

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

WATER SUPPLY IN KAMFINSA PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

Madam Speaker, from the outset, I wish to thank you most sincerely for according me this opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the water supply crisis in Kamfinsa Parliamentary Constituency.

Madam Speaker, this statement is as a result of your directive, following a point of order on a matter of urgent public importance raised by the hon. Member of Parliament for Kamfinsa Constituency, Mr Christopher Kang'ombe. In his submission, Hon. Kang'ombe informed the House that there was a water crisis in Kamfinsa Constituency.

Madam Speaker, the Government, under the leadership of Mr Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, places a high premium on the universal access to clean and safe water due to the critical role water plays in sustaining human life and enhancing human and social development. The prioritisation of water and sanitation by the New Dawn Government is in line with the Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 6, which seeks to ensure universal access to clean and safe water and adequate sanitation services.

Madam Speaker, as a clear demonstration of the New Dawn Government's commitment to the attainment of universal access to clean and safe water, the Government, through the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, is implementing various water and sanitation infrastructure projects under the National Rural and Urban Supply and Sanitation Programmes.

Madam Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to update this august House and the nation at large that the reported water supply crisis in Kamfinsa Parliamentary Constituency, specifically Kitwe South, has been as a result of the failure of two high lift pumps at the Nkana East Water Treatment Plant. The two pumps are used to transport treated water from the water treatment plant to the 17th Avenue Distribution Centre. The third one is used to boost pressure. The 17th Avenue Distribution Centre further distributes water to Ndeke, Wusakile and Mindolo

distributions. As a result of the failure of the two high lift pumps at the Nkana East Water Treatment Plant, water supply to Ndeke, Wusakile, Chamboli, Nkana East and West, Mindolo, Chachacha and Twibukishe was affected.

Madam Speaker, the august House may wish to note that on 19th May, 2022, one pump failed due to a broken shaft, and that resulted into damage to a bearing and mechanical seal. As plans to repair the pump were underway, a second pump also failed on Sunday evening, 29th May, 2022, due to a snapped shaft leaving only one pump working.

Madam Speaker, in order to address the situation, the company repaired the second pump, and it was commissioned on Tuesday, 31st May, 2022, and is now operational.

Madam Speaker, the House may further wish to note that water supply has been restored to Ndeke, Wusakile, Chamboli, Mindolo, Chachacha, Twibukishe, Nkana East and West and part of the town centre.

Madam Speaker, following the repair of one pump, the general water supply hours have increased from an average of three hours to around eight hours.

Madam Speaker, plans are underway to install a new pump at the raw water intake within the third quarter of 2022. This will result in increased hours of supply of, approximately, twelve hours and beyond to affected communities. Plans are also underway to repair and commission the third pump within the course of June 2022. The pump will serve as a boost and standby measure. The installation of the third pump will enable reliable supply of water to customers around Kitwe.

Madam Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my Government's commitment to addressing challenges of water supply in Kitwe and across the length and breadth of this country by implementing various interventions ranging from short to medium and long-term measures.

Madam Speaker, allow me to highlight some of the measures that we have put in place to address the situation. In addressing the situation on the ground, in Kitwe, in particular, the Government is implementing short, medium and long-term measures as follows:

Short-term measures

- (a) utilisation of the allocated institution's support funds. This will see the assembly of the third pump, upon procurement of a rotating element; and
- (b) other pumps will be supported by critical spares, such as impellers, in order to reduce on the down time of equipment in case of any break down.

Medium to long-term measures

The Government, under the Nkana Water Supply and Sanitation Phase II, is implementing the following measures:

- (a) procurement and installation of a raw water pump for Nkana East raw water intake. Funds and plans are in place to install and commission the pump within the third quarter of 2022, as earlier stated. This will further enhance water supply reliability to the southern parts of Kitwe;
- (b) to support the above efforts, plans have been put in place to overhaul most of the dilapidated pipe networks in townships such as Ndeke, Wusakile, Chamboli and Luangwa. Once completed, this project will benefit around 850,000 people in terms of access to clean and safe water and adequate sanitation services; and
- (c) the storage capacity for southern parts of Kitwe will be expanded by the construction of an additional storage tank at the Ndeke Distribution Centre. Nkana East Water Treatment Plant will be expanded to enable the plant not only to supply the existing areas, but also new residential and commercial areas.

Madam Speaker, allow me to, once again, assure the residents of Kitwe that the Government, through my ministry, remains steadfast in accelerating efforts aimed at ensuring that the water supply situation is not only brought under control, but also improved upon within the shortest possible time.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to appeal to members of the public to guard water and sanitation infrastructure jealously, as it is being constructed at a huge cost. I also wish to urge members of the public not to waste water, but to conserve and utilise it sustainably in order to ensure that the current water needs are met without compromising the water needs of future generations.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.