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**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT  
BY HON. HARRY KALABA, MP, ON THE PRESIDENTIAL  
PARTICIPATION AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY & THE SUMMIT FOR THE  
ADOPTION OF THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
LUSAKA**

**7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2015.**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I have the honour to inform the House that the High Level Segment of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly was recently held in New York, U.S.A., from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2015. This Session not only commemorated 70 years of the UN but was also preceded by the Summit for the Adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, which ran from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia attended this historic session arriving in New York on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. He returned to Zambia on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015. President Lungu was among the over 150 Heads of State and Government from 194 member states of the United Nations who converged for this annual event. The Summit was held under the theme "The United Nations at 70 – a new commitment to action."

The presidential delegation to the United Nations included four Ministers namely Foreign Affairs; Works and Supply; Gender and Community Development.

In addition, the Hon. Minister of Mines traveled to New York in order to participate in a specific sideline meeting organized by the UNDP on the exploitation of the extractive Industry.

Furthermore, in Government's continued efforts to collaborate with the traditional establishments, Their Royal Highnesses, Chief Mumena from North Western Province and Chief Mwenda from Southern Province also formed part of the Presidential entourage to New York.

Prior to the opening session, the Assembly had the occasion to listen to an address by His Holiness Pope Francis whose message called for peace, goodwill and a commitment to development that resonated with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the President's participation started with the UN Summit on the adoption of the outcome document for the Post-2015 development agenda, entitled, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". His Excellency the President delivered a statement alongside other world leaders, on the adoption of this landmark blueprint which commits the world to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 169 targets, to take over from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the adopted benchmarks for successor global development agenda. The 15 year plan will unite the world across the developed and developing country divide in an effort to bring harmonious development and present greater opportunities for the global community of nations to integrate in trade, and investment while tackling issues that affect us all.

In this regard, the President's statement emphasized the importance of the fight against poverty and also on the need to enhance all partnerships in ensuring that the SDG targets are fully realized. He further highlighted Zambia's developmental agenda and the many interventions Government was undertaking to address the challenges the country was facing and specifically mentioned the linkages between Climate Change, the weather pattern and the energy crisis being experienced in Zambia and stressed the urgent need to develop alternative sources of energy calling on the need for technology transfer and investment in this important sector. He acknowledged the problem of Gender Based Violence (GBV) as one such challenge which Government was vigorously addressing. Additionally, the President's address recognized the challenge of Youth unemployment and what action Government was taking under the recently approved National Youth Policy.

Mr. Speaker,

As the House is well aware, Zambia represents the sub-region in the African Union Committee of Ten on the reform of the UN Security Council. The Presidential statement therefore, also echoed that of other leaders on the continent who continue to call for Africa's due representation on the Security Council.

I would wish to further inform this August House that, the participating Heads of States amplified the call for delivering development, health and security to all people and also to undertake collaborative action in the fight against international terrorism, and Climate Change.

The high level session also called for concrete steps to ensure that a globally binding agreement is reached at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP21) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which conference will be held in Paris this December. Other cross-cutting issues of the global agenda, including poverty alleviation, Terrorism and the Gender dimension of development also received prominence during the deliberations.

Mr Speaker,

The importance of Zambia participating in this Summit at the highest level was signified by the critical pronouncements that a number of countries made which will have an impact on the country's development agenda. For instance, it was at this forum that China announced its intention to join the new UN peacekeeping system and that it would also establish a US \$1 billion, 10-year China Peace Development Fund for the UN. China also pledged to give \$100 million, over the next five years to the African Union to establish its own stand-by force and African capacity to respond to crises. Zambia, as a longstanding peacekeeping contributor will greatly benefit from this initiative as we seek to consolidate peace in the region and beyond.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Zambia, as chair of the group of Landlocked Developing Countries co-hosted a high profile event which His Excellency the President chaired on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. The meeting was aimed at addressing the peculiar challenges facing this group of developing countries, particularly in their access to the global market.

As the House maybe aware from my previous presentations, Zambia has taken the leading role in this effort because of the direct benefits that will accrue to the country as a result of enhanced trade and investment that is targeted towards the Landlocked Developing countries.

Mr. Speaker,

The Head of State also attended the high level interactive dialogue on hunger and poverty eradication, the African Union/UNIDO discussion on Industrialization and the post 2015 agenda. The country also participated in the meeting on further enhancing South-South Cooperation. In these meetings, His Excellency the President stressed the importance of industrialization for Zambia and called for more investment and technology transfer to ensure that developing countries could attain meaningful development and eradicate poverty. Zambia's case was well articulated and the country Sir, will benefit from future programmes both through UNIDO and the South-South cooperation framework.

The President's participation in side events also included that of a follow up on the implementation of the 1995 gender blueprint, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. This event was co-sponsored by the UN Gender entity, UN Women, together with the Government of China. As may be recalled, this monumental declaration is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of implementation and in his statement, the President recommitted Government to work towards furthering efforts at reducing the gender divide.

Mr. Speaker,

I also wish to mention that the meeting of Heads of State met under the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) of which Zambia is a member. At this meeting the leaders received briefings on the regional security situation and recommitted, to securing peace in member states such as Burundi, South Sudan, the Central Africa Republic and the DRC. Again, Zambia's presence at this meeting made it possible for the country to stress the importance of peace and stability in the region as a precondition for any meaningful development.

Lastly Sir, let me mention that in order to fully maximise Zambia's attendance to the UN General Assembly, a Business Forum was arranged where a number of business entities that are keen on investing in Zambia met with the Delegation. This is in the spirit of Government's efforts to continually explore every opportunity to uplift the living standards of our people.

Mr Speaker,

I wish to end by assuring the House that the Presidential visit to the UN meetings in New York was very successful, and that Zambia made an imprint on the evolving global development discourse.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you,