

Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya has called on citizens to value their right to vote by ensuring that they fully participate in the on-going online as well as the physical voter registration exercise.

Ms. Siliya says citizens should turn up in numbers to register to vote on 28th October, 2020 and should take advantage of the on-going online registration.

Speaking when United States Charge d'Affaires David Young paid a courtesy call on her today, Ms. Siliya said it is the right of the citizens to register, vote and participate in elections as free citizens.

"Elections costs money, citizens must value the right to vote. First of all its their tax payers' money that is used in elections and so nobody should deny themselves a liberty of putting in place a government of their choice," she said.

She said while there are different opinions on who should govern, the country should not be divided by promoting hate speech and tribalism.

Ms. Siliya has advised media houses to continue promoting national peace and avoid being sensational in their reporting.

She said the media has an important role to play and government is concerned about their wellbeing.

Ms. Siliya further said journalists should work in a free and peaceful environment without any victimization from the general public and politicians.

"Politicians must respect that the journalists are there to do their job and nobody should attack them. This will allow them to work professionally," she added.

She said Government is quick to condemn any violence and harassments towards media houses and the journalists in particular.

Ms. Siliya who is also Chief Government Spokesperson has hailed the American Government for the support it has continued to render to the Zambian Government in various sectors of the country's economy.

She echoed that the K 30 billion support given to Zambia for the next five years to help various sectors is a clear demonstration of the strong ties between the two governments.

Ms. Siliya has assured that the Zambian Government will continue to ensure that the institutions of democracy remain solid.

And United States Charge d'Affaires David Young has commended the Zambian government for the continued democratic and strong governance institutions.

He said that he is confident that Zambia will continue on its good democratic path even as the country goes to the polls next year.

Mr. Young has also urged citizens to participate in the registration exercise as it is a democratic right for all.

He said his Government is ready to partner with the Zambian Government, Electoral Commission of Zambia and the media throughout the country to ensure there is proper sensitization on the electoral process.

“It is very important to register so that you can be able to vote next year. We ready to partner with your ministry, ECZ and the media throughout the country so that people can be able to register in numbers,” he said.

Mr. Young said this is important for the country's democracy as well as a right for its citizens to vote.

Press and Public Relations Unit
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services
21st October, 2020