



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY  
HON. JACOB JACK MWIIMBU, MP.  
**ON VISA REQUIREMENT WAIVER FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES**

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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS & INTERNAL SECURITY HEADQUARTERS

2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022

## **SALUTATION**

- ✓ THE MINISTER OF TOURISM, HON. RODNEY SIKUMBA, MP
- ✓ THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY, MR JOSEPHS AKAFUMBA
- ✓ THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION, DR. JAPHET LISHOMWA
- ✓ ALL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT
- ✓ MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,
- ✓ LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 BUDGET BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022, ZAMBIA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLING PUBLIC HAVE BEEN ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR THE PRONOUNCEMENT TO TAKE EFFECT.

I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE POLICY PRONOUNCEMENT TO WAIVE THE VISA REQUIREMENT COULD NOT TAKE EFFECT ON 1ST OCTOBER 2022, AS ANNOUNCED DURING THE BUDGET ADDRESS, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

### **1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, POLICY CHANGES SUCH AS THIS ONE REQUIRE PUTTING IN PLACE A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE THAT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IS WITHIN THE CONFINEMENT OF THE LAW.

THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE, AS THE MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, WE MUST ENSURE WE FOLLOW ALL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

### **2. ELECTRONIC SYSTEM CONFIGURATION**

THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION NEEDED SOME TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE NEW VISA POLICY. THE PREPARATIONS INCLUDED RE-CONFIGURATION THE ZAMBIA IMMIGRATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ZIMS) RE-CONFIGURATION, OWING TO THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE WORKFLOWS NECESSITATED BY THE NEW VISA REGIME.

### **3. MECHANISMS FOR POST-ENTRY MANAGEMENT**

THE VISA REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN A USEFUL PRE-ARRIVAL SCREENING TOOL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND OTHER SECURITY WINGS AND HAS ASSISTED IN SUPPRESSING POTENTIAL SECURITY THREATS.

IN LIGHT OF THE WAIVER OF THE VISA REQUIREMENT FOR THE SELECTED COUNTRIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION HAS BEEN WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK TO DEVELOP POST-ENTRY MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW VISA REGIME DOES NOT COMPROMISE INTERNAL SECURITY. THE ONGOING RECRUITMENT EXERCISE, FOR INSTANCE, IS PART OF THE MEASURES THAT WILL ENSURE THAT WE HAVE MORE OFFICERS ON THE GROUND TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH THE IMMIGRATION LAW AND REGULATIONS. OVERALL, THE

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION HAS MADE ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS POLICY ADJUSTMENT.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

ACCORDINGLY, I NOW WISH TO ANNOUNCE THE WAIVER OF THE VISA REQUIREMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CANADA, NORWAY, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CHINA, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, THE GULF STATES (BAHRAIN, IRAQ, KUWAIT, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES) AND THE EUROPEAN UNION.

THIS MEANS THAT NATIONALS OF THE ABOVE-LISTED COUNTRIES WILL NOT REQUIRE VISAS TO ENTER ZAMBIA. HOWEVER, THE WAIVER OF THE VISA REQUIREMENT DOES NOT GUARANTEE ENTRY INTO ZAMBIA AS THE FINAL DECISION TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR ENTRY INTO ZAMBIA RESTS WITH THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT THE PORT OF ENTRY.

**FINALLY,** FOR ALL ITS BEAUTY AND GRANDEUR, THE MIGHTY VICTORIA FALLS MAY NOT BE ZAMBIA'S MOST IMPORTANT TOURIST ATTRACTION; RATHER, IT IS, AND WILL ALWAYS BE THE PEACE AND SECURITY THE COUNTY HAS ENJOYED SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE. WE, THEREFORE, MUST ENSURE WE SAFEGUARD OUR PEACE AND SECURITY AT ALL COSTS.

I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU