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**FOURTH QUARTER PRESS BRIEFING STATEMENT BY THE ZAMBIA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY DIRECTOR GENERAL MRS. IDAH C. CHELLA HELD ON MONDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 09:30 HOURS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.**

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- **SENIOR MEMBERS OF MANAGEMENT**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY FOR THIS BRIEFING ON THE ZAMBIA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY (ZPPA) ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023. AS THE REGULATOR OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT, THE AUTHORITY REMAINS COMMITTED TO REGULATING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BY MONITORING COMPLIANCE AND RENDERING GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT RELATED MATTERS TO ALL PROCURING ENTITIES.

ONE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023 IS THE AMENDMENT OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT. THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 17 OF 2023 HAS AMENDED SOME PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT AND THIS HAS PROVIDED FOR AMONG OTHER ISSUES GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENTS, THE INTRODUCTION OF A FINE TO DETER A BIDDER'S MISCONDUCT AND THE RESTRICTION OF THE SUBCONTRACTING POLICY TO THE PROCUREMENT OF WORKS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE AUTHORITY IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY ZPPA.

### **INVESTIGATIONS AND APPEALS**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IN THE QUARTER UNDER REVIEW, THE AUTHORITY UNDERTOOK INVESTIGATIONS ON VARIOUS PROCUREMENT MATTERS AND CONSIDERED APPEALS FROM AGGRIEVED BIDDERS ARISING FROM VARIOUS PROCUREMENTS. NINE (9) INVESTIGATIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN. THE STATUS IS THAT FIVE (5) INVESTIGATIONS WERE CONCLUDED AND FOUR (4) WERE STILL ON-GOING AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2023.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY ZPPA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023:

1. ZAMBEZI TOWN COUNCIL – THE AUTHORITY UNDERTOOK AN INVESTIGATION IN A TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1X3 CLASSROOM BLOCK AT MUKONG'U PRIMARY SCHOOL IN DIPALATA WARD OF ZAMBEZI DISTRICT

FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT ON A BIDDER. THE BIDDER ALLEGED THAT THE TENDER WAS FALSIFIED AND TEMPERED WITH AND LATER GIVEN TO YOUTHS WHO DID NOT BID OR APPLY FOR THE SAID TENDER. AN INVESTIGATION WAS INSTITUTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WAS A CONTRAVENTION OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT. PURSUANT TO SECTION 88 (1) (A) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT ZAMBEZI TOWN COUNCIL WAS DIRECTED TO RE-EVALUATE THE BIDS IN VIEW OF IRREGULARITIES ESTABLISHED DURING THE REVIEW.

2. MULUNGUSHI UNIVERSITY – THE AUTHORITY INSTITUTED AN INVESTIGATION INTO A TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BUILDING MATERIALS TO BE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1000-SEATER CAPACITY EXAMINATION HALL AT MULUNGUSHI UNIVERSITY FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT FROM A BIDDER. THE BIDDER ALLEGED THAT BUILD AT HOME INVESTMENTS LIMITED AND ROOFCONNECT CONTRACTORS AND GENERAL SUPPLIERS SUBMITTED FALSIFIED NATIONAL PENSIONS SCHEME AUTHORITY (NAPSA) CERTIFICATES. PURSUANT TO SECTION 96 (B) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT NO.8 OF 2020, THE AUTHORITY SUSPENDED BUILD AT HOME INVESTMENTS LIMITED AND ROOFCONNECT CONTRACTORS AND GENERAL SUPPLIERS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FOR SUBMITTING FALSIFIED NAPSA CERTIFICATE. SECTION 96(B) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT NO.8 OF 2020 PROVIDES THAT: "*A BIDDER OR SUPPLIER SHALL BE SUSPENDED FROM PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WHERE THE BIDDER OR SUPPLIER HAS – (B) PROVIDED FALSE INFORMATION IN A BID OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO A PROCURING ENTITY IN CONNECTION WITH A PROCUREMENT PROCESS OR CONTRACT.*" THEREFORE, THE AUTHORITY SUSPENDED THE TWO CONTRACTORS, BUILD AT HOME INVESTMENTS LIMITED AND ROOFCONNECT CONTRACTORS AND GENERAL SUPPLIERS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FOR SUBMITTING FALSIFIED NAPSA CERTIFICATES.
3. SERENJE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – THE AUTHORITY INSTITUTED INVESTIGATION INTO A TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A MOTOR GRADER TO SERENJE TOWN COUNCIL IN SERENJE DISTRICT FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT FROM A BIDDER. THE BIDDER ALLEGED THAT SERENJE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AWARDED THE TENDER WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE BIDDER THEREBY CAUSING

THE BIDDER TO FAIL TO APPEAL WITHIN THE 10 DAYS' NOTICE PERIOD. THE BIDDER FURTHER ALLEGED THAT THE COUNCIL FAILED TO CONDUCT DUE DILIGENCE PRIOR TO AWARDING THE TENDER. HOWEVER, BOTH COMPLAINTS WERE DISMISSED AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 88(1) (A) AND (B) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT, SERENJE TOWN COUNCIL WAS DIRECTED TO TERMINATE THE PROCUREMENT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A MOTOR GRADER, WATER BOWSER AND TIPPER TRUCKS ON LOT 1 AND 2 OF THE TENDER BECAUSE THE FIRST TIER TENDER INVITATION WAS NOT RESTRICTED TO CITIZEN BIDDERS.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023, NINETEEN (19) APPEALS WERE CONSIDERED AND SEVENTEEN (17) WERE CONCLUDED. ONE (1) WAS WITHDRAWN WHILE THE OTHER APPEAL WAS STILL ONGOING AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2023.

FIVE (5) OF THE APPEALS THAT ZPPA CONSIDERED WERE AS HIGHLIGHTED BELOW:

- I. TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HEALTH POST AT KAUNGU IN CHISOKO WARD AND CONSTRUCTION OF A MATERNITY ANNEX IN KAPALA OF KAPULWA WARD AT KAPUTA TOWN COUNCIL. THE APPELLANT ALLEGED THAT KAPUTA TOWN COUNCIL DECIDED TO DISQUALIFY THEM ON POOR PERFORMANCE AND AWARD THE TENDER TO A BIDDER WITHOUT EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION WORKS. PURSUANT TO SECTION 100(5) (A) AND (C) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT, ZPPA UPHELD THE APPEAL, FURTHER REGULATION 249 OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS MANDATES THE AUTHORITY IN DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATE REMEDY FOR THE PURPOSES OF AN APPEAL TO CONSIDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE PROCUREMENT. OWING TO THIS, KAPUTA TOWN COUNCIL WAS DIRECTED TO TERMINATE THE PROCUREMENT PROCEEDINGS FOR BOTH TENDERS.
- II. TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY- FIVE (10,335) BICYCLES FOR SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER AT THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES. THE APPELLANT ALLEGED THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED MINISTRY DID NOT

AWARD THEM THE CONTRACT ON GROUNDS THAT THERE WAS A MISMATCH IN TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER STATED ON THE DEBRIEF LETTER AND ON THE INVITATION FOR BIDS. FURTHER, THE APPELLANT ALLEGED THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES RELIED ON A NON-APPLICABLE CLAUSE IN THE INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS TO DISQUALIFY THEM. THE AUTHORITY UPHELD THE APPEAL IN PART AND THE MINISTRY WAS DIRECTED TO RE-EVALUATE THE BIDS AS RECEIVED AT BID OPENING

III. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DOUBLE SEATER SCHOOL DESKS FOR LUANSHYA CONSTITUENCY AT LUANSHYA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. THE APPELLANT ALLEGED THAT THE TENDER WAS PREMATURELY CLOSED BEFORE THE DUE DATE. THE AUTHORITY UPHELD THE APPEAL AND THE COUNCIL WAS DIRECTED TO TERMINATE PROCUREMENT PROCEEDINGS AND RETENDER TO ACCORD ALL WOULD BE BIDDERS A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE.

IV. TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EMBARKMENT AND CULVERTS ALONG LUKULU RIVER AT LUWINGU TOWN COUNCIL. THE APPELLANT ALLEGED THAT LUWINGU TOWN COUNCIL DECIDED TO REJECT THEIR BID PRICE WHEN IT WAS LOWER THAN THE BEST EVALUATED BIDDER'S PRICE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS OF THE APPEAL PURSUANT TO REGULATION 249 (2) (A) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS WHICH PROVIDES THAT:

*"THE AUTHORITY MAY GRANT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING REMEDIES:*

*(A) PROHIBIT A PROCURING ENTITY FROM ACTING OR DECIDING UNLAWFULLY OR FROM FOLLOWING AN UNLAWFUL PROCEDURE, AND REQUIRE THE PROCURING ENTITY TO ACT OR TO PROCEED IN A LAWFUL MANNER OR TO REACH A LAWFUL DECISION."* THE AUTHORITY DIRECTED LUWINGU TOWN COUNCIL TO RE-EVALUATE THE TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CULVERTS AT LUKULU RIVER ON NDOKI-MUNONGWA ROAD.

#### **UPDATE ON COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ZPPA UNDERTAKES COMPLIANCE AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS TO ENSURE THAT PROCURING ENTITIES FOLLOW THE LAID DOWN PROCEDURES IN THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT AND THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. ZPPA CONDUCTED COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS IN SIXTEEN (16) PROCURING ENTITIES AND MADE FOLLOW UP VISITS IN EIGHT (8) PROCURING ENTITIES IN THE FOURTH

QUARTER OF 2023. FOUR (4) PROCURING ENTITIES WERE NON-COMPLAINT, ELEVEN (11) WERE FAIRLY COMPLIANT WHILE ONE (1) PROCURING ENTITY WAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLAINT. SOME OF THE COMMON FINDINGS OF THE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS INCLUDED:

- INCONSISTENT UNDERTAKING OF PRICE REASONABLENESS ANALYSIS OR COMPARISON TO THE MARKET PRICE INDEX.
- INCONSISTENT USE OF PROCUREMENT DOCUMENTATION SUCH AS REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS, ANALYSIS SHEETS AND GOODS RECEIVED NOTES.
- NON-CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL CRITERIA DURING EVALUATIONS.
- NON-COMMITMENT OF FUNDS PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD AND DATES OF PROCUREMENT DOCUMENTATION NOT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER FOR SOME SAMPLED PROCUREMENTS.

#### **PROCUREMENT AUDITS AND CONTRACT MONITORING**

ACCORDING TO SECTION 6(2)(I) OF THE PPA, ZPPA IS MANDATED TO INSTITUTE PROCUREMENT AUDITS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE COMPLETENESS AND ACCURACY OF PROCUREMENT PROCESSES TO ASCERTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PPA AND PPR. IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, THE AUTHORITY CARRIED OUT THREE PROCUREMENT AUDITS AT THE LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL, PENSIONS AND INSURANCE AUTHORITY (PIA) AND KAFUE TOWN COUNCIL.

PRELIMINARY AUDITS REPORTS WERE SENT TO THE RESPECTIVE PROCURING ENTITIES, AWAITING FEEDBACK FROM THE PROCURING ENTITIES.

FURTHERMORE, THE AUTHORITY MONITORED 15 CONTRACTS UNDER THE CHIPATA CITY COUNCIL. THIS ACTIVITY IS UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES INVOLVED COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF A CONTRACT. THIS ACTIVITY IS CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO SECTION 6 (2)(L) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE AUTHORITY WILL MONITOR THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO BY PROCURING ENTITIES.

#### **UPDATE ON COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

PURSUANT TO SECTION 57 OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT, PROCURING ENTITIES ARE REQUIRED TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT PROCUREMENT PLANS TO ZPPA BY 31<sup>ST</sup>

DECEMBER OR PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE RESPECTIVE PROCURING ENTITY'S FINANCIAL YEAR.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, 89 PROCUREMENT PLANS WERE SUBMITTED TO ZPPA OBSERVED THAT SOME PROCURING ENTITIES TAKE TIME TO ADDRESS OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE AUTHORITY.

THE AUTHORITY WISHES TO ENCOURAGE ALL PROCURING ENTITIES TO PREPARE THEIR PROCUREMENT PLANS USING THE E-GP TEMPLATE AND TO SUBMIT THE SAME THROUGH THE E-GP PLATFORM. PROCURING ENTITIES THAT SUBMIT THE ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLANS ON THE E-GP SYSTEM ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT HARD COPIES TO THE AUTHORITY. ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLANS IS THAT SUPPLIERS ARE ASSISTED IN KNOWING THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS PROCURING ENTITIES IN A YEAR.

I WISH TO REMIND ALL PROCURING ENTITIES THAT ACCORDING TO REGULATION 87(7) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, PROCURING ENTITIES SHALL REMIT FORTY PERCENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE FOR THE SOLICITATION DOCUMENT TO THE AUTHORITY AFTER CONCLUDING A PROCUREMENT PROCESS.

#### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ZPPA CONDUCTS CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PROCURING ENTITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THEIR CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT AND THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023, ZPPA FACILITATED FOUR (4) SENSITIZATION WORKSHOPS FOR PROCURING ENTITIES AND SUPPLIERS IN CENTRAL PROVINCE, CHADIZA TOWN COUNCIL, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY. A TOTAL NUMBER OF ONE HUNDRED AND NINE (109) PARTICIPANTS WERE TRAINED VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023, ZPPA FACILITATED THREE (3) VIRTUAL SENSITIZATION WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN COPPERBELT, LUAPULA, MUCHINGA, EASTERN, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES. FURTHER, THE AUTHORITY UNDERTOOK IN-PERSON SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP TO ALL PROCUREMENT OFFICERS AND BIDDERS BASED IN THE COPPERBELT PROVINCE.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE (281) OFFICERS IN ADDITION, THE AUTHORITY CONDUCTED SEVEN (7) TAILOR MADE WORKSHOPS IN WHICH A TOTAL NUMBER OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY (120) OFFICERS WERE TRAINED. THE AUTHORITY FACILITATED AT WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS THE CLEANING COMPANIES AFFILIATED WITH THE CLEANING ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (CAZ), ORIENTATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OTHER KEY MANAGEMENT STAFF IN GOVERNANCE, RISK AND CONTROLS IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES. FURTHERMORE, ZPPA CONDUCTED ON-SITE PROCUREMENT TRAINING FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS, SUPPLIERS AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN CENTRAL PROVINCE, COUNTRYWIDE ORIENTATION PROGRAM OF OFFICERS FROM THE ANTI - CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC), NATIONAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT. THE AUTHORITY FURTHER CONDUCTED VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS IN NORTHERN AND NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES WHICH WERE ALSO ATTENDED BY VARIOUS HEAD OF DEPARTMENTS.

THEREFORE, IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023, THE AUTHORITY TRAINED A TOTAL OF ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINE (1669) PARTICIPANTS.

THE FOURTH QUARTER MARKET PRICE INDEX WAS PUBLISHED ON THE 26TH OCTOBER, 2023. THE MARKET PRICE INDEX IS AIMED AT PREVENTING INFLATED PRICES IN THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, WORKS AND SERVICES IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT. SECTION 12(2) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT PROVIDES THAT A PROCURING ENTITY SHALL PROCURE STANDARD GOODS, WORKS AND SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARKET PRICE INDEX ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY. ADDITIONALLY, PROCURING ENTITIES USE THE MARKET PRICE INDEX, AS A TOOL FOR BUDGETING, ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLANNING, AND BID/TENDER EVALUATION. WHERE AN ITEM IS NOT COVERED IN THE MARKET PRICE INDEX A PROCURING ENTITY IS REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE A PRICE REASONABLENESS ANALYSIS.

## **TRAINING OF PROCURING ENTITIES AND SUPPLIERS IN THE USAGE OF THE E-GP SYSTEM**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



IN THE FOURTH QUARTER ZPPA TRAINED SIXTY-FOUR (64) PROCURING ENTITIES IN THE FULL USAGE OF THE E-GP SYSTEM IN WESTERN, SOUTHERN, LUSAKA AND COPPERBELT PROVINCES.

THE AUTHORITY TRAINED FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOUR (474) SUPPLIERS IN CHONGWE, CHILANGA, LUANGWA AND RUFUNSA DISTRICTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023. IN ADDITION, SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THREE (6,943) SUPPLIERS WERE TRAINED THROUGH THE ZPPA HELP DESK OF WHICH FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY (450) WERE ORIENTED IN BID SUBMISSION.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS WHO UNDERGO OUR TRAININGS ARE GUIDED THROUGH EACH COMPONENT OF THE E-GP SYSTEM, ENSURING THAT THEY CAN SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATE THESE TECHNOLOGIES INTO THEIR DAILY PROCUREMENT PROCESSES.

#### **TENDERS PUBLISHED ON THE SYSTEM AND USAGE OF THE SYSTEM**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023, FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHT (5,598) TENDERS WERE PUBLISHED ON THE E-GP SYSTEM FROM THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO (352) PROCURING ENTITIES.

YOU MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT, IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR THE SECRETARY TO CABINET MR. PATRICK KANGWA DIRECTED ALL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS TO UTILIZE THE E-GP SYSTEM FOR ALL PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS EFFECTIVE 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2024. THEREFORE, I WISH URGE ALL PROCURING ENTITIES AND SUPPLIERS TO ADHERE TO THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT AS THE USE OF THE SYSTEM IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TRANSACTIONS IS MANDATORY.

FAILURE TO WHICH OFFICE HOLDERS SHALL BE SANCTIONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 105 (1) (C) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT.

#### **SUPPLIER REGISTRATION**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE AUTHORITY CONTINUED TO REGISTER SUPPLIERS OF GOODS, WORKS AND SERVICES ON THE E-GP SYSTEM. BY THE END OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023, ZPPA REGISTERED TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND FIVE (2,205) NEW SUPPLIERS ON THE E-GP SYSTEM BRINGING THE TOTAL TO SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND TWO (71, 102) REGISTERED SUPPLIERS ON THE E-GP SYSTEM AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2023.

#### **E-GP HELPDESK SUPPORT**

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, THE AUTHORITY CARRIED OUT E-GP USAGE MONITORING OF WHICH 14 PROCURING ENTITIES WERE MONITORED IN LUSAKA PROVINCE.

IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT IN DECEMBER 2023, ZPPA LAUNCHED THE E-LEARNING MODULES FOR THE USE OF THE E-GP SYSTEM. I WISH TO ENCOURAGE ALL SYSTEM USERS TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR AREAS OF INTEREST ON HOW TO USE THE SYSTEM.

SYSTEM USERS ARE ALSO GUIDED TO CONTACT OUR HELPDESK FOR SUPPORT SERVICES.

IN ADDITION, THE E-LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODULES THAT WE HAVE INTEGRATED TO THE E-GP SYSTEM HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO EMPOWER OUR PROCUREMENT PROFESSIONALS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NECESSARY TO NAVIGATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT SUCCESSFULLY. THESE MODULES CAN ALSO BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE ON [WWW.ZPPA.ORG.ZM](http://WWW.ZPPA.ORG.ZM)

**IN CONCLUSION,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

IN LINE WITH THE VISION OF THE AUTHORITY WHICH IS TO BE A REGULATORY BODY THAT CREATES AND PROVIDES A CONDUCTIVE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ENVIRONMENT, OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS VISION HAS BEEN UNWAVERING, AND OUR EFFORTS IN THE PAST QUARTER REFLECT OUR DEDICATION TO FOSTERING TRANSPARENCY, FAIRNESS, AND EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AS WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR A BETTER AND MORE CONDUCTIVE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ENVIRONMENT IN ZAMBIA.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

I THANK YOU!