MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON REVENUE ESTIMATES AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR 2024, HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2023, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 09:00HRS.

PRESENT

	NAME	ORGANISATION / INSTITUTION
1.	LAURA YUMBA MUNKANTA	MBALA COUNCIL (Chairperson)
2.	BRIGHT SIKANYIKA	FODEP
3.	ELIJAH M. MUSUKUMA	MBULU MARKET COMMITTE
4.	ANOLD MUSAKUZI	MBULU MARKET
5.	MARTHA MBEWE	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
6.	DAINESS NAKASOTE	TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE
7.	JANE CHIBILI	TOWN MARKET
8.	SUNDAY SUCHIMBA	SUNSICHY
9.	FRANCIS MUSKOSHA	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
10.	HARRY MWAMBEZI	KAPESHI WORKS AND TRADERS
11.	KAUNDA CHILEYA	DISTRICT WORKS
12.	MUTALE CHANDA	UPND
13.	GERSHOM SIKAPILI	UPND
14.	MENGO SIAME	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
15.	MAZULE KAMWI	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
16.	MAINZA KACHELO	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
17.	LOMBE CHELU	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
18.	MWANZA SHADRECK	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
19.	LUCY KANUNGWE	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
20.	KENNEDY NSAMA	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
21.	BURTON CHAMA	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

22. AGNESS MWILA	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
23. JACOB CHIMBOKAILA	THANDYJAY STATIONERY
24. REV. EMMANUEL SILWAMBA	PASTORS' FELLOWSHIP
25. SIMBEYA BRIGHT	BINAMUS
26. DANIEL FWAMBO	FARMER
27. STUART SIKAZWE	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
28. SIMWINGA ASTON	KASENGA MARKET
29. JOSEPH SIAME	SUN-TA
30. GRACE NKOMESHA	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
31. SIKASULA STEPHEN	KASENGA MARKET
32. KABALA MARTIN	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
33. KAMA NGWENYA	OLAM
34. SYDNEY PENSULO	PASTORS' FELLOWSHIP
35. STEPHEN SAKALA	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
36. WINZA SIMBAYA	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
37. JEREMIAH NGUNI	MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
38. ELIJAH MUSUKUMA	MBULU MARKET
39. ANOLD MUSAKUZI	MBULU MARKET
40. CHANGALA NELLIE	MAKUNGO GUEST HOUSE
41. JANE CHIBILI	TOWN MARKET
42. BAMBALA ABRAHAM	BAVIKA GENERAL DEALERS
43. BURNSTONE SIAME	COMMUNITY MEMBER

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Opening Remarks
- Introduction
- Presentation: 2024 Budget Estimates
- Presentation: Performance of Property Rates
- Plenary
- Vote of Thanks
- Closing Remarks
- Closing Prayer

SH/01/12/23: Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 09:30 by the Town Clerk who in her opening remarks welcomed all stakeholders and informed them that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Local Authority's budget which is anchored by and has a bearing on all stakeholders and the general public. She also informed stakeholders that there would be a discussion on the poor response by rate payers towards the payment of property rates even after the Council offered rebates.

Stakeholders were encouraged to express their concerns, make contributions and ask questions so that they may be addressed.

SH/02/12/23 Introduction

In his introduction, the Director of Finance briefed the participants that the reason for calling the meeting was to present the Mbala Municipal Council Budget estimates for 2024, avail the 2023 budget performance, and present the 2024 expenditure estimates. He further informed stakeholders that he would like to appreciate their challenges which had inhibited them from paying Property Rates in order to come up with a way forward.

SH/03/12/23: **Presentation by Director Finance – 2023 Revenue Performance and 2024 Revenue Estimates and Expenditure.**

The Director Finance informed the stakeholders that the 2024 Council estimates of revenue and expenditure had been prepared. The total Council budget was standing at **K58,953,471** indicating an increase by 8.67 percent from the 2023 approved budget.

He also emphasized that the total National Support (Grants including CDF) was **K53,539,814.69** translating to 91 percent of the total budget and the provisions for Own Source Revenue (OSR) stands at **K5,413,656** representing 9 percent of the budget.

He further informed stakeholders that the budget performance for 2023 and the previous financial years was poor due to resistance and delays by stakeholders to pay dues owed to the council. The Director Finance appealed to stakeholders to begin paying dues owed to the council in a timely manner to improve the budget performance of the Local Authority which would translate to effective provision of public services.

SH/04/12/23: **Presentation by Director Finance – Performance of Property Rates**

Director Finance informed stakeholders that the Local Authority was still struggling to collect Property Rates due to the continued resistance by property owners to voluntarily pay rates to the Council despite having agreed in the previous stakeholders meeting that rate payers would pay all their dues with the rebates which the Council extended to them. He further informed the stakeholders that continued resistance would compel the Local Authority to engage bailiffs to recover what is owed to the Council as mandated by the Rating Act.

The Director also informed the house that the Local Authority expects to collect a total of **K3,215,411.42** from property rates which can only be achieved with full compliance from rate payers.

SH/05/12/23: Plenary – Questions From the Members Present

During the plenary session, one member from among the stakeholders wanted to find out when rate payers where expected to start making payments on their balances accrued from non-payment of property rates.

In response, the Director Finance explained that the rate payers were encouraged to start liquidating their areas as soon as possible as defaulters would be visited by law through engagement of bailiffs.

Another member wanted to know what the council was planning with regards to introduction of modern payment systems in order to ease the payment process for the tax payers. Council management welcomed the idea and informed stakeholders that the Council has introduced mobile money payments for all local taxes which is more convenient and easily accessible for all.

There was another concern from a stakeholder on the possibility of prioritizing the resources from local revenue towards service provision activities, in response management assured the stakeholders that resources would be channeled towards the provision of Public Services in the District.

Vote of Thanks

A vote of thanks was given by Daniel Fwambo who on behalf of members present commended the Local Authority for calling for a stakeholders meeting and hoped that such meetings be held more frequently in order to achieve consensus and transparency among all stakeholders. He further encouraged the Council to ensure that the collection of revenue is in accordance with the in the budget.

Closing Remarks

The Town Clerk assured stakeholders that all concerns would be attended to in the shortest possible time. She also mentioned that for the council to perform effectively, it needed resources. She therefore requested all the stakeholders to educate the people of Mbala on the importance of paying their dues to the Local Authority timely. The Town Clerk further informed stakeholders that the Local Authority was in the process of receiving and consolidating submissions for the Mbala District Integrated Development Plan for the period 2024 to 2034. She requested stakeholders to actively participate in the preparation of the IDP by making submissions to the Planning Department to be included in the draft.

On that note she declared the meeting closed at 12:15hrs.

Closing prayer

A closing prayer was given and members dispersed.

Mbala Municipal Council

Laura Yumba Munkanta
TOWN CLERK