

Remain focused, Japan urges Zambia

By MOSES SINJWALA

THE Zambian government should remain steadfast in its implementation of austerity measures aimed at revamping the economy, Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Heinobu Sobashima has said.

Mr Sobashima said so far the government was making progress in the measures it had put place to help stabilise the economy.

Speaking to journalist he said the Zambian economy was still growing and the government was on the right path.

He, however, said Government should diversify the economy to other sectors than mining for it to grow.

Mr Sobashima said the Zambian economy was too heavily dependent on mining, but could diversify into agriculture, tourism and other

sectors. He said Government should also have a health budget management system to help boost the economy of the country.

"The economy of Zambia is still growing. It needs to implement two thing for it to grow steadily, diversify the economy and a health budget management," he said.

Mr Sobashima said it was encouraging that the government was making strides on health budget management through the austerity measures it had put in place.

He encouraged the government to continue on the path it had taken as that would greatly boost the economy.

"The austerity measures are welcome. I must encourage the Zambian government to continue as the results might not be seen now but will surely be seen later," he said.

"I am pleased to inform you that in the year under review, great strides were made in our continued quest to execute our five year strategic plan 2017-2021 effectively and to the fullest" Mr Lungu said.

He said from a financial perspective, the corporation made a profit after tax of K80 410,930.00 and paid taxes to government in the amount of K3, 217,930.00.

Speaking after receiving the cheque, Finance Minister, Bwalya Ng'andu, said he was delighted to note that Zambia Airports Corporation Limited was leading by example, by presenting Government with a dividend for the third year running.

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They thrive in the cesspool of human depravity, seemingly attracted to everything that is rotten and decaying. Their poisoned and jaundiced perception of the country is the theme of their mantra.

Sadly, such characters also thrive on their ethnic support which gives them unqualified succour and encouragement to the detriment of national interests.

It is against this background that Zambia finds herself under severe attack from individuals and principalities who will not admit the tremendous strides that many individuals and the country collectively have made in the social, economic and political spheres.

The very fact that Zambia has been able to maintain a single digit inflation rate in the midst of severe economic turbulence has been completely lost on them. They can only see volatility in the price of mealie meal - a political commodity.

But at worst is the hypocrisy in politics and accompanying intemperate language used to describe our current status, which give corruption, bad governance and economic crisis a bad name because for all practical purposes, the extent of graft and indeed the ranking of Zambia on such tables does not match the characterisation by our desperate politicians.

Worse still, the most vocal and self-righteous critics are themselves guilty of remorseless abuse of public resources, including heartless treatment of pensioners, hapless villagers and a host of other victims.

The victims of their cruelty, unfortunately, are unable to claim their just dues because they are powerless and therefore unable to match the voracious appetite of the economic elite who have abused the system to enrich themselves.

Time has come for Zambians to stand up for their country and condemn the hypocrisy for what it is and, indeed, consign the political riff raff, or as Bishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu would say, the flotsam and jetsam of African politics with no substance apart from their desire to ascend to the political thrones.

Time has come to seek substance, accountability, matched by a record of probity for those who seek to lead, not on account of buffoonery or indeed not on account of ethnic compulsion, but from an ability demonstrated by practice and acclaim.

It is therefore inexcusable that our local buffoons should extend their myopic irreverent and downright ignorant perception to mirroring Zambia's relations with foreign countries.

This is unacceptable and all Zambians must condemn this type of conduct.

It is a pity that the Church, civil society and all those who would ordinarily serve as the conscience