

JULY 2021

## Update On National Land Titling Program

As of end of June 2021, Medici Land Governance under the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has enumerated 69,005 parcels with complete information on ownership in Lusaka, Kafue and Chilanga Districts of Lusaka Province.

Meanwhile, Medici Land Governance is expected to capture about 1,890 parcels in Luangwa district by the end of July this year(2021), which should result in Certificates of Title.

Medici Land Governance together with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has, however, distributed 18,793 Offer Letters to landowners whose details were successfully captured and verified within Lusaka Province. To this effect, 5,186 Certificates of Title have been issued out to the respective owners as of June 2021.

The project which is being undertaken by Medici Land Governance on behalf of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources targets 4 million beneficiaries under the National Land Tiling Programme.

*All Medici Land Governance activities are being conducted in accordance to the Covid19 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.*

## National Land Titling Program And Vulnerable GROUPS

Many times, especially in our Zambian culture, widows and widowers are left vulnerable to property grabbing after their spouses die. There is a notion that the property belonged only to the deceased, and most times the remaining spouses cannot defend themselves because they have no knowledge on land issues.

Florence Zulu, a 44-year-old widow of Kafue's Shikoswe Compound, had built a shopping complex with her late husband 8 years before his demise. She stated that after her husband's death 6 years ago, people invade her land.

"Men would come and build on my land at night. I tried to reason with them but nothing stopped them. This case has been heard by the local authority but they have been unable to help me. The invaders now have a shopping complex on my land and they are expanding," Ms. Zulu lamented.



Florence Zulu

*"Florence hopes that through the National Land Titling program, she can be helped to negotiate with the invaders and eventually get a title for her property."*

## COVID-19 Concerns Addressed To Medici Staff



The majority of people would agree that they would like to return to a pre-pandemic "normal." However, the unwillingness of many to get the vaccine is causing researchers to believe that this hesitancy is enough to prevent Zambia from reaching its goal to stop the spread of the virus.

The head of communications at the Zambia National Public Health Institute, Mazyanga Mazaba, took the time to listen and address some concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccine among Medici Land Governance's staff members.

*"I'm happy to listen because only through dialogue can we come to an understanding of what the best choice is for us," says Ms. Mazaba. "But I've also dedicated my life to keeping people healthy and there's clear evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine will keep people safer and healthier than if not vaccinated."*

Ms. Mazaba states that according to a recent nationwide survey, the leading cause of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy are the possible side effects, followed closely by those waiting to see if it is safe.

Ms. Mazaba believes that the lack of trust in the vaccine plays into people's fear because many commented that they were unsure if the vaccine would work and they do not believe they need it at all.



Common concerns raised by staff members regarding the COVID-19 vaccine are about how long one is protected from the virus after they have been vaccinated and whether it was necessary to get vaccinated considering the likelihood of a future re-vaccination.

Another issue being raised was whether it is safe for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers to get the vaccine.

In her response, Ms. Mazaba said research shows that the COVID-19 vaccine can last up to nine months in the human body and is highly effective because it helps prevent COVID-19 related death and very severe side effects. "This is a big win because, how you will react to the virus is so unpredictable. Why risk it? It's a wager between life or death, if you can be protected for 9 months then why not?"

Ms. Mazaba also stated that based on how the vaccine works, it is unlikely to pose a risk for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. She says so far, there has been no complaint from pregnant women who were recently vaccinated or their babies.

Therefore, staff members are encouraged to get vaccinated as it is a sustainable intervention to reduce and control the spread of the virus, along with the basic rules of, masking up, washing hands, social distancing, avoiding crowded places, staying at home, and seeking medical help if symptomatic.