



## PETAUKE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CIVIC CENTER PETAUKE AT 11:30 HOURS**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Margaret Mulubwa	Chief Human Resource Officer (Chairperson)
Rabecca Mazunda	Deputy Council Treasurer
Corinne Mwanza	Public Relations Officer (recorder)
Abzack Biswell Phiri	Community Development Officer
Alex Tembo	WDC -Chairperson/ Nyika ward
Charles Sakala	ZAPD Representative
Francis Banda	CCJDD/ CARITAS
Mambo Phiri	concerned resident
Dorothy Mtonga	"
Wilfred Phiri	"
Morris Mwanza	"
Charles Banda	"
Prisca Ukwimi	"
Evans C. Mungungu	"
Mulonzu Geoffrey	"
Lydia Mwenda	"
Mr Phiri	Rep PAMO

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 hours by Chief Human Resource Officer, who was standing in for the Acting Council Secretary.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

The opening prayer was offered by Public Relations Officer.

### **WELCOMING REMARKS**

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present at the meeting and pointed how grateful the institution was that they took time to come for the review meeting on the 2023 budget performance. She further, asked all to deliberate freely once the plenary session was opened as their opinions mattered.

## BUDGET REVIEW PRESENTATION

The Deputy Council Treasurer presented the 2023 budget performance which highlighted the following:

1. The Local Authority's performed exceptionally well in various components of the budget citing licenses being one of them that hit beyond the 100 percent collection efficiency. Others were fees and charges, levies and permits whose collection efficiency has been 75% and above.
2. She also revealed that Owners rates which makes up the largest chunk of the budget of the Local Authority accounting for K4,000,000.00 of its annual budget had the least collection at 50 percent despite the rebates that were offered to the members of the general public in the course of the year as guided by the rating Act.
3. Others areas where Charges consisting of plot premiums as well as lease charges.
4. Further the report revealed that the Local Authority had over spent on plant, machinery, vehicle running and maintenance cost by K 70,653.37.

### Plenary

The Chairperson invited the public for a plenary session

In opening the plenary session, the Chairperson pointed out to the public the many improvements that Council had made this year despite many impending factors that had harbored 100 percent revenue collection as per Councils' expectations such as non-compliance by residents to pay owners rates

The Council Deputy Treasure took time to explain the Rating Act and the process for the valuation to be adopted. Stating that process gave chance to the general public to bargain as well as give options which could further be escalated to the tribunal, which in this case didn't happen. She further, urged the general public to take advantage of the upcoming Valuation consultations likely to start next year as the current valuation roll will be expiring.

The Public Relations Officer placed emphasis on creating a rapport between the Council and the community to enable smooth flow of information between the two parties so that none of the parties will feel aggrieved when decisions are made and she also urged the general public to make Council business their business.

### CONCERNS

1. Lack Of uniformity in the how occupancy licenses are being issued
2. High charges of owner's rates
3. Delay in implementation of CDF projects
4. Lack of continuous engagement with the public (radio discussions)
5. Need to improve sanitation and water crisis in the district
6. Are the services we provide at par with what we demand from the public
7. What is the Council doing about illegal developments within the town

### ANSWERS

The chairperson mentioned that the Council was alive to the challenges that our people are facing in the various wards and that the reason why the council has decided to come up with a Citizens budget that will be developed by June to address some of these issues. Apart from that, the Public Relations Officer reminded the house that Petauke Town Council had planned for town hall meetings to help bridge the information gap that exist. She also informed the house of the one (1) radio program that is aired every Thursday on radio Pasma. It was added however, that radio programs have been planned in next year's budget and alongside community meetings

On the issue of development control, the Chairperson informed the house that the matter will be escalated to the relevant department for action and that the institution was aware of the rampant illegal development that were mushrooming in the district.

#### Any Other Business

The members of the general public felt there was need to increase the license on firearms and ammunition riding on how much as collected this year compared to what was originally budgeted for. They also advised that looking at the adverse

Effects of climate change, it was prudent that the Local Authority should introduce sand and quarry levy to control this vice.

The public also advised the Council to ensure that the burning of motor tires and waste within the township be attended to as the matter of urgency.

Lastly, the members of the public urged the Local Authority to hold regular meeting of this nature to build a rapport with its publics. They also thanked management for this platform.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

In closing the meeting, the Chief Human Resource officer thanked everyone present in the meeting and valued their contribution and submissions.

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READ AND CONFIRMED

CHAIRPERSON ..... WAB ..... DATE..... 13.12.23 .....