a Government institution mandated to promote the economic empowerment of citizens through ownership of productive assets, skills development, access to finance, preferential procurement and the fostering of a business and entrepreneurial culture to promote socio-economic equalities.

Issued by:

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Captions:

Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) Director General Likando Mukumbuta (left) and counselor (economic) at Zambia UN Mission in New York on Thursday June 28, 2013 – PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ

Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) Director General Likando Mukumbuta at Zambia UN Mission in New York on Thursday June 28, 2013 – PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ