



State House
Lusaka
Republic of Zambia

Press Statement
For Immediate Release

PRESIDENT EDGAR LUNGU SMALL SCALE MINERS REPRESENTATIVES



(l-r) CEO of the Zedliner Group Mr Donovan Gray, President of the Republic of Zambia Mr Edgar C Lungu and the Solicitor General Mr Abraham Mwanza

LUSAKA, (Friday, 16th February, 2018) ----- His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu President of the Republic of Zambia has today met with 20 representatives of small scale miners from the Copperbelt to discuss a wide range of issues pertaining to empowerment of local communities, especially the youths.

The President was accompanied by the following Ministers

- Hon. Margaret Mwanakatwe (**Finance**);
- Hon. Richard Musukwa (**Mines and Minerals Development**);
- Hon. Steven Kampyongo (**Home Affairs**);
- Hon. Freedom Sikazwe (**State House**);
- Hon. Japhen Mwakalombe (**Copperbelt**);
- Hon. Bowman Lusambo (**Lusaka**) and senior technocrats from the Ministries of Justice and Mines respectively

The President is pleased with the outcome of the meeting particularly with the unanimous voice with which the groups have spoken regarding the way forward on the relationships between and among the different interest groups operating at the former mines dumps on the copperbelt.

The President emphasized that government will provide the necessary conducive operating environment for both local and foreign investors. He stressed that it was critically important for both government and all interested groups to uphold and respect property rights and the rule of law.

“We have foreign investors operating the famous Black Mountain and we have undefined groups doing small scale mining around there. We need to balance the interests of all parties by ensuring that we respect groups to uphold and respect property rights of all parties”, he said.

The meeting resolved that all court actions by all parties must be terminated soonest by consent arrangements to allow for the proposed amicable settlement planned for next week to take effect.

Empowerment of local communities through participation in mining contracts and fair resource exploitation was a top priority for the PF government. The various youth groups will now form a unified cooperative company which government will grant a large-scale mining license under which all the commercial interests of the groups will be executed.

Ministers and Technical Staff from relevant Ministries and State House will next week travel to the Copperbelt Province to meet with owners of Nkana Alloys Limited, the majority owners of the Black Mountain to conclude the proposed settlement over the asset.

Issued by

AMOS CHANDA
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
(PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS)
STATE HOUSE

