

**PRESENTATION OF ZAMBIA**

**BY Mr. SYLVESTER MUNDANDA**

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**AT THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT FOR ENHANSING INTERGRATION OF THE LLDCS INTO  
GLOBAL TRADE**

**Chairperson,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Issues of infrastructure development are of particular interest to Zambia particularly because the country is landlocked and surrounded by 8 countries. The country is traversed by many corridors such as the Walvis Bay-Ndola- Lubumbashi corridor, which covers Namibia, Zambia and the DRC and the NACALA corridor covering Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia making it a strategic player in regional transport linkages and integration.

Infrastructure development is one of the priority areas in Zambia's Seventh National Development Plan which runs from 2017 to 2021. To this end, a number of initiatives are being undertaken to develop the necessary infrastructure such as roads, rail, communication towers, power transmission networks and improvement of inland ports.

Related to infrastructure, the Government has put in place regulatory framework for service provision that ensures proper licensing and reduces administrative constraints.

Although we are on course in developing country wide infrastructure, we still have huge infrastructure gap. This manifests itself in missing links and a big maintenance backlog. Some of the binding constraints in the sector include lack of private sector interest to invest in infrastructure development projects, debt sustainability limitations, and conditions attached to loans from ICPs.

We have found ourselves in this situation due to limited resources in terms of finances and technical skills. We have, therefore, embarked on the mobilization of resources through domestic initiatives and foreign Direct Investments in order to address this challenge in line with our national and regional priorities.

Government will also continue to provide conducive environment to attract Foreign Direct Investment.

In conclusion, I wish to inform you that, Zambia in conjunction with the Ports management of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA) will be hosting a conference in November, 2017. The theme of the Conference is, “ Raising the Profile of Land-linked countries in the logistics and maritime value Chains”. This will be the first time that a land-linked country will be hosting PMAESA conference since its established in 1973. The rationale for hosting such a conference in a land-linked country is to have an inclusive approach in addressing matters relating to maritime, shipping, logistics and infrastructure development. This is because land-linked countries play a pivotal role in responding to global completion, feeding and de-feeding of coastal ports, regional integration, intra-Africa trade and reducing the cost of logistics to contribute to their development.

**I thank you.**