

High Commission of India Lusaka

Press Release

Celebration of 76th Independence Day

The High Commission of India celebrated the historic 75th year of India's independence on 15th August 2022. H.E. Mr. Ashok Kumar, the High Commissioner of India hoisted the Indian flag in the presence of the Indian diaspora, which was followed by singing of the Indian national anthem. The High Commissioner read out the speech delivered by Her Excellency Mrs. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, on the eve of the Independence Day.



2. The event also marked rendering of a patriotic song written by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi. Two short films on the theme of India's independence were also screened. A prize distribution ceremony was held in which the winners of various competitions like painting, essay writing, quiz etc. organised by the High Commission of India, on the theme of 75 years of India's independence, were felicitated by the High Commissioner with certificates, medals and cash.



3. The event also saw children dressed up like great Indian freedom fighters. The event was attended by over 500 people from the Indian diaspora and friends of India.



4. A reception was also held in the evening to celebrate the occasion, in which Hon'ble Minister Mr. Rodney Sikumba, Minister of Tourism was the guest of honour. The reception was also attended by Minister of Commerce, Trade & Industry Mr. Chipoka Mulenga, Minister of Green Economy & Environment Mr. Collins Nzovu, Minister of SME Development Mr. Elias Mubanga, First Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Ms. Malungo A Chisangano, Minister of Lusaka Province Ms. Sheal Shacholi Mulyata, Minister of Central Province Mr. Credon Nanjuwa,, Mayor of Lusaka Ms. Chilando Chitangala, Senior Government functionaries, representatives of government agencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners and representatives of diplomatic Missions, members of the Indian diaspora and representatives of the business community.



5. In his address, H.E. Mr. Ashok Kumar, High Commissioner of India, welcomed the guests on this historic occasion. He spoke about the remarkable development that India has achieved over the past 75 years in the various socio-economic sectors to establish her rightful place in the comity of nations. He also highlighted the various socio-economic development programmes launched under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi. He mentioned about the high democratic credentials of India- the largest democracy of the world and defined India's independence as reflective of the

spirit of liberation, peace, equality, harmony and prosperity guided by India's ancient philosophy of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*', which means the whole world is one family.

6. On India-Zambia relations, High Commissioner reflected upon the historic relations between the two countries which are vibrant and multi-dimensional. He gave an overview of India's support to Zambia on skill development and capacity building. H.E. Ashok Kumar also appreciated the government of Zambia under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic on the various development programmes undertaken by the New Dawn government of Zambia in the socio-economic sectors. H.E. Mr. Ashok Kumar also expressed India's readiness to support Zambia in its development. He also referred to the recent visit of Her Honour the Vice President of Zambia to India last month and expressed hope of more such bilateral visits to strengthen the relationship for mutual benefit.

7. Hon'ble Minister of Tourism Mr. Rodney Sikumba recalled the longstanding warm and brotherly relations between India and Zambia. He affirmed commitment of Government of Zambia to further strengthen relationship and promote mutually beneficial partnerships. He mentioned that India has been an important partner in sharing technologies in various fields including agriculture and water sector. He also acknowledged that Zambia has benefited from skill transfer programmes in several fields and disciplines.

8. Hon'ble Minister of Tourism expressed satisfaction on efforts made by the two governments to enhance bilateral trade & tourism. He called for increased Indian investment in Zambia.



9. High Commissioner raised a toast for the success, prosperity and good health of His Excellency Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and the friendly people of Zambia. Hon'ble Minister Mr. Rodney Sikumba reciprocated the toast.

10. Hon'ble Minister Rodney Sikumba unveiled the special publication of Envoy Excellency Magazine released on the occasion of 75th anniversary of India's Independence.



11. Mission also organized an exhibition of products made by Indian companies such as cars, motorbikes, generator, farm equipment, light vehicles, medical equipment etc. were also showcased in the exhibition. Local socio-cultural organizations also displayed the handicrafts items of their respective states. The exhibition was highly appreciated by Hon'ble Ministers of Government of Zambia and other invitees to the function.



12. A dance performance by local artists the various Indian classical dance forms was presented.

