

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## REHABILITATION/UPGRADING OF THE MWINILUNGA JIMBE ROAD

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ), through the Road Development Agency (RDA), intends to rehabilitate/upgrade the 102Km road from Mwinilunga to the Jimbe border in Ikelenge District as part of the development of the Lobito Economic Development Corridor. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has expressed an interest to finance the road project.

It is envisaged that the rehabilitation/upgrading of the Mwinilunga to Jimbe road will support the regional integration and cross border trade with Angola through the Jimbe border. Further, it will provide job opportunities to a number of people; reduce the road maintenance costs, vehicle operating costs, travel times; and will provide support to productive sectors such as agriculture ultimately leading to the social and economic transformation of North Western Province. Some of the expected negative impacts of the project are the relocation of structures from the road reserve, loss of vegetation cover, soil and water pollution and an increase in communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDs.

In line with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, SI 28 of 1997, the Road Development Agency has initiated the process of updating the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) reports that were initially prepared in 2017. The ESIA and RAP reports are being updated to:

- Establish a detailed documentation of the prevailing baseline conditions before the road rehabilitation project construction commences.
- Identify the anticipated environmental and social risks and impacts of the project and establish the scale of the risks/impacts and
- Propose mitigation measures to be taken during and after the implementation of the project.

In April 2025 and August 2025 RDA held a series of stakeholder consultative meetings in Mwinilunga and Ikelenge Districts and at major settlement areas along the road corridor such as Lwakela trading centre, Kaleni trading centre, Jimbe trading centre, Mukangala Primary School, Chinyazhi Primary School, Nyakaseya Primary School and Kawiku village. Further, one on one discussions were held with Project Affected People (PAP) settled within the road reserve of the road corridor. These interactions were

used as a forum to disseminate information about the project and to collect the necessary data to update the ESIA and RAP reports.

As an AfDB-financed project, it is envisaged that civil works will commerce as soon as various Financing Agreement requirements between the AfDB and the Zambian Government have been fulfilled which include the approval of the ESIA, RAP and road designs.

The finalised updated ESIA and RAP reports will be disclosed on the RDA website and at strategic locations along the road corridor.

For further information, please contact: The Director Planning and Design Road Development Agency **Lusaka.**