



## NHIMA Partners with ZICB for Universal Health Coverage.

**Lusaka, Zambia – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021:** In continuing with its programme of growing the health insurance ecosystem aimed at providing universal health coverage to all Zambians, the National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) has partnered with Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited (ZICB) to facilitate for payment of National Health Insurance Scheme premiums using the ZICB digital banking platform, SmartPay.

With Zambia recording significant strides on its path to digital transformation in recent years, as noted in the 2020 World Bank Diagnostics Report, the payment of health insurance premiums through SmartPay fits into Government's agenda that aims to deliver public services to all corners of the country through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs).

The ZICB SmartPay solution will provide customers of the Bank with a convenient and cost-effective way for making health insurance premium payments. Catering to both the formal and informal sectors, SmartPay will ensure that every Zambian will have an opportunity to access quality healthcare services through the schemes that are provided by NHIMA. The full implementation of the NHIMA programme will result in equitable access to health services for everyone.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, ZICB CEO Ignatius Mwanza said his institution's partnership with NHIMA will ensure that the agenda of the Government of the Republic of Zambia for Universal Health Coverage is realised. Mr. Mwanza said that, being a bank that is focused on developing and deploying innovative digital solutions, ZICB is excited to be offering to its customers financial solutions that are convenient and aligned to their lifestyle needs.

Mr. Mwanza commended Government for implementing the NHIMA initiative that will ensure delivery of healthcare services to all Zambians without leaving anyone behind.

And speaking at the same event, NHIMA Director General James Kapesa said that the onboarding of ZICB is a continuation of the journey to digitise the operations of NHIMA towards the realisation of the Universal Health Coverage agenda.

“NHIMA is cognisant that its mandate cannot be achieved by the Authority in isolation but will require the combined efforts of various stakeholders to realise the promise of the Government of the Republic of Zambia of providing quality health cover for all Zambians, through NHIMA”, Mr. Kapesa said.

....Ends .....

**Media contacts**

Luke Njovu, [Luke.Njovu@zicb.co.zm](mailto:Luke.Njovu@zicb.co.zm), +260 211 428 700, Ext : 2008

Mobile: +260 95 440 8333 / +260 96 777 5808

**National Health Insurance Management Authority**

Mutolo Mwamba – Senior Public Affairs Officer

[MMwamba@nhima.co.zm](mailto:MMwamba@nhima.co.zm)

+260 977723880

**About ZICB**

Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited (ZICB) was incorporated on the 31st of August 2017. The Bank was created with a vision to foster economic development with a focus on industrialization and commercialization of local business enterprises. ZICB has been positioned to grow into a major player in the Zambian banking sector and is currently growing its capabilities through implementation of the world-class Flexcube Core Banking System on the back of which it is providing robust products and services in line with current banking technologies, including Digital Banking services. ZICB currently has 2 branches – one in Lusaka and the other in Kitwe. Although ZICB is primarily focused on deploying digital infrastructure and Agency partnerships, the Bank also has plans to open more physical branches in other parts of the country in the near future.

**About NHIMA**

The National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) is established pursuant to section 4 of the National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018. NHIMA is mandated to implement the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The NHIS scheme was established by the enactment of NHI Act No. 2 of 2018 and supported by SI 63 of 2019. This is a compulsory health insurance scheme which enables contributing members and those eligible have access to the defined healthcare benefits.