



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**CLOSING REMARKS OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON
STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
FOR INTEGRATING ACCOUNTABILITY IN NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

BY

**MR. MULENGA JJ. MUSEPA
THE INTERIM STATISTICIAN GENERAL
ZAMBIA STATISTICS AGENCY**

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**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM UNECA HEADQUARTERS, ADDIS ABBA,
LED BY PROF, SYLVAIN BOKO**

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SUB REGIONAL OFFICE, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

CIVIL SOCIETY

ACADEMIA

PRIVATE SECTOR

MEDIA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS VERY GRATIFYING TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFICIALLY CLOSE THIS IMPORTANT TRAINING WORKSHOP, WHICH COMMENCED ON 22ND OCTOBER, 2019. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME ON THE 10TH TRANCHE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT, WHOSE OBJECTIVE WAS TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITIES OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS FOR INTEGRATING ACCOUNTABILITY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. IT IS INDEED GRATIFYING THAT ZAMBIA WAS CHOSEN TO BE ONE OF THE PILOT COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAMME.

I WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY THANK THE UNECA STAFF THAT HAVE TRAVELED FROM ETHIOPIA TO TEAM UP WITH LOCAL CONSULTANTS

OR FACILITATORS TO DELIVER THIS TRAINING. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL THE PARTICIPANTS FOR TAKING TIME TO ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM WELL INFORMED THAT THIS TRAINING HAS ACHIEVED ITS INTENDED OBJECTIVES, WITH VERY GOOD PARTICIPATION FROM ALL OF YOU. I AM, THEREFORE, CONFIDENT THAT THIS TRAINING HAS ENHANCED YOUR CAPACITIES TO DEVELOP, ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INTEGRATION OF ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORKS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. THIS IS A KEY FUNCTION AS WE SERVE IN YOUR VARIOUS CAPACITIES AS PLANNERS, STATISTICIANS, PROGRAMMERS OR COMMUNICATION EXPERTS FROM GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY, THE ACADEMIC AND MEDIA FRATERNITIES.

AS YOU HAVE LEARNT OR BEEN REMINDED IN THIS TRAINING, STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVIDENCE BASED POLICY-MAKING IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL FOR MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT IN THE FACE OF RESOURCE SCARCITY. FROM A STATISTICAL POINT OF VIEW, WE ARE ADVANCING OUR AGENDA IN VIEW OF REDUCED RESOURCES THROUGH AN APPROACH OF “DOING MORE WITH LESS”. THIS DOES NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY A COMPROMISE ON THE QUALITY OF STATISTICS OR

INDEED OUR WORK; BUT RATHER THE EMBRACING OF MORE STRATEGIC THINKING AND PLANNING.

I AM AWARE THAT STRATEGIC PLANNING HAS BEEN A KEY FOCUS OF THIS TRAINING, AND HENCE WE CAN EXPECT A NEW CROP OF PROFESSIONALS WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES IN INTEGRATING ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORKS. THESE CAPACITIES CAN ONLY BE SUSTAINED THROUGH CHANGE MANAGEMENT UNDERSCORED BY DELIBERATE SHIFTS IN OUR MINDSETS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

AS WE HAVE BEEN REMINDED THROUGH THIS TRAINING, ACCOUNTABILITY EMPOWERS CITIZENS TO UNDERSTAND **HOW, WHY** AND AT **WHAT COST** ECONOMIC POLICY INTERVENTIONS ARE ADOPTED. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SHOULD BE INFORMED BY ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS THEREBY PROVIDING EVIDENCE FOR SUCCESSFUL, AS WELL AS FAILED POLICY INTERVENTIONS.

IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT WE BUILD AND SUSTAIN CAPACITY TO COLLECT, COMPILE, PRODUCE, MONITOR, EVALUATE AND UTILIZE RELIABLE AND ROBUST DATA WITHIN A SOUND NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM. I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT GOVERNMENT IS HIGHLY COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING THE STATE OF STATISTICS IN OUR COUNTRY AS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF THE

2018 STATISTICS ACT AND THE ONGOING FORMULATION OF THE SECOND NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS), WHICH IS SECTOR INCLUSIVE. THE PROCESS OF OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE NEW STATISTICS ACT REQUIRES CONCERTED EFFORTS FROM ALL CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS FROM COLLABORATING PARTNERS LIKE THE UNITED NATIONS.

I AM ALSO HAPPY TO NOTE THAT GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN PLACE AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL PLANNING DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK THROUGH THE 7TH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN; THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORKS. AMONG OTHERS, THE AIM OF THESE GREAT EFFORTS IS TO HARMONIZE AND MONITOR PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS. THIS WILL ALLOW FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORKS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS AND PROGRAMMING.

I WISH TO MENTION SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THIS MEETING:

1. THERE IS NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING; NATIONAL BUDGETING AND FINANCING SYSTEMS; NATIONAL AND SECTORAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS, AS WELL AS M & E SYSTEMS. THE IMPLICATION OF THIS IS THAT THERE IS NEED TO CREATE

STATISTICAL AND M & E PORTFOLIOS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES AND STRENGTHEN STATISTICAL CAPACITIES IN ALL REPORTING STRUCTURES. ULTIMATELY, THIS WILL ENSURE THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES ARE IN TANDEM AND IMPACTFUL TO BRING ABOUT TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN OUR INSTITUTIONS AND THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

FINALLY, I NOTE THAT THE TRAINING INVOLVED A LOT OF PRACTICAL WORK IN RELATION TO VARIOUS PLANNING, METHODOLOGICAL AND ANALYTICAL TOOLKITS FOR STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY IN PLANNING. IN VIEW OF THIS, THERE IS NEED FOR FOLLOW UP AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS THROUGH EVALUATION WORKSHOPS AND OTHER MEANS. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PARTNERSHIP THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED WITH UNECA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT IN THIS IMPORTANT PROCESS.

IT IS NOW MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY CLOSE THIS TRAINING WORKSHOP.

MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS US ALL

I THANK YOU.