

**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 year 2022 in the ZDA Main Board Room on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2023.**

- **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 year 2022. Thank you for being part of this briefing. You the Media are our very important partner and acknowledge your role in helping us reach diverse audiences with critical messages on investment, trade and business development.

#### **A. Overview of the Business Environment in 2022**

Overall, the Country's macroeconomic environment improved characterised by improved investor confidence. This was triggered by sound economic policies by the Government including stabilization of the macroeconomic fundamentals, implementation of fiscal measures and reaching the IMF Staff Level Agreement on an Extended Credit Facility arrangement with Zambia.

#### **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. 2022 Performance Highlights**

##### **1. Investment Promotion and Business Facilitation**

- 351 Investment ventures were registered with an investment of USD 8.59 billion compared to 255 investment ventures recorded in the same period of 2021 with an investment of USD 3.33billion, representing an increase of 157.96 percent.
- The key sectors included Manufacturing; Energy; Mining; Transport; Construction and Agriculture with the highest investment worth US\$ 4.0 billion recorded in the construction sector.

- In addition, 74,679 jobs were recorded from the 351 investment ventures registered compared to 24,585 jobs recorded from the 255 investment ventures recorded in the same period of 2021.

## ***2. Actualised Investments***

- During the period under review, 184 Investment ventures were monitored recording actualised investment of US\$ 4.40 billion and 19,528 jobs. 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 US\$ 11.77 billion as compared to US\$ 11.14 billion in the same period of 2021 representing an increase of 5.66 percent.
- Non-Traditional Exports increased by 33.09 percent to US\$ 3.6 billion in 2022 from US\$ 2.7 billion in 2021.
- The Agency continued to facilitate the competitiveness of exporters through various services as well as exposure to markets which resulted in deals worth USD 99.61 million of which US\$ 74.96 million were confirmed orders and US\$ 24.65 million were leads.
- **Exports to DRC:** In 2022 a total of US\$1.45 billion NTEs were exported to DRC compared to USD1.09 Billion in 2021, representing an increase of 32 percent.
- The exports to DRC represents 45Percent of the total NTEs for 2022.

## ***4. Business Development***

- 5,523 businesses accessed Business Development Support (BDS) Services including; access to market, finance, technology and training as compared to 4,079 supported in 2021, representing an increase of 35.40 percent.
- As a result 7,247 jobs were recorded in comparison to the same period of 2021 which recorded 6,334 jobs.

#### **D. Outlook for 2023**

- The major factors anticipated to influence the Agency's performance this year is government policy reforms on the ease of doing business. The reforms will help to improve the competitiveness of the business environment necessary for investment attraction, retention and re-investment.
- The strategic focus by the Agency on domestic investment and progressive measures in the soon to be operationalized Investment, Trade and Business Development (ITBD) Act will lead to increased local investment.
- The Agency is further working to reduce the period for the issuance of Investment Licence to below Ten days. In fact, I am happy to report to you that as of 2022, we cleared all the backlog complete application and are starting on a clean page in 2023.
- 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. Like we committed the last time you were here, we shall continue to hold these briefings every quarter so that we keep the nation informed of the performance of its development agency.
- Should you have enquiries and clarifications before these scheduled Media Briefings, 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.