



Justice, Honour and Integrity



**DELIVERING UNTO OURSELVES
A NEW AND PEOPLE DRIVEN CONSTITUTION
IS THE BEST WAY TO CELEBRATE
ZAMBIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE**

“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour” (Luke 4:18-19; Cf. Isaiah 61:1-2)

The Oasis Forum, do hereby fully support the recent observations made by Reverend Suzanne Matala from the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) that it is difficult to see the “joy” of the Jubilee-Year in Zambia when so many of our people, including our dear freedom fighters, are wallowing in abject poverty and being subjected to fear and intimidation by their own leaders. In addition, we would like to reiterate the demand we earlier made that the best Jubilee gift for Zambia in this “Year of the Lord’s Favor” is a new and people driven constitution. Thus, notwithstanding the current Government’s many attempts to stall and their maneuvers to abort the constitution making process, we the Oasis Forum remain resolved to mobilize the masses at the grassroots and campaign, in a peaceful manner, for the immediate release of the final draft of the constitution and its enactment through a national referendum. So, help us God!

Indeed, we do appreciate the many sacrifices made by our gallant freedom-fighters and do surely salute them for paying a high price in order to gain us the hard-won independence. In fact, these patriotic men and women had a vision to build a nation in which all its citizens would enjoy freedom not only from colonial oppression but freedom from hunger, poverty, curable diseases, every form

injustice and exploitation. As such, the Oasis Forum strongly believes that the best way to honour our national heroes is to put in place a new constitutional order that will ensure that their noble aspirations of having a free, prosperous and democratic Zambia are realized. For sure, we are not opposed to genuine Golden Jubilee celebrations. However, we should never forget that having mere ceremonial celebrations for the sake of celebrating is not worthwhile.

Furthermore, the Oasis Forum seriously bemoans the retrogressive and uninspiring statements recently issued by President Sata, Honourable Mwansa Kapeya and Honourable Wynter Kabimba over the current constitution making process. Indeed, we must begin to call into question the integrity of our political leaders who find it prudent to take Zambians for granted. They often promise falsehoods during their political campaigns, say things that they do not mean, promise actions that they have no intentions of taking, unashamedly make political U-turns and arrogantly pretend that they did not say what they said. The day of reckoning is surely coming.

Lastly, let us remember that *“All it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to stand by and do nothing.”* We therefore urge all well-meaning Zambians to stand firm and strong in the resolve to deliver unto ourselves a new constitution that will give us a good cause to celebrate our Golden Jubilee. We cannot afford to slumber. Now is the time to wake up, speak, act and so determine the destiny of our beloved nation. Yes, we shall overcome *“for nothing is impossible with God”* (Luke 1:37).

Issued on 20th February 2014 and signed by:

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