



### **For Immediate Release**

*Press Release: Monday, 16 November 2020.*

**Lusaka-** The Swedish Government and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have signed the US \$ 3.8 Million partnership agreement to execute the four-year Skills For Energy In Southern Africa (SESA) project.

The regional project, which will be implemented by the Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC), is a build up to the just-ended Skills Development for the Renewable Energy Sector (SkiDRES) pilot Project implemented from April 2019 to October 2020, whose objective was to test and prepare for further skills development for the Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) sector.

The main objective of the project is to increase uptake of Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Regional Energy Integration interventions in Southern Africa, leading to a more sustainable and low-carbon energy mix.

It is expected that by the end of the project more power technicians, engineers and managers in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region have enhanced technical capacity to apply, manage and promote the latest RE, EE and REI technologies. In addition, the project would ensure that KGRTC has built its brand and standing as the region's Centre of Excellence for competitive skills training in RE, EE and RE technologies.

Hosted by the Head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy, Ms Susanna Hughes, the signing ceremony was witnessed by Eng. Kaela Siame, Director of Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC) and respective parties from the Embassy, the ILO and KGRTC.

“Bringing together public institutions, development agents, and private sector actors through this PPDP should bring added value for all partners - it enables broader outreach and scale, through a coherent demand driven approach to skills development. This will help the region to take advantage of the rapid technology development, making renewable energy not only the cleanest but also the cheapest source of power. And to making the most efficient use of available energy. Ultimately, it will help reaching SDG 7 on universal access to modern energy, with reduced climate impact, with increased energy security, at lower costs, and with better use of resources”, said Head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy, Ms Susanna Hughes.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the ILO Country Office Director for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique Mr George Okutho says skills development is a key component of the decent work agenda and is central to people's well-being.

He adds that: “The need for the right skills is critical at a time of radically evolving labour markets occasioned by climate change and other external factors. The major thrust of the

Agreement is through the SESA regional project “**increase uptake of Renewable Energy (RE), Energy Efficiency (EE) and Regional Energy Integration (REI) interventions in Southern Africa, leading to a more sustainable and low-carbon energy mix**”.

“More than 1,600 men and women will be trained in RE, EE and REI under SESA Project. This will sustainably contribute towards increasing the employability of workers, transition young people into productive and decent work, and increase the productivity of enterprises through better quality and relevant training,” stated Mr Okutho.

### **About Power Africa Initiative**

Sweden supports the Power Africa initiative to bridge the financial gap and double electricity access for millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa is a partnership between the public and private sector that started in 2013. It aims to increase electricity access and solve Africa’s energy crisis

<https://www.sida.se/English/how-we-work/approaches-and-methods/funding/financing-for-development/power-africa/>

### **About the Embassy of Sweden**

<https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/zambia-lusaka/>

The overall mission of the Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka is to strengthen and build on the relationship between Sweden and Zambia, through political dialogue, development cooperation, trade promotion and cultural exchange.

### **About the ILO**

The only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States , to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men..

<https://www.ilo.org/africa/about-us/offices/lusaka/lang--en/index.htm>