



Zambia Land Alliance

**STATEMENT BY ZLA ON ZAMBIA'S 59TH INDEPENDENCE
ANNIVERSARY**

24.10.2023

Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA) joins the rest of the country to commemorate 59 years of independence. We celebrate the political gains and democracy the country has achieved over the years.

However, on the economic front, ZLA is saddened that the majority of Zambians are not yet economically independent. One of the factors of production and basis of wealth creation is land, and yet the majority of Zambians do not have secured access, ownership and control over land and associated natural resources. 59 years after independence Zambia has continued with imperialist laws that deprive Zambians the right to natural resources like minerals. For example, the law that restricts citizens to surface rights only was imposed on our forefathers by colonial imperialists to rob them of their mineral resources. And yet we have continued with such laws all these year after independence.

ZLA is appealing to the Government of the Republic of Zambia to amend all land-related legislation to empower Zambians with land and associated natural resources. Independence is not about singing songs and giving speeches. The citizens of an independent Zambia should own the land and associated natural resources and use them to create wealth for themselves, their children and their children's children.

ZLA is therefore calling on the Government to undertake people-centred land reforms for Zambians to actualise and enjoy the full benefits of their independence. We cannot talk about independence when Zambians are not able to enjoy unimpeded access, ownership, and control over their land.

God bless Mother Zambia!

For and on behalf Zambia Land Alliance

Patrick Musole
Executive Director