

PRESS RELEASE

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CARITAS ZAMBIA COMMENDS PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO WITHDRAW CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL, URGES CONTINUED DIALOGUE

Caritas Zambia warmly welcomes His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema’s directive to the Minister of Justice to withdraw the Constitution Amendment Bill from Parliament until further notice. This is a commendable and statesmanlike decision that reflects a commitment to democratic principles and inclusive governance.

We particularly applaud the President for heeding the concerns raised by various stakeholders, including the Church and civil society organizations (CSOs), regarding the lack of broad consensus and adequate consultation on the proposed amendments. This demonstrates responsive leadership and a willingness to listen to the voices of the people.

The withdrawal of the bill provides a crucial opportunity for introspection and a renewed commitment to a truly participatory process. We believe that a national constitution, as the supreme law of the land, must be a product of widespread agreement and reflect the aspirations of all Zambians. This can only be achieved through **thorough, inclusive, and genuine consultations** that bring together diverse perspectives from across the country.

Caritas Zambia wishes to commend the **Church and civil society organizations** for their unwavering commitment to advocating for good governance and ensuring that the constitution-making process is transparent and people-driven. Their collective advocacy played a vital role in bringing about this positive development.

We urge the government to now embark on a comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue process. This process should involve all relevant stakeholders, including traditional leaders, professional bodies, academia, youth, women's groups, and ordinary citizens, to build a consensus that will stand the test of time.

Caritas Zambia remains committed to working collaboratively with the government, the Church, and all civil society partners to ensure that Zambia’s constitution truly serves the best interests of its people. We stand ready to contribute to any future processes aimed at strengthening our democracy and safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all Zambians.

Yours in Service,



Fr. Dr. Gabriel Mapulanga
Executive Director, Caritas Zambia