Ref: No. MoJ

Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Draft: Greenbelt Initiative Authority Bill, 2016

(Subject to Change)

Author: Chizaso Nyirongo/Task Team 15th August, 2016/ December 2016

GREENBELT INITIATIVEAUTHORITY BILL, 2016

GREEN BELT INITIATIVE AUTHORITY BILL, 2016

MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish a Green Belt Initiative Authority ("the Authority") as an independent body for the strategic oversight, direction and co-ordination of implementation of national irrigation programmes. The Bill proposes the establishment of the Authority as a statutory body to ensure that it carries out its functions efficiently and effectively, as an independent, permanent and publicly recognized institution.

The Bill is divided into four parts as follows—

Part I contains preliminary provisions, including a short title of the Bill and a provision on interpretation of terms used in the Bill.

Part II provides for the establishment of the Authority. The Authority will comprise six appointed members and four *ex-officio* members. The six non *ex-officio* members will be appointed by the Minister . Non *ex-officio* members will have tenure of three years subject to re-appointment for a final term of three years.

Part II also deals with the functions and powers of the Authority.

Part II further provides for meetings of the Authority and its committees and attendance by members of the Authority of the meetings. The Act requires members of the Authority to attend meetings of the Authority in person. It also protects members of the Authority from court proceedings in respect of any act or omission done in good faith in the course of carrying out its provisions.

The Part III provides for the secretariat and administration of the Authority. The Secretariat will be headed by a Chief Executive Officer and will have such management, professional, research, technical, administrative and the other support staff as the Authority shall consider necessary for the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions. The Chief Executive Officer will be appointed by the Authority through an open, strenuous and competitive process in consultation with the Minister for the time being responsible for irrigation. The other staff will be appointed by the Authority in consultation with the Government department responsible for human resource management and development.

Part IV provides for the funds of the Authority and requires the Government to adequately fund the Authority to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its functions efficiently and ensure its independence. The Authority may receive donations of funds, materials and any other form of assistance from a source other

than the Government provided that the donation will not jeopardize or compromise the independence of the Authority.

Part V contains miscellaneous provisions including the duty to cooperate with the Authority, offences, annual reports to Parliament and powers of the Minister to make regulations.

Part VI contains transitional provisions

GREEN BELT INITIATIVEAUTHORITY BILL, 2016

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

- 1. Short title and commencement
- 2. Interpretation

PART II - THE GREEN BELT INITIATIVE AUTHORITY

- 3. Establishment of the Green Belt Initiative Authority
- 4. Composition
- 5. Tenure of office
- 6. Vacancies
- 7. Committees of the Authority
- 8. Allowances and expenses
- 9. Independence of the Authority
- 10. Functions of the Authority
- 11. Powers of the Authority
- 12. Meetings
- 13. Personal attendance of meetings
- 14. Disclosure of interest
- 15. Oath of secrecy
- 16. Protection from liability

PART III – ADMINISTRATION

- 17. Secretariat of the Authority
- 18. Chief Executive Officer
- 19. Duties and responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer
- 20. Removal of Chief Executive Officer
- 21. Secretary to the Authority
- 22. Other staff of the Authority

PART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 23. Funds of the Authority
- 24. Accounting and audit

PART V – MISCELLANEOUS

- 25. Duty to co-operate
- 26. Offences
- 27. Annual reports
- 28. Regulations

PART VI – TRANSITION PROVISION

- 29. Vesting of assets
- 30. Registration of property
- 31. Legal proceedings
- 32. Terms of service of employees

A BILL

entitled

An Act to provide for the establishment of the Green Belt Initiative Authority and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto

ENACTED by the Parliament of Malawi as follows—

PART I PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Green Belt Initiative Authority Act, 2016 and shall come into operation on a date the Minister may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

- 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
 - "chairperson" means the chairperson of the Authority appointed under section 4 of this Act;
 - "Authority" means the Green Belt Initiative Authority established under section 3 of this Act;
 - "committee" means a committee of the Authority established under section 7 of this Act

- "Chief Executive Officer" means the Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 18 of this Act;
- "member" means a member of the Authority appointed under section 4 (1) (b) of this Act.
- "Green Belt Area" means a radius of 20 kilometres along the banks of water bodies including Lake Malawi, Lake Malombe, Shire river and perennial rivers right from Chitipa to Nsanje.

Minister

PART II THE GREEN BELT INITIATIVE AUTHORITY

Establishment of Green Belt Initiative Authority

- **3.** There is hereby established a Authority to be known as the Green Belt Initiative Authority (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and be capable of—
 - (a) acquiring, holding and disposing of real and personal property;
 - (b) suing and being sued in its own name; and
 - (c) doing or performing all such acts and things as bodies corporate may by law do or perform.

Composition

- **4.**—(1) The Authority shall consist of—
 - (a) a chairperson appointed by the Minister;
 - (b) A representative nominated by Farmers Union of Malawi appointed by the Minister;
 - (c) A lawyer nominated by Malawi Law Society appointed by the Minister;
 - (d) An Accountant nominated by Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi (ICAM) appointed by Minister;

- (e) A representative of private sector nominated by Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) appointed by the Minister;
- (f) An Irrigation Expert nominated by Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) appointed by the Minister;
- (g) the following ex-officio members—
 - (i) the Secretary responsible for Agriculture and Irrigation, or his designated representative;
 - (ii) the Secretary responsible for Lands, or his designated representative;
 - (iii) the Secretary responsible for Industry and Trade, or his designated representative;
 - (iv) the Secretary to Treasury, or his designated representative;
- (3) A member of the Authority other than an *ex-officio* member shall not, by reason only of his appointment as a member of the Authority, be deemed to be an employee in the public service.
- (5) The Minister shall publish names of all members of the Authority, as first constituted, and every change in the membership, in the *Gazette*.
- (6) A person other than a person *ex-officio* shall not be qualified for appointment as a member of the Authority if he—
 - (a) does not possess—
 - (i) a minimum educational qualification of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent obtained from a recognized and reputable educational institution; and

- (ii) expertise and experience in a field relevant to the functions and responsibilities of the Authority;
- (b) holds a political office or is an active member of a political party;
- (c) is an officer, member or employee in a public institution;
- (d) is adjudged or declared bankrupt; and
- (e) would for any other reason be disqualified by law from serving as a director of a company or as trustee.
- (7) The Authority may, where necessary taking into account the nature of the matter to be deliberated, invite any person to attend a meeting of the Authority or any of its committees and participate in the deliberations or to make a presentation or to be asked questions, on any matter, but the person so invited shall not be entitled to vote.
- (8) An *ex-officio* member of the Authority shall not be eligible to be appointed chairperson or deputy chairperson of the Authority.
- (10) In making appointments of the Authority under section 4 (1) the Minister shall have regard to the need for inclusion of women.

Tenure of office

- **5.**—(1) A member of the Authority, other than an *ex-officio* member, shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further and final term of three years.
- (2) When making an appointment after the expiry of three years, the Minister shall have regard to the need for continuity in the membership of the Authority so that at least one third of the appointed members shall be re-appointed for the next term of office.

Vacancies

- **6.**—(1) A vacancy in the office of a member of the Authority other than an *ex-officio* member shall occur if the member—
 - (a) dies;
 - (b) is adjudged or declared bankrupt;
 - (c) is convicted and sentenced for an offence against any written law to a term of imprisonment without the option of a fine;

- (d) fails, without good and justifiable reasons, to attend three consecutive meetings of the Authority of which he had notice;
- (e) is certified by a medical practitioner to be incapacitated by reason of physical or mental disability;
- (f) resigns in accordance with subsection (2);
- (g) is removed by the Minister in accordance with subsection (3);
- (h) if a situation arises that if the person was not appointed, would have disqualified him from being appointed as a member of the Authority.
- (2) A member of the Authority other than an *ex-officio* member may at any time resign his office by giving one month written notice to the Chairperson, who shall then forward the resignation to the Minister.
- (3) The Minister may remove any member of the Authority other than an *ex-officio* member of the Authority on any of the following grounds—
 - (a) misconduct or misbehaviour that brings the office of the member into disrepute;
 - (b) incompetence in the execution of the functions of his office as a member of the Authority;
 - (c) in circumstances where the member is compromised to the extent that his ability to impartially and effectively exercise the duties of his office is seriously in question:
- (4) A vacancy in the membership of the Authority shall be filled by the appointment of a new member by the Minister in accordance with section 4 (1).
- (5) A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term of office but no person may be appointed to fill a vacancy of the remainder of a term of office where the remainder of the term is less than six months.
- (6) The period served by a person appointed under subsection (4) shall not be regarded as a term for the purposes of section 5 (1).
- (7) Subject to section 12(5), a vacancy in the membership of the Authority shall not affect its decisions, the performance of its

functions or the exercise of its powers under this Act or any other written law.

Committees of the Authority

- 7.—(1)For the better carrying into effect of its functions, the Authority may establish such number of committees as may be considered necessary to perform such functions and responsibilities as may be determined by the Authority.
- (2) A committee may consist of either members of the Authority only or members of the Authority and such other suitably qualified persons other than members of staff of the Authority as the Authority may deem fit.
- (3) The Authority shall appoint the chairperson and deputy chairperson of each committee from only amongst the members of the Authority.
- (4) The provisions of this Act relating to the meetings of members of the Authority shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of its committees.
- (5) Every committee shall act in accordance with any directions given to it in writing by the Authority.

Allowances and expenses

- **8.**—(1) Members of the Authority and of any of its committees shall be paid sitting and other allowances as the Minister responsible for finance may determine.
- (2) The Authority may make provision for the reimbursement of any reasonable expenses incurred by a member of the Authority or a member of a committee or a person invited under section 4 (7) in connection with the business of the Authority or a committee.

Independence of the Authority

- **9.** Every member and employee of the Authority and every member of a committee shall perform the functions and exercise the powers provided for in this Act independent of the direction, undue influence or interference of—
 - (a) any public office;
 - (b) any organ of the Government;

- (c) any political party; or
- (d) any person whosoever or organisation whatsoever:

Provided that solely for purposes of accountability, the Authority shall be answerable, and report directly, to the Minister on the overall fulfilment of the functions and powers of the Authority.

Functions of the Authority

- **10.** The functions of the Authority shall be to—
 - (a) To formulate irrigation development plans and facilitate the provision of irrigation infrastructure within the Green Belt area;
 - (b) To facilitate development of water resources within the Green Belt area for irrigation farming, livestock improvement and fish farming/ aquaculture;
 - (c) To execute comprehensive programmes for the effective use of irrigated land within the Green Belt area in co-operation with any other agencies involved in irrigation;
 - (d) Promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) on irrigation programmes and mobilize financial resources for the implementation of irrigation programmes and projects within the Green Belt area; and
 - (e) perform any other functions in relation to Green Belt irrigation as it may deem appropriate for achieving the purposes of this Act.

Powers of the Authority

- **11.** The Authority shall, in the discharge of its functions, have powers to—
 - (a) engage persons of suitable qualifications and experience to provide any service to the Authority;
 - (b) request the production by any person, of any document or information which, in the opinion of the Authority, is necessary for the execution of its functions under this Act; and
 - (c) receive donations of funds, materials and technical assistance for the furtherance of its work;

Meetings

12.—(1) The Authority shall meet at least once every three months at a place and at a time as the Chairperson may determine.

- (2) The Chairperson shall convene ordinary meetings of the Authority by giving the members of the Authority not less than fourteen days written notice and may, on his own motion, convene an extraordinary meeting of the Authority at a place and time as he may determine in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.
- (3) The members shall at their first meeting elect a Deputy Chairperson from amongst themselves.
- (4) The Chairperson or in the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson shall at the written request of more than three members of the Authority and within seven days of a request, call for an extraordinary meeting of the Authority, at a place and time as the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson may determine, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, to be appointed under Section 18.
 - (5) The quorum at every meeting of the Authority or a committee shall be half of the members of the Authority or committee plus one member other than *ex-officio* members.
 - (6) The Chairperson or, in his absence, the Deputy Chairperson, shall preside over all meetings of the Authority:

Provided that in the absence of both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson at a particular meeting of the Authority, the members of the Authority present and forming a quorum shall elect one of their numbers to preside over the meeting of the Authority.

- (7) At any meeting of the Authority, the decision of the Authority on any matter shall be that of the majority of the members of the Authority present and voting, and at all the meetings, the person presiding shall have, in the event of an equality of votes, a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- (8) Minutes of each meeting of the Authority or any of its committees shall be kept by the Chief Executive Officer and shall be confirmed at the subsequent meeting of the Authority or committee, as the case may be.

(9) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Authority may make rules to regulate its proceedings and business or the proceedings and business of any of its committee.

Personal attendance of meetings

13. A member of the Authority or committee <u>except ex-officos</u> shall not attend a meeting of the Authority or committee by proxy and where a member of the Authority is unable to attend any meeting of the Authority, he may request that his apologies for failure to attend be recorded.

Disclosure of interest

- **14.**—(1) If a member of the Authority or a committee is present at a meeting of the Authority or at a meeting of a committee at which any matter which is the subject of consideration is a matter in which that member or his immediate family member or his professional or business partner is directly or indirectly interested, he shall, as soon as practicable, after the commencement of the meeting, disclose his interest and that member shall not take part in any consideration or discussion of, or vote on, any question relating to the matter.
- (2) A disclosure of interest by a member of the Authority or a committee shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is made.

Oath of secrecy

15. Every—

- (a) member of the Authority;
- (b) member of a committee;
- (c) member of staff or service provider of the Authority; or
- (d) person invited under section 4(7),

shall, upon assumption of his office, before attending a meeting, take an oath of secrecy in the form set out in the Schedule to this Act and the oath shall be administered by a commissioner of oaths.

Protection from liability

- **16.**—(1) A court action or other proceedings shall not be brought personally against any member, a member of a committee or member of staff of the Authority in respect of any act or omission done in good faith in the course of carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) Where, in any proceedings, a question arises on whether or not an act or an omission was done in good faith in the course of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the burden of proving that the act or the omission was not done in good faith in the course of carrying

out the provision of this Act shall be on the person alleging that it was not so done.

PART III ADMINISTRATION

Secretariat

17. The secretariat of the Authority shall consist of a Chief Executive Officer and other employees of the Authority appointed under this Act.

Chief Executive Officer

- **18.**—(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall be appointed by the Authority through an open, strenuous and competitive process on terms and conditions as the Authority may, in consultation with the Minister, determine.
- (2) The office of the Chief Executive Officer shall be a public office.
- (3) The Chief Executive Officer shall be subject to the directions of the Authority and shall be responsible for the management and administration of the affairs of the Authority.
 - (4) A person shall not be appointed as Chief Executive Officer , unless he—
 - (a) possesses a minimum qualification of a master's degree or its equivalent subsequent to a bachelor's degree obtained from a recognized and reputable educational institution:
 - (b) has proven and shown demonstrable expertise and experience in executive management, administration and economics or irrigation, or in a field relevant to the functions and responsibilities of the Authority; and
 - (c) does not hold a political office.
 - (5) The Chief Executive Officer shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment;

Duties and responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer

- **19.**—(1) Subject to the general and special directions of the Authority and without prejudice to the generality of section 18 (3), the Chief Executive Officer shall be responsible for—
 - (a) the day to day operations and management of the Authority;

- (b) the effective management of the funds, property and business of the Authority;
- (c) the administration, organization and control of the other officers and staff of the Authority; and
- (d) the effective administration and implementation of the provisions of this Act.
- (2) The Chief Executive Officer shall devote his full time to the duties of his office and shall ensure that the Authority is provided with all the information, data, statistics, documents and other materials pertinent to the efficient performance by the Authority of its functions and responsibilities under this Act or any other written law.

Removal of Chief Executive Officer

- **20.**—(1) The Authority may remove the Chief Executive Officer from office on the following grounds—
 - (a) misbehaviour or misconduct that brings the office of the Chief Executive Officer into disrepute;
 - (b) incompetence in the execution of his functions as Chief Executive Officer;
 - (c) incapacity by reason of physical or mental illness as certified by a medical practitioner or medical board;
 - (d) if he is declared or adjudged bankrupt by a competent court;
 - (e) if he is sentenced for an offence against any written law to any term of imprisonment without the option of a fine.
- (2)The Authority shall notify the Minister in writing of its decision to remove the Chief Executive Officer from office under subsection (1) and the reason or reasons thereof.

Secretary to the Authority

- **21.**—(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the secretary to the Authority.
- (2) The Chief Executive Officer shall have custody of the common seal of the Authority.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer may, with the approval of the Chairperson, delegate senior members of staff of the Authority to act as secretaries to the committees of the Authority.

Other staff of the Authority

- **22.**—(1) There shall be employed in the service of the Authority, subordinate to the Chief Executive Officer , other management, professional, research, technical, administrative and other support staff as the Authority shall consider necessary for the exercise of its powers and performance of its duties and functions, who shall be officers in the public service.
- (2) The staff of the Authority referred to in subsection (1) shall be appointed by the Authority on terms and conditions as the Authority shall determine in consultation with the Government department responsible for human resource management and development:

Provided that the Authority may, by directions in writing, delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, the appointment of its staff in specified junior ranks and the Chief Executive Officer shall report to the Authority every appointment made pursuant to this subsection.

- (3)The Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the Authority as the Authority or the Chief Executive Officer may designate, may attend meetings of the Authority and of any of its committees and may address the meetings, but shall not vote on any matter.
- (4)Where, in any meeting, the deliberations of the Authority or any of its committee concerns the Chief Executive Officer or any officer of the Authority designated to attend the meeting, the Authority or the committee, as the case may be, may exclude the Chief Executive Officer or the officer from the meeting.
- (5)Section 14 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*, to the Chief Executive Officer and any other officer referred to in this section.

- **23.**—(1) The funds of the Authority shall consist of—
 - (a) sums appropriated by Parliament for purposes of the Authority;
 - (b) sums or assets that may accrue to or vest in the Authority, whether in the course of the performance by the Authority of its functions or the exercise of its powers or otherwise;
 - (c) sums or assets that may accrue to or vested in the Authority by way of grants, loans, subsidies, bequests, donations, gifts and subscriptions, from the Government or any other person;
 - (d) sums that are derived from the sale of any real or personal property, by or on behalf of the Government;
 - (e) sums that are received by the Authority by way of voluntary contributions; and
 - (f) sums or assets as may be donated to the Authority by any foreign government, international agency or other external body of persons.
 - (g) Financing from the National Irrigation Fund either by way of loans or grants.
- (2) The Authority may receive the sums or assets referred to in subsection (1) from a source other than the Government provided that no sums or assets shall jeopardise or compromise the independence of the Authority.
- (3) The Authority shall, within a reasonable period not exceeding one month, provide the Secretary to the Treasury in writing details of the sums or assets received by the Authority under subsection (1) from a source other than the Government.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, "an external body of persons", means any body of persons, incorporated or unincorporated, formed under or by virtue of the laws of any country other than Malawi.

- (5) The Government shall adequately fund the Authority to enable it exercise its powers and perform its functions and duties so as to ensure its independence.
- (6) The funds and assets of the Authority shall exclusively be under the control of the Authority and shall be utilized solely for the purposes of this Act in accordance with the written directions of the Authority and for no other purpose.
- (7) The Authority shall at all times comply with the provisions of the Public Audit Act, the Public Finance Management Act and the Public Procurement Act.

Accounting and audit

- **24.**—(1) The Authority shall be liable to account to the National Assembly in the manner applicable to Government departments.
- (2) The accounts of the Authority shall be liable to audit annually by the Auditor General or by independent professional auditors appointed by the Authority in consultation with the Auditor General, and the expenses of the audit shall be paid out of the funds of the Authority.

PART V

Duty to co-operate

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Every relevant or competent public officer and public or private entity shall accord the Authority, any assistance or co-operation as may be reasonably required for the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions and responsibilities and for the protection of its independence.

Offences

26. A person who—

- (a) without reasonable excuse, refuses to produce any information or documentation when required by the Authority to do so under this Act;
- (b) makes any statement knowing it to be false, or provides any information or documentation that is materially incorrect with the intention of misleading the Authority;
- (c) without a written permission of the Authority, publishes or discloses to any unauthorized person or otherwise than in the

course of duty, the contents of any document, communication or information of any kind which has come to his knowledge in the course of his duty under this Act,

commits an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a maximum fine of K5,000,000 or imprisonment for a maximum of five years.

Annual reports

27.—(1) The Authority shall—

- (a) from time to time and in consultation with the Minister, apprise the Cabinet, Members Parliament, Principal Secretaries and Local Government Authorities and Councillors on the work of the Authority and in particular on matters that could affect the Green Belt irrigation programmes and on the priorities to be set by the Authority;
- (b) prepare and submit to the Minister within three months after the end of every financial year, a comprehensive annual report on the general conduct of the affairs of the Authority and the activities it has carried out during that financial year;
- (c) prepare and submit to the Minister within four months after the end of every financial year a comprehensive annual report to Parliament on the general conduct of the affairs of the Authority and the activities it has carried out during that financial year.
- (2) The Minister shall lay a copy of every annual report referred to in subsection (1) (c) in Parliament.

Regulations

- **28.** The Minister may, by notice published in the *Gazette*,—
 - (a) on the advice of the Authority, make regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act; and
 - (b) amend any Schedule to this Act.

PART VI

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 29 Vesting of assets of the Green Belt Initiative Trust
 - (1) On or after the appointed date, there shall be transferred to, and vested in, or subsisted against, the Authority by virtue of this Act and without further assurance—
 - (a) the affairs of the Green Belt Initiative Trust;
 - (b) subject to this Act, all property, rights and obligations which immediately before the appointed date were the property, rights and obligations of the Green Belt Initiative Trust.
- (2) Except as provided in this Act, every deed, bond and agreement (other than an agreement for personal service) to which the Green Belt Initiative Trust was a party immediately before the appointed date, whether in writing or not, and whether or not of such nature that rights, liabilities and obligations thereunder could be assigned, shall, unless its subject matter or terms make it impossible that it should have effect as modified in the manner provided by this subsection, have effect from the date of the assignment thereof, as if—
- (a) the Authority had been a party thereto;
- (b) for any reference to the Green Belt Initiative Trust there were substituted, as regards anything falling to be done on or after the appointed date, a reference to the Authority; and
- (c) for any reference to any officer of the Green Belt Initiative Trust not being a party thereto and beneficiary interested therein there were substituted, as regards anything falling to be done on or after the appointed date, or reference to such officer of the Authority as the Authority shall designate.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), documents, other than those referred to therein, which refer specifically or generally to the Green Belt Initiative Trust shall be construed in accordance with subsection (2) as far as applicable.
- 30 Registration of property to be transferred by the Green Belt Initiative Trust
- (1) Where under this Act, any property, rights, liabilities and obligations of the GBI Trust are deemed to have been transferred to the Authority in respect of which transfer a written law provides for registration, the Authority shall make an application in writing to the appropriate authority for registration of such transfer.
- (2) The registration authority referred to in subsection (1) shall make such entries in the appropriate register as shall give effect to such transfer and, where applicable, issue to the transferee concerned a certificate of title in respect of the property or make necessary amendments to the register, as the case may be, and shall make endorsement on the deeds

relating to the title, right or obligation concerned, and no registration fees, stamp duty or other duties shall be payable in respect thereof.

31 Legal proceedings

- (1) Without prejudice to the other provisions of this Act, where any right, liability or obligation vests in the Authority by virtue of this Act, the Authority and all other persons shall, as from the appointed date, have the same rights, powers and remedies (and in particular the same rights as to the instituting or defending of legal proceedings or the making or resisting of applications to any authority) for ascertaining, perfecting that right, liability or obligation as they would have had if it had at all times been a right, liability or obligation of the Authority.
- (2) Any legal proceedings or application of any authority pending immediately before the appointed date by or against the Green Belt Initiative Trust may be instituted by or against the Authority.
- (3) After the appointed date, proceedings in respect of any right, liability or obligation which was vested in, held, enjoyed, incurred or suffered by the Green Belt Initiative Trust may be instituted by or against the Authority.
- 32 Terms of service of employees of the Green Belt Initiative Trust
- (1) On or after the appointed date, the Authority shall, on such terms and conditions as it may with the approval of the Minister, appoint as staff of the Authority such employees from the GBI Trust as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the Authority.
- (2) Where an employee of the Green Belt Initiative Trust is appointed to the service of the Authority, his contract of employment or service in the Green Belt Initiative Trust shall be deemed to have automatically transferred to the Authority under no less favourable terms and conditions than those the employee enjoyed in the Green Belt Initiative Trust.
- (3) On or after the appointed date, any employee of the Green Belt Initiative Trust who is not appointed to the service of the Authority under subsection (2), may—
- (a) be retired in accordance with his contract of employment with the GBI Trust; or
- (b) be re-deployed in the public service on terms and conditions applicable in that service.

SCHEDULE

(s. 15)

OATH OF SECRECY

I,, being a member/having been employed in the service, of the Green Belt Initiative Authority, do hereby swear/affirm that I will freely without fear or favour, affection or ill will, discharge the functions of a member/an employee, of the Authority, and that I will not directly, or indirectly reveal any matters related to such functions to any unauthorized person or otherwise than in the course of my duty.
SWORN at this day of 20
Signature:
Before me:
Commissioner for Oaths

OBJECTS AND REASONS

The principal	object of t	his Bill	is to	provide	the	legal	framework	of the	Green	Belt
Initiative Authority.										

KALEKENI KAPHALE, SC $Attorney\ General$