



## For Immediate Release

July 21, 2022

# Award of Radio Spectrum in the 800MHz and 2600MHz Frequency Bands

The Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), has assigned spectrum in the 800MHz and 2600MHz bands at a total bid price of US\$41,550,000.

This follows successful conclusion of the competitive award process that commenced with the issuance of the Request for Applications on April 5, 2022 that culminated in the award of 70MHz of spectrum in the 800MHz and 2600MHz bands to Airtel Networks Zambia Plc (Airtel) at a total bid price of US\$ 29,000,000 and 50MHz in the 2600MHz band to MTN Zambia Limited (MTN) at a bid price of US\$ 12,550,000.

The spectrum on offer was 1 lot of 20 MHz in the 800MHz band, 2 lots of 50MHz in the 2600MHz band and 1 lot of 40MHz in the 2600MHz band. All lots were contested for with the exception of the 1 x 40MHz spectrum in the 2600MHz band. The total proceeds realised from the award of the high-demand mobile and broadband service spectrum is a reflection of the market value of this limited natural resource.

The spectrum award process was undertaken pursuant to Sections 54(3) b of the ICT Act No. 15 of 2009, which requires the Authority to award high-demand scarce resources in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner by use of an open and objective criteria.

The licensing of the 20MHz spectrum in the 800MHz band and 2 lots of the 50MHz spectrum bands in the 2600MHz will provide improved quality of service on both voice and data services as well as facilitate the deployment of 5G services and expand network coverage by ensuring that services are taken to the underserved and unserved areas of the country.

This is a clear indication of our dedication to improve the quality of service in the sector. Consequently, we expect to see growth in network coverage to at least 95% of the population in the next 3 years.

ZICTA remains committed to transparency as well as adoption of international market-based best practices in the management of radio frequency spectrum, and expresses its gratitude to the Ministry of Technology and Science for the consistent support throughout the process and thanks all applicants for their cooperation and participation.

The Authority urges the successful bidders, Airtel Networks and MTN Zambia to utilize the vital spectrum efficiently and effectively in order to enhance the quality of experience for consumers as well as contribute towards bridging the digital divide and promoting an inclusive digital economy.

Issued by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pethel C. Phiri".

Pethel C. Phiri (Mrs.)  
**Acting Director General**