

NGO COORDINATING COUNCIL

for gender and development



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NGOCC CONGRATULATES HON. MUMBI PHIRI

The Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) congratulates Ms. Mumbi Phiri on her nomination as Member of Parliament (MP).

As the focal point of the women's movement, NGOCC has continually been concerned about the low numbers of women in decision making positions, especially in politics. We are therefore elated that President Edgar Chagwa Lungu has nominated yet another woman to marginally increase the number of female Parliamentarians in the House to 31, against 136 men. It is our expectation that 2018 will witness more women ascending to various decision-making positions in line with Zambia's commitment as espoused in the Constitution and Gender Equity and Equality Act.

It has become imperative that the country should immediately put in place legal and policy provisions that will enhance the participation of women in politics. As the government is addressing the lacunas in the Amended Constitution of 2016, we urge Parliament to reconsider the Proportional Representation and Quota Systems as this will, in many ways, guarantee the participation of marginalized groups such as women, people with disability and the youth. It is also our hope that the Political Party Bill, once enacted, will bolster the participation of women within the political parties.

Once again, congratulations to Ms. Phiri. Zambians are counting on you and other gallant women and men in Parliament to continue raising issues affecting women.

**ISSUED;
for/NGOCC**

Engwase B. Mwale
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR