



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION

**SPEECH FOR THE ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION,
MRS. JEAN M. CHILENGI**

**DELIVERED DURING THE UK GREEN CITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME
VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR THE PROPOSED WATER SECTOR PROJECT IN ZAMBIA**

HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH APRIL 2024

AT THE SOUTHERN SUN HOTEL, LUSAKA

- **SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE UK HIGH COMMISSION IN ZAMBIA**
- **UK GCIP PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA OFFICIALS PRESENT**
- **HEADS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF QUASI-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS PRESENT**
- **HEADS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF KEY STAKEHOLDER INSTITUTIONS PRESENT**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

MAY I WELCOME YOU TO THIS MEETING WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED TO VALIDATE THE PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR THE ZAMBIA WATER SECTOR UNDER THE UK GREEN CITIES INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME (GCIP). I AM GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE GCIP IS PART OF THE GREEN GROWTH COMPACT BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND THE UK AND THAT THE UK FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (UK-FCDO) IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SUPPORTING THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT PARTICULARLY HERE IN ZAMBIA. THIS VERY MUCH ATTESTS TO THE STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND THE UK AND THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF WATER AS ONE OF THE PRIORITY GREEN GROWTH SECTORS WITH THE POTENTIAL TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND THE UK.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IN THIS REGARD, SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GCIP IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ZAMBIA OVERALL, AND PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THE WATER SECTOR. THIS IS BECAUSE THE PROGRAMME PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW EXPERTISE FROM ACROSS THE UK GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR FOR INNOVATIVE LOW CARBON CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR CITIES AS CENTERS FOR ACCELERATED SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENGINES FOR ENDING POVERTY AND IMPROVING HUMAN WELL-BEING IN ZAMBIA.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM THEREFORE PLEASED THAT ONE OF THE GCIP PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR ZAMBIA IS IN THE WATER SECTOR, THE REASON WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY. THE PRIORITIES FOR THE ZAMBIA WATER SECTOR UNTIL 2030 ARE ARTICULATED IN THE ZAMBIA WATER INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (ZIP) DOCUMENT (2022-2030), WHICH WAS LAUNCHED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT IN JULY 2022. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE NOTICED VERY GOOD ALIGNMENT AND SUPPORT OF WATER SECTOR INTERVENTIONS BY COOPERATING PARTNERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE FOCUS AREAS OF THE ZIP WHICH GENERALLY REVOLVE AROUND THE FOLLOWING:

- A) WATER INVESTMENTS TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION;
- B) RESILIENCE BUILDING THROUGH WATER; AND
- C) WATER GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THIS CURRENT SUPPORT FROM THE UK FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE UNDER THE GCIP IS A CASE IN POINT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL, AS IS THE CASE IS WITH OTHER SIMILAR SUPPORT FROM OTHER COOPERATING PARTNERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS. THE AGGREGATE BENEFITS ARISING FROM THE CONSOLIDATION OF SUCH EFFORTS BY ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS ARE WHAT WILL TRULY UNLOCK ZAMBIA'S ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL WATER SECURITY BY 2030 AS ARTICULATED IN KEY NATIONAL POLICY DOCUMENTS.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT YOU ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS WORKSHOP IN ORDER TO ENRICH THE POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS THAT WOULD BE TAKEN IN THE NEXT STEP OF IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THE PROPOSED GCIP ZAMBIA WATER SECTOR PROJECT. OBVIOUSLY, NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS DESIRED CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS OF RESOURCES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. THUS, IT WILL BE INCUMBENT UPON US TO PROPOSE INTERVENTIONS THAT HAVE A LEVERAGING AND CATALYTIC EFFECT THAT COULD LEAD TO THE UNLOCKING OF OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES FOR THE OTHER DESIRED INTERVENTIONS THAT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE BY ONCE AGAIN THANKING THE UK GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE UK-FCDO AT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN LUSAKA FOR THIS SUPPORT. LET ME ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOOD EFFORT BY THE GCIP ZAMBIA TEAM FOR THE JOB WELL DONE IN DESIGNING THE GCIP ZAMBIA WATER SECTOR INTERVENTIONS THROUGH A CONSULTATIVE APPROACH AND SUBJECTING IT TO STAKEHOLDER VALIDATION AT THIS MEETING. THIS WILL ENSURE A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP AND FOSTER COMMITMENTS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WITH THESE FEW REMARKS I WISH TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THIS VALIDATION WORKSHOP, I THANK YOU.