



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**OPENING SPEECH BY HON. RICHARD MUSUKWA, MP
MINISTER FOR MINES AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT**

AT THE

**COLLOQUIUM ON ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY
INITIATIVE (EITI) IN MEMBER STATES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES
REGION (ICGLR), TAJ PAMODZI HOTEL, 25TH JULY, 2019**

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LEVY MWANAWASA
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES
REGION;

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;

THE ICGLR NATIONAL COORDINATOR ZAMBIA;

REPRESENTATIVES OF COOPERATING PARTNERS

THE DIRECTOR, SOUTHERN AFRICA RESOURCE WATCH,

REPRESENTIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS,

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS MY HONOUR TO OFFICIATE AT THIS IMPORTANT
CONFERENCE BEING HELD TO SHARE STUDY FINDINGS ON THE
EITI IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR) IN
GENERAL AND ZAMBIA IN PARTICULAR.

I WISH TO BEGIN BY COMMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR) AND THE
SOUTHERN AFRICA RESOURCE WATCH (SARW) FOR

UNDERTAKING THE STUDY TO ASSESS THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF EITI IN ICGLR MEMBER STATES. ZAMBIA SUBSCRIBED TO EITI TEN YEARS AGO, AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS BY INDEPENDENT STAKEHOLDERS IS THEREFORE APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY. THERE IS NEED TO CHECK AFTER TEN YEARS WHETHER THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH THE COUNTRY SUBSCRIBED TO THE INITIATIVE HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BENEFITS AND PITFALLS, AND HOW CAN WE IMPLEMENT THE INITIATIVE GOING FORWARD IF WE HAVE TO MINIMISE THE SHORTFALLS AND MAXIMISE BENEFITS. WHAT LESSONS CAN OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION DRAW FROM ZAMBIA'S EXPERIENCE.

EXCELLENCES, DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE ZAMBIA SUBSCRIBED EITI IN 2009 IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR. THIS WAS A YEAR BEFORE ICGLR MEMBER STATES ADOPTED THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (RINR) IN 2010, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE ICGLR PROTOCOL AGAINST ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE REGION. EITI IS ONE OF THE TOOLS IDENTIFIED TO USE IN CURBING ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION

OF NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS IS AN INDICATION OF THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S PROACTIVENESS IN THE PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. MINING IS ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ELIMINATION. TO THIS EFFECT, GOVERNMENT IS KEEN TO ENSURE GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THIS SECTOR TO MAXIMISE BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY.

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS

AS I EARLIER MENTIONED, ZAMBIA JOINED THE EITI IN 2009 IN ORDER TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE MINING SECTOR. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOT AS AN END IN ITSELF, BUT AS A MEANS OF MAKING THE MINING SECTOR RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. IN THIS REGARD, EITI IMPLEMENTATION IN ZAMBIA HAS MOVED FROM MERE PRODUCTION OF RECONCILIATION REPORTS, (IN WHICH PAYMENTS BY MINING COMPANIES AND RECEIPTS BY GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS ARE DISCLOSED), TO ADDRESSING ISSUES THAT INHIBIT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

THUS GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING MEASURES WHICH INCLUDE:

1. MAINSTREAMING TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS SO THAT THERE IS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOT ONLY AT THE LEVEL OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS BUT THROUGHOUT THE VALUE CHAIN STARTING FROM THE LICENSING.
2. INCLUSION OF THE BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE IN THE COMPANIES REGISTRATION ACT IN 2017. IT IS NOW MANDATORY FOR ALL COMPANIES REGISTERED IN ZAMBIA TO DISCLOSE THEIR BENEFICIAL OWNERS.
3. EMBEDDING CONTRACT TRANSPARENCY IN THE LICENSING SYSTEM. THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING A PROJECT THAT WILL ENABLE THE MINISTRY OF MINES DISCLOSE LICENCES AND ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION UNDER EACH LICENSE USING THE ONLINE CADASTRE PORTAL. THE DISCLOSURE OF LICENSES IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS A TRANSPARENT LICENSING REGIME IN THE MINING SECTOR.

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE EITI BOARD AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF ZAMBIA'S STRIDES IN PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES AT THE 2019 EITI GLOBAL CONFERENCE HELD IN PARIS, FRANCE ON 18 – 19 JUNE 2019 ATTESTS TO ZAMBIA'S DETERMINATION TO MAKE EITI USEFUL TOOL. ONE OF THE KEY LESSONS FROM OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT FOR THE INITIATIVE TO BE MEANINGFUL IT HAS TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY. EITI SHOULD BE A TOOL OF PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO REVENUES AND PAYMENTS BUT THROUGHOUT THE MINERAL VALUE CHAIN. THERE IS NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY AT ALL LEVELS OF THE VALUE CHAIN IF A COUNTRY IS TO BENEFIT FROM MINERAL RESOURCES.

EXCELLENCES, DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGHOUT MINERAL VALUE CHAIN TO CURB ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. EITI IS A GOOD TOOL TO USE IN THIS AREA BECAUSE

IT ALLOWS FOR FLEXIBILITY, IT BE TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE LEVY MWANAWASA REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE, THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION AND HER PARTNER THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESOURCE WATCH FOR THIS TIMELY COLLOQUIUM TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS TO DISCUSS EITI IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOWING THE RECENTLY HELD 2019 EITI GLOBAL CONFERENCE.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS COLLOQUIUM WILL PROVIDE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW BEST TO ADDRESS NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN ZAMBIA AND THE GREAT LAKES REGION AS WHOLE.

IT IS NOW MY HONOUR TO DECLARE THIS COLLOQUIUM FORMALLY OPEN AND I WISH YOU FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS.