



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Zambia, 187 others demand US lifts Cuba embargo

NEW YORK, Tuesday November 13, 2012 – Zambia and 187 other Member States of the United Nations have demanded that the United States unconditionally lifts the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

Out of the 193-Member States of the UN, 188 voted in support of the resolution demanding the lifting of the embargo while three countries – the USA, Palau and Israel – voted against on Tuesday. Marshal Islands and Micronesia abstained from the vote

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly on the draft resolution, “*necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*”, Zambia’s acting Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Irene Tembo said the extra-territorial embargo constitutes a contravention of a sovereign state’s right to peace, development and security.

“We unequivocally call upon the government of the United States of America to lift the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on the people of Cuba,” Mrs Tembo said.

The draft resolution calling on the US to lift the embargo has been on the UN agenda for two decades, and Zambia has been supporting, voting and speaking in favour of the resolution.

“Over the last 50 years, the people of Cuba have heavily suffered due to the effects of this unjust, unfair and inhumane embargo,” she said. “It is estimated that this embargo

has caused economic damage of about US\$1 trillion in the last five decades. This loss is not just to the people of Cuba, but the whole world economy.”

She said Zambia applauds and admires the people of Cuba and their leaders for their resilience, hard work and dedication in the advancement of their great country despite the embargo that was meant to shackle them.

She noted that Cubans had remained steadfast and risen above their problems to succeed in various fields for the benefit of themselves and friends abroad – including many Zambians.

“To the Zambian people, Cuba is an all-weather friend and needs the support of the international community on this issue,” said Mrs Tembo. “We strongly believe in the principle that injustice to one is injustice to all. The injustice that has been perpetuated against the people of Cuba, over the last 50 years, through this embargo can happen to any member state of this great global body - the United Nations.”

Introducing the resolution in the General Assembly, Cuba’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, demanded the immediate lifting of the embargo.

But US Senior Area Advisor Ambassador Ronald D. Godard said: “This resolution only serves to distract from the real problems facing the Cuban people, and therefore my delegation will oppose it.”

Issued by:

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