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Arlington, VA - Today, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency announced funding for a feasibility study grant to REV-UP Solar Ventures Zambia (REV-UP) to support the development of a large-scale solar power project in Zambia's North-Western Province. The project will supply clean, stable electricity to Zambian industry and households and has the potential to provide power for two critical mineral mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"This partnership with REV-UP Solar Ventures aims to generate clean, renewable power that will support the Zambian government's goal for universal electricity access by 2030," said Enoch T. Ebong, USTDA's Director. "U.S. companies are well-positioned to provide technologies and other solutions for this project, which will enhance economic growth and improved quality of life for Zambians, while offering the potential to strengthen battery supply chains."

The study will develop technical and financial recommendations to implement the power project, which will combine 200 megawatts of solar energy generation capacity with battery energy storage. Zambia currently faces a shortage of reliable electricity, due both to increasing demand and reduced hydropower generation caused by declines in precipitation linked to climate change. This is USTDA's second battery energy storage project in Zambia, following a feasibility study and pilot project in Zambia's Sesheke District signed earlier this year.

USTDA's feasibility study advances Power Africa, a U.S government-led initiative to increase energy access and end energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGI)'s Lobito Corridor, and the U.S.-Zambia-DRC Tri-partite MOU to strengthen electric vehicle battery value chains in the region.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority infrastructure projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project preparation and partnership building activities that develop sustainable infrastructure and foster economic growth in partner countries.

Solar energy has become a ray of hope as the globe struggles with the effects of climate change and the urgent need to switch to sustainable energy sources. Zambia has emerged as a shining example of a nation using the power of sunlight to power progress and propel its economic growth. Zambia is one of the nation's leading the charge in embracing solar energy.

The nation's dedication to eradicating energy poverty is one of the main forces behind Zambia's solar energy revolution. Solar power has changed the game in rural areas with limited access to electricity. Solar panels have been placed in isolated villages as a result of numerous initiatives and

collaborations, providing the locals with dependable electricity for heating, lighting, and running necessary equipment. This has increased inhabitants' quality of life while also creating new prospects for the economic, medical, and educational sectors.

Solar energy is not only changing Zambia's rural villages but also its urban areas. Urbanization has increased electricity demand, which has made it difficult for the conventional power grid to keep up with the rising demands. To fill the gap, solar power plants have stepped in, supplying clean energy to support the grid and lessen load during peak hours. This distributed energy strategy promotes a cleaner and more sustainable energy mix by reducing the nation's dependency on fossil fuels and ensuring a more reliable power supply.

Additionally, considerable domestic and international investments have been attracted to Zambia's switch to solar energy. Businesses have been inspired to engage in solar projects of various sizes thanks to the favorable regulatory framework, coupled with government incentives and support. The solar energy industry has developed into a magnet for investment, supporting economic growth and the generation of jobs. This includes large-scale solar farms that feed into the national grid as well as small and medium-sized businesses that cater to localized needs.

Furthermore, Zambia has seen a major improvement in the environment as a result of the growing use of solar energy. The nation's greenhouse gas emissions have significantly decreased as it lessens its reliance on fossil fuels. This shift to renewable energy supports international efforts to slow down climate change and helps Zambia meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement.

However, Zambia's solar energy journey is not without its difficulties, much like any transformative process. Despite the enormous potential for solar energy generation, installing solar infrastructure can be expensive initially. Small businesses and communities with limited financial means may find it difficult to invest in solar technology, equipment, and installation.

To overcome this obstacle, the Zambian government has been investigating cutting-edge funding strategies to increase public access to solar energy in collaboration with foreign organizations. Pay-as-you-go programs, lease choices, and user-driven community projects are a few examples of these.

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