



## ZAMBIA LAND ALLIANCE

### 2024 International Women's Day Celebration

As Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA) joins the global village in celebrating the 2024 International Women's Day, whose theme is "invest in Women and Girls: Accelerate Progress", we reflect on the numerous social, economic, professional, and political achievements of women. At the same time, we are reminded of the mountain of work that remains to be done for us to achieve an inclusive and just world.

This year's theme calls upon us all to invest time, finance and other resources in the well-being and empowerment of women and girls for them to optimise their potential. From our perspective as ZLA, empowering women and girls with land is crucial for creating a prosperous, equitable, and peaceful world for all. This can only be achieved through:

- Ensuring that women and girls have secure land tenure and property rights, which includes addressing discriminatory laws, systems and practices that limit their access and control over land.
- Promotion of land documentation and registration processes that explicitly recognize women's rights to own and inherit land in their names.
- Empowering women and girls with entrepreneur skills to enable them to engage in agribusiness.
- Appointing women to leadership roles of land administration so that they can be voices for the multitudes of voiceless women and girls.
- Development and implementation of mechanisms that will translate the affirmative action in the Gender Policy, Gender Equity and Equality Act as well as the National Lands Policy into land ownership women.

Unfortunately, women in Zambia are still faced with serious challenges acquiring secured land, in spite of the country having progressive policies and laws on paper. Even when they are offered land, the majority of women lack financial resources to develop it, and in the end the land is taken away from them and is offered to people with the financial means to develop it.

As we celebrate women today, we call upon the Government, the corporate world and investors to prioritize women's empowerment in their operations. This may be done through facilitating access to resources such as credit, agricultural inputs, tools, or technology. There is a need to support initiatives that provide training and capacity-building for women in sustainable land use and livelihoods.

By investing in the wellbeing, livelihoods and resilience of women and girls, together, we can make progress towards attaining a more inclusive, just, and sustainable world for all.

Founded in 1997, ZLA is a network of Non-Governmental Organizations advocating for fair land policies, laws and administrative systems that take into consideration the interests of the poor and marginalized. The organization works with the rural poor and marginalized groups such as women to promote secured access, ownership and control of land.

Signed for and on behalf of Zambia Land Alliance,

Patrick Musole  
Executive Director