****

**University of Malawi**

# SKILLS FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY PROJECT (SAVE PROJECT)

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING COMPLEX FACILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, ZOMBA**

**Disclosure Notice**

The Government of Malawi is implementing Skills for a Vibrant Economy (SAVE) Project with support from the World Bank (International Development Association). SAVE is financed through a national resource envelope of US$100 million from International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) for a period of five years. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase equitable access to market-relevant skills in priority areas of the economy, especially for females and vulnerable youth. The project consists of 4 Components which are; Component 1. Supporting public higher education institutions in increasing equitable access to market relevant skills development programs; Component 2 - Supporting Technical, Entrepreneurial, and Vocational Education and Training to increase equitable access to market relevant skills development; Component 3- Tertiary education student financing and system strengthening, project management, M&E and communications and Component 4- Contingency Emergency Response.

This notice therefore serves to notify interested and or affected persons/ parties and the general public of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that was conducted for the construction of an undergraduate teaching complex facility at the University of Malawi Chirunga Campus with support from the Skills for a Vibrant Economy (SAVE) project. Construction of the undergraduate teaching complex facility aims at improving academic excellence, and access to market-relevant skills development programs. Specifically, the project will increase student enrolment, improve the quality of teaching and research, training high-level human resources, provide research and consultancy services, and disseminate knowledge for societal advancement. Construction activities for the project will involve building of a three-story undergraduate teaching complex facility, which will comprise lecture rooms, offices, pantries, and washrooms.

In conformity with both national as well as the World Bank Environmental, Health and Safety instruments, the project needed to be planned and designed in a manner that enhances potential positive environmental and social impacts and minimises potential negative environmental and social impacts. This was achieved through conducting an environmental and social assessment and preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan for the project that was undertaken by Environment and Natural Resources Management Consultants. The environmental and social assessment identified and evaluated potential environmental and social impacts that the project will generate, proposed measures to enhance the positive impacts and measures to mitigate the negative impacts, and developed a monitoring plan to check implementation of the enhancement measures for the positive impacts and mitigation measures for the negative impacts.

Some of the positive impacts that the ESMP identified included increased student intake at the university, increased employment opportunity of skilled and non-skilled workers and academic staff and non-academic members of staff at the university, and improved teaching and learning at the University. Some of the negative impacts that the ESMP identified included increased air pollution due to increased dust emission; increased noise pollution due to construction works; increased soil and water pollution due to spillages of oils and fuels; increased accident incidences due to construction works; increased generation of solid waste; increased risk of illicit behavior and crime; increased risk of HIV and AIDS and transmission of other sexually transmitted infections (STI); increased risk of safety of staff and students at the university during construction phase; increased risk of disturbance of teaching and learning activities at the university; increased risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV, Sexual harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA); increased risk of child and forced labour; and increased risk of construction works induced traffic congestion.

The Environmental and Social Management Plan for the project site has been presented to the Malawi Environment Protection Authority and the World Bank and is now ready to be presented interested stakeholders for any observations.

The report is now available for reference purposes at any time at the following locations:

* The Malawi Environmental Protection Agency, Lingadzi House, Robert Mugabe Street in Lilongwe;
* University of Malawi, Chirunga Campus;
* University of Malawi website, www.unima.ac.mw;

To this end, the Environment and Natural Resources Management Consultants and the University of Malawi propose to engage stakeholders on the report. Stakeholders and or interested person/parties are invited to participate in the Public Disclosure processes by examining the documents available as detailed above and submit any observations no later than 15 February, 2024 to:

Vice Chancellor

University of Malawi,

P. O. Box 280, **Zomba**

**Email:** [vc@unima.ac.mw](mailto:vc@unima.ac.mw)

Copy dosa@unima.ac.mw

**Phone Number:** +265 1 524 222

We look forward to the public participating in the consultation and disclosure process.