

Statement by the Zambia Development Agency Acting Director General Mr. Albert Halwampa on the occasion of the Media Briefing on the performance of the Agency in the third quarter of the year 2022 in the ZDA Main Board Room on Monday, October 31st 2022.

- **Management and Staff of the Zambia Development Agency Present,**
- **Members of the Media**

Good morning and welcome to the Zambia Development Agency Media Briefing. I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you today about the performance of the Agency in the third quarter of the year 2022. Thank you for being part of this briefing. You the Media are our very important partner. We take cognisance of your role in helping us reach diverse audiences with critical messages on investment, trade and business development.

A. Economic Overview

Overall, the Country's macroeconomic environment improved. There was a significant decrease in Inflation with the year-to-year annual inflation recording 9.9 in comparison to the same period last year which closed at 22.1 percent. Further, the Country experienced notable appreciation of the Kwacha against major convertible currencies and a minimal decrease in the Market Interest Lending Rates leading to less inflationary pressure and fiscal challenges.

B. Operational Overview

During the period under review, the Agency continued to implement various interventions that were aimed at enhancing the growth and competitiveness of businesses, promoting exports, and attracting investments in the key sectors of the economy.

C. Quarter 3 Performance Highlights

1. Investment Promotion and Business Facilitation

- 95 Investment ventures were registered with an investment of USD 1.1billion compared to 92 investment ventures recorded in the same period of 2021 with an investment of USD 631million, representing an increase of 73.53 percent. The key sectors included Manufacturing; Energy; Mining; Transport; Construction; Service; Tourism; Real Estate; Agriculture and Health with the highest investment worth USD 396 million recorded in the Manufacturing sector.

- In addition, 8,307 jobs were recorded from the 95 investment ventures registered compared to 11,616 jobs recorded from the 92 investment ventures in the same period of 2021¹.
- The Agency signed One (1) Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPAs) with United Capital Fertilizer with an investment of \$308 Million and 600 jobs in a fertilizer production.

2. Actualised Investments

- During the period under review, the Agency monitored 27 projects recording actualised investment worth USD 3.89 billion. In addition, 6,071 jobs were actualised from the monitored projects. The Agency undertakes monitoring and evaluation as a way of ascertaining the level of project implementation.

3. Export Promotion and Export Development

- Total export earnings significantly increased to USD 2.83 billion as compared to USD 2.82 billion in the same period of 2021 representing an increase of 0.35 percent.
- Non-Traditional Exports increased by 24.27 percent to USD 906.17 million in the third quarter of 2022 from USD 729.19 million during the same period of 2021.
- The Agency continued to facilitate the competitiveness of exporters through various services as well as exposure to markets including; Congo DR and Mozambique which resulted in deals worth USD 27.98 million being recorded. USD 24.48 million was recorded from Congo DR while USD 3.5 million was recorded from Mozambique.
- **Exports to DRC:** In the third quarter, a total of USD 906.08 NTEs were exported to DRC compared to USD 299.62 in Q3 of 2021, representing an increase of 202.41 percent

4. Business Development

¹ Q3 of 2021 recorded more jobs because of the labour intensive nature of the Agriculture sector which recorded 5,492 jobs alone

- 1,279 businesses accessed Business Development Support (BDS) Services including; access to market, finance, technology and training.
- As a result, 2,752 jobs were created. This is in comparison to the same period of 2021 which supported 785 MSMEs and recorded 1,236 jobs.

D. Outlook for Quarter 4, 2022

The major factors anticipated to influence the Agency's performance in the remainder of the year are the prospects of enactment of the Zambia Development Agency N.A.B No.19 of 2022 and Investment Trade and Business Development Bill N.A.B No. 20 of 2022, the Bills into Law. The revised laws are expected to strengthen the position the Agency to effectively and efficiently support domestic investment, trade and business development in Zambia, through inter alia the

- Implementation of the USD50, 000 threshold for LDIs which is likely to attract investments in priority sectors and locations.
- The onboarding of the Agency on the Government Service Bus (GSB) will make business processes more accessible and efficient; and
- The Agency is looking forward to the conclusion of the debt restructuring as it will help in improving the business environment and help build investor confidence for more investment, trade and business development.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your kind attention and ask you to go ahead and disseminate this important information to the masses. We commit to consistently hold these periodic briefings every quarter in order to keep the public informed of significant performance achievements of the Agency.

Should you have questions and clarifications related to the above, please do not hesitate to reach out through our Communications and Public Relations office which will be available to provide you with the requisite information.

I thank you and God bless you.