



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

# MINISTRY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

NEW GOVERNMENT COMPLEX  
P.O. BOX 50687  
LUSAKA

## Press Statement

**Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022**

The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development notes with concern the challenges that members of the public are facing with regards to Cooperative registration across the country.

Members of the public may wish to note that registration of cooperatives falls under the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development with the National registration center being hosted at PACRA Offices in Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingstone and all Provincial Headquarters except Mongu, Choma and Chinsali while registration of Associations, NGO's and other entities are done by the Registrar of Societies at Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.

We have noted the overwhelming response that the public has shown towards the New Dawn Governments call to formalize cooperatives and enterprises across the country. As a result of the increased interest and demand for cooperative registration, registration centers have faced some challenges that are ranging from overwhelming frequent inflow of cooperative applications, computer system failures and power outages resulting into the failure of the computerized system being used for registration.

However, the Ministry has also noted with concern the harassment and threats on staff by some impatient clients in some registration centers. We urge the clients to be patient as they seek this service while the Ministry looks into ways and means of mitigating the challenges.

Currently the Ministry is in consultation with SMART Zambia on how best the new automated registration system using the Government Service Bus (GSB) can be used to improve and quicken the registration of co-operatives in all 116 Districts.

The Ministry further wishes to caution members of the public against people masquerading as Registration Officers in the name of the Ministry. The Ministry is aware that some people are being charged fees that do not exist such as fast-tracked services contrary to the prescribed fees under the ministry.

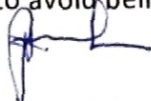
The Government has been facilitating cooperative registration and regulation activities through designated District Cooperative and Enterprise Development Offices present in all the districts countrywide.

The public is further guided that the Prescribed fee for cooperative registration for primary cooperative society is only K10.00 (Ten Kwacha) and any costs associated to the registration

process such as photocopying and printing of required documents are to be borne by the applicants.

We wish to assure the general public that the Ministry shall not hesitate to discipline any erring officers abusing their positions by demanding or charging cooperative applicants fees away from the prescribed amount. We urge the public to report such officers to the Ministry for timely and decisive action to curb the practice.

We implore applicants to visit our offices to avoid being defrauded.



Signed

**Yvonne S. Mpundu (Mrs.)**

**Permanent Secretary**

**MINISTRY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**