



**SPEECH GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY  
AUTHORITY CHAIRPERSON DR. PAUL ZAMBEZI**

**DURING THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS  
AWARENESS WORKSHOP ON BIOSAFETY  
CLEARING HOUSE**

**AT TWANGALE PARK HOTEL, LUSAKA- ZAMBIA**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

**REGIONAL ADVISORS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME DR. OSSAMA ABDEL-KAWY AND DR. LILLIAN MUNYAH NFOR**

**THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO) REPRESENTATIVE, DR.  
GEORGE OKECH**

**THE REGISTRAR AND STAFF OF THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY**

**GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT**

**STAKEHOLDERS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY**

**INVITED GUESTS**

**THE MEDIA**

**ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED**

**DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I WISH TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS IMPORTANT EVENT, THE FIRST NATIONAL  
WORKSHOP AS WE CONSIDER YOU AS OUR KEY STAKEHOLDERS.

AS THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY, WE ATTACH GREAT  
IMPORTANCE TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS WORKSHOP ON THE BIOSAFETY  
CLEARING HOUSE.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

YOU MAY RECALL THAT AS A PARTY TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, AND IN LINE WITH **ARTICLE 18.3 OF THE CONVENTION**, ZAMBIA HAS SET UP A NATIONAL BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE. THE AIM OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE IS TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. IN ZAMBIA, THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE IS THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY.

YOU MAYBE AWARE THAT THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY IS A STATUTORY BODY ESTABLISHED **UNDER THE BIOSAFETY ACT NO. 10 OF 2007**. OUR MANDATE IS TO REGULATE THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, APPLICATION, IMPORT, EXPORT, TRANSIT, CONTAINED USE, RELEASE OR PLACING ON THE MARKET OF ANY GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM WHETHER INTENDED FOR USE AS A PHARMACEUTICAL, FOOD, FEED OR PROCESSING, OR A PRODUCT OF A GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM.

THEREFORE, WITHIN THIS MANDATE, THERE IS ALSO A NEED FOR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND SHARING ON BIOSAFETY.

ACCORDINGLY, THIS WORKSHOP HAS BEEN ORGANISED IN ORDER TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE AS A FULLY FUNCTIONAL PLATFORM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

AT THIS JUNCTURE, ALLOW ME TO DIGRESS A BIT ON ONE ISSUE. THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY RECENTLY APPROVED TWO APPLICATIONS ON HIV VACCINE TRIALS AND MALARIA CONTROL FOR THE CENTRE FOR INFECTIOUS

DISEASE RESEARCH IN ZAMBIA (CIDRZ) AND MACHA RESEARCH TRUST RESPECTIVELY.

THE CIDRZ PERMIT IS FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH TRIALS ON THE SAFETY AND IMMUNOGENICITY OF A VACCINE AND THE TRIALS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN LUSAKA WHILE THE MALARIA CONTROL WILL BE DONE AT MACHA RESEARCH TRUST, CHOMA IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

THE TWO APPROVALS ARE BEING MENTIONED HERE AS THEY STAND OUT AS THE FIRST OF RESEARCH APPLICATION RELATING TO GENETIC MODIFICATION THAT HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BY THE AUTHORITY SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

OTHER THAN THE RESEARCH APPLICATIONS, THE AUTHORITY HAD REVIEWED ALL APPLICATIONS IT HAD RECEIVED IN 2017 AND THOSE THAT MET THE REQUIRED GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS HAD BEEN ISSUED WITH PERMITS WHILE OTHERS HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT FURTHER DETAILS IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR A THOROUGH RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THIS IS WHY IT IS IMPORATNT TO NOTE THAT THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE HELPS TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND TO HELP PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION IN IMPLEMENTING ITS PROVISIONS, ESPECIALLY THROUGH ARTICLE 18.3 WHICH PROMOTES TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

THIS TWO-DAY WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE PARTICIAPNTS WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF AMONG OTHERS THE:

- a) COMMON FORMAT OF BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE RECORDS AS WELL AS THE PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING AND PUBLISHING BIOSAFETY-RELATED DECISIONS.
- b) TECHNICAL NATIONAL BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND IMPACT ON THE INSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES FOR CREATING AND REGISTERING BIOSAFETY INFORMATION AND MAKING BIOSAFETY RELATED DECISIONS LIKE REGISTERING AND PUBLISHING RECORDS; AND LASTLY
- c) IDENTIFICATION OF NATIONAL PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL LINKAGES TO GATHER INFORMATION TO BE PUT ON THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE IN LINE WITH NATIONAL BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK S IMPLEMENTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND TRAINING PLAN;

**INVITED GUESTS,**

I AM SURE THE NEXT TWO DAYS WILL BE VERY BUSY AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE PROGRAMME.

ALLOW ME NOW TO OFFICIALLY DECLARE THIS WORKSHOP OPEN

I WISH YOU ALL FRUITFUL DELIBERATION

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS