



**MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**TALKING NOTES FOR THE PERMANENT SECRETARY-  
MEETING WITH CIVIC LEADERS IN LUSAKA DISTRICT**

**JANUARY 2022**

THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LUSAKA  
THE TOWN CLERK  
ALL THE CIVIC LEADERS REPRESENTED  
DIRECTOR SOCIAL WELFARE  
OFFICIALS FROM LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL AND MY MINISTRY  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I WISH TO FIRST AND FOREMOST WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT MEETING FOR THE COUNSELORS ON THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME.

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN ORGANISED TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN YOU THE CIVIC LEADERS AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IS A VITAL POLICY INSTRUMENT FOR NATIONAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND IS AIMED AT REDUCING EXTREME POVERTY AND ERADICATING INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER OF POVERTY. AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, POVERTY IS DEHUMANISING IN ALL ITS FORMS AND THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IN ALL THE **116** DISTRICTS WITH **880,539** HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING CASH TRANSFERS AT A COST OF OVER **K329,212,014.17** EVERY TWO MONTHS PAYMENT CYCLE.

THE NEW DAWN GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AND CONSIDERS THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER AS A MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE AND STRATEGY TO HELP MEET A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND WILL REST ON ITS LAURELS IN ENSURING THAT POVERTY IS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. YOU MAY FURTHER WISH TO NOTE THAT

THE MINISTRY HAS JUST CONCLUDED THE REGISTRATION OF ADDITIONAL **93, 621** SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS.

THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME TARGETS INCAPACITATED AND VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS THAT MANY A TIME ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD BASIC NEEDS. THE BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE **K200 PER HOUSEHOLD PER MONTH** PAID ON A BIMONTHLY BASIS HOUSEHOLDS WITH A MEMBER WITH A DISABILITY RECEIVE DOUBLE THE AMOUNT.

CURRENTLY, WE ARE PILOTING THE ENHANCED ZAMBIA INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION SYSTEM (ZISPIS) THAT WILL ALLOW BENEFICIARIES TO RECEIVE THEIR SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER GRANTS FROM MOBILE OPERATORS OR BANKS ON THEIR OWN AT ANY TIME OF CONVENIENCE.

FURTHERMORE, WE ARE INTRODUCING A CHANNEL FOR STAKEHOLDERS TO REGISTER THEIR COMPLAINTS USING PHONES OR DROPPING PAPER BASED COMPLAINTS TO A DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES WHICH WILL BE ENTERED INTO ZISPIS FOR RESOLUTION. FEEDBACK WILL BE GIVEN TO EVERY COMPLAINANT WITHIN A STIPULATED TIME PERIOD.

THESE IMPROVEMENTS SHOW THIS GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA BETTER AND ARE AIMED AT ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN SERVICE DELIVERY.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER INVOLVES STAKEHOLDERS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS WITH THE LOWEST STRUCTURE BEING THE COMMUNITY WELFARE ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEES (CWACs) WHO ARE THE PROGRAMME'S FOOT SOLDIERS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL. THESE WORK AS VOLUNTEERS.

THE CWACs PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY AS THEY HELP GOVERNMENT IN REACHING OUT TO POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AS WELL AS THE WITNESSING OF PAYMENTS OF MONEY TO THE BENEFICIARIES BY THE PAY-POINT MANAGERS. THEY ALSO PROVIDE REGULAR REPORTS TO THE OFFICERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS, THUS, STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS OF THE PROGRAMME. YOU ARE THEREFORE BEING IMPOLED TO ENSURE THAT YOU ACCORD THE CWACS YOUR MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT AS THEY PROVIDE THE NOBLE AND PRICELESS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT AFTER THIS MEETING, YOU WILL BE BEARERS OF EFFECTIVE MESSAGING ABOUT GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFERS AND PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ENSURING THE CREDIBILITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PROGRAMME IS SUSTAINED.

IT IS NOW, MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGED TO DECLARE THIS MEETING OFFICIALLY OPEN AND I WISH YOU FRUITFUL DELIBERATIONS.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL. I THANK YOU.