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Press Statement

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AFRICAN FREEDOM DAY STATEMENT

More political and economic freedoms are required in Zambia

Twenty Fifth (25th) May has been celebrated by most African countries as it embraces the freedom obtained from their colonial masters. Zambia is no exception. This day is a moment of joy, pride, reflection and meditation. “Since true freedom is one that enables people to have full opportunities to enjoy their freedoms”, the big question to ask is “Do all Zambian citizens being given the same platforms to express themselves regardless of their political affiliations? Do we look at each other as one people created in the image of God regardless of our tribes or provinces of origin?”

African Freedom Day was set aside to celebrate liberation from imperial domination and foreign exploitation. On this day we take a moment to reflection on the strides that we have made as a nation since attainment of our political emancipation. We also reflect on the strides we are making towards economic emancipation by seeking to drop the shackles of debt crisis, donor dependence, reliance on foreign companies to run our mines, illicit financial flows, discriminative world trade rules and other unfair global policies and practices that continue to militate against progress of developing nations like Zambia.

On African Freedom Day we take an introspection as to examine why Zambian citizens have continued to experience challenges with regards to enjoyment of quality health care, quality education, nutritious food, decent housing, and economic opportunities. Unlike the imperial times when everything was blamed on the colonial masters, today we seek solutions to our problems from ourselves and from our leadership. This is a moment to challenge ourselves and to challenge our leaders to do better and in improving the welfare of all the Zambian citizens, especially the welfare of the poor and the vulnerable people of our society.

It is imperative that we commemorate Africa Freedom Day, we challenge our political leaders to present viable programs on how they are going to address our country’s debt crisis, fiscal deficit, decreasing economic opportunities, unemployment, and increasing inequality. Further, as the country prepares for the 2021 general election, we ask all the political leaders in this country to embrace politics of mutual respect, tolerance and peaceful co-existence. We challenge all political leaders to immediately disarm, demobilize and tame all political party cadres.

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