



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Zambia Govt committed to social development of people –envoy

NEW YORK, Wednesday, October 9, 2013 – The Government of Zambia says it is committed to the social development of its people through policy and structural transformation aimed at improving their social economic wellbeing.

Addressing the Third Committee of the United Nations in New York on Tuesday, Zambia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota, said the Zambian government has repositioned its national development plans to be all-inclusive, people-centered and focused on achieving desired growth outcomes with social integration elements.

She said the Government of Zambia was cognizant that empowerment of women, youths and the needy in the country was the quickest way to reduce poverty.

“High poverty levels, social vulnerability, inequality and social exclusion, higher rates of unemployment especially for the youth, and major health challenges and illiteracy rates still pose challenges to sustainable development,” the Ambassador said.

In this vein, Dr Kasese-Bota called for concerted efforts to combat poverty with special attention on employment generation especially for the youth, and other vulnerable groups.

The Ambassador told the UN meeting that Zambia was one of the countries with the “success stories” in attaining the MDGs on universal provision of primary education.

She said Zambia had reached over 90 percent enrolment in primary school, coupled with gender parity.

“Commitments towards significant improvement of literacy levels for all at both national and the international level should be prioritized as education remains key to inclusive social development and empowerment of the vulnerable in our societies,” Dr Kasese-Bota said.

She added, “The MDGs contributions are tremendous, but more needs to be done to accelerate the progress for the attainment of the MDGs.”

She said the post-2015 Development Agenda – expected to succeed MDGs – should aim at expedited elimination of “all forms of poverty”.

Dr Kasese-Bota said Zambia, in collaboration with relevant partners, had embarked on review and amendment of labour laws to update and align them to international labour instruments, and harmonise them with other national policies and legislation.

On women’s protection, the Ambassador said Zambia was cognizant of the current society imbalances that subject women to social exclusion, vulnerability and inequalities.

She said the Zambian Government is implementing the gender policy that addresses gender inequality and made deliberate effort to appoint women in influential positions in Government to address the inequalities.

Dr Kasese-Bota urged the international community to prioritise social development in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Issued by:

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