

## ACP Committee of Ambassadors welcomes its newest addition, the Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia

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Brussels 21 June 2019/ACP: H.E. Professor Esther Munalula Nkandu, Zambia's Ambassador to Benelux and the EU was presented on 20 June 2019 to the Committee of Ambassadors of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States at their 921<sup>st</sup> Meeting at the ACP House in Brussels.

An accomplished academic, Ambassador Nkandu has a wealth of local and international experience in governance and in the areas of health and scientific research. She was the Founding Head at the Department of Physiotherapy of the School of Medicine at the University of Zambia, for which she also designed the academic programmes.

She served as President of the Zambia Society of Physiotherapy as well as Chairperson of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (Africa region). Ambassador Munalula Nkandu has also served her country in various public sector roles, such as Vice-Chair of the Medical Council of Zambia and chair of Zambia's Road Transport and Safety Agency.

Over the past four years, the Ambassador chaired the Institute of Directors of Zambia. She is also a trainer in Corporate Governance and a Fellow of the ICSA Governance Institute of London. Until her appointment as Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the Benelux countries and the European Union, H.E. Nkandu served as Dean of Zambia's prestigious School of Health Sciences and has published and contributed to academic and professional literary works in the fields of HIV, research ethics, physiotherapy and agricultural and biomedical sciences.

In her maiden address, the new Ambassador acknowledged recent gains with respect to the negotiation of the Post-Cotonou Agreement, the reflections on future perspectives of the ACP Group including the revision of the Georgetown Agreement and the establishment and operationalization of the ACP Endowment and Trust Fund and assured her new colleagues of her country's continued faith, solidarity and commitment to the ACP Group.

The Ambassador shared her country's vision for socio-economic development as outlined in Vision 2030, as well as Zambia's aspiration to be a strong, dynamic and prosperous middle-income industrialised country. Themed "Accelerating development efforts towards the Vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind", the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) outlines an integrated approach aimed at creating a diversified and resilient economy for sustained growth and socioeconomic transformation driven by agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and mining, all aligned to the Smart Zambia transformation agenda 2064 and embedding in it the necessary economic stabilisation and growth to achieve a Smart Zambia.

Members of the Committee of the Ambassadors assured Her Excellency of their collaboration, and friendship in the execution of her duties.

Photo: (L-R) H.E. Dr Patrick I. Gomes, H.E. Professor Esther Munalula Nkandu, H.E. Dr Kaire Mbuende © ACP

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