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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

NDEKE HOUSE
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Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the launch of the Africa Network for Non Physician Clinician Training Community of Practice.

While we celebrate the progress that has been made toward the MDG goals 4 and 5, we recognize that we are still faced with significant challenges, particularly in the area of human resources for health. In most of Africa, there are fewer than five doctors for every 100,000 people. However, many African countries have a set of Health Professionals who are neither Doctors nor Nurses but who perform life-saving clinical functions. These non Physician Clinicians are a vital part of the health system and the team of health workers in both rural and urban areas.

Zambia has utilized NPCs since 1935, with Clinical Officers and Medical Licentiates (since 2002) filling a critical role in providing health care, particularly at the district level. The government of Zambia is committed to strengthen the capacity of these Health Care providers through career progression and appropriate assignment of roles. Thus it gives me particular pleasure that the CoP is being facilitated by my colleagues from Chainama College of Health Sciences in Lusaka.

All of you are participating in the Community of Practice (CoP) as believers in the importance of sharing knowledge, expertise, and innovation. I trust that this Community of Practice will serve as a catalyst for a fruitful exchange of experience and ideas and will promote innovative and enhanced utilization of NPCs across the continent,

Sincerely,

Dr Peter Mwaba
Permanent Secretary
MINISTRY OF HEALTH