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Press Statement for Immediate Release

LUSAKA Wednesday, March 31st, 2022

**DRW COMMENDS THE APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO  
PUBLIC OFFICE**

Disability Rights Watch has extolled the appointments of persons with disabilities to public service boards by President Hakainde Hichilema.

Disability Rights Watch Director Mr. Wamundila Waliuya has said that the appointments are a bold step towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in decision making.

Mr. Waliuya says the move by president Hakainde Hichilema is in recognition and upholding principles of human rights which include equality and non-discrimination.

He also said the president's action is in line with the constitution of Zambia which advocates for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in public service or constitutional office. Mr. Waliuya further said that the appointments are in line with the principles of the rule of law which includes full and effective participation and inclusion.

He has explained that the president is showing commitments of the UPND Administration towards the principle of including persons with disabilities in the governance of the country which is in line with the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012 where persons with disabilities must participate in political and public life.

He has further said that the appointments are also in line with the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

DRW has also recognized the appointment of Christine Chama to the Human Rights Commission as Commissioner. Mr. Waliuya has stated that issues of persons with disabilities especially women will be addressed.

Mr. Waliuya has called on the president to increase the number of Persons with Disabilities in Public Service and other boards of independent bodies. He has highlighted the appointment of two men and two women with disabilities are quite commendable taking into cognizance gender balance but there is need to increase the number of persons with disabilities in decision making positions.

Issued by:

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