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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT**

BY

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MINISTER OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

MAY, 2016

Mr. Speaker,

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to update the nation through this August House on what my Ministry is doing with regard to water resources management and development in the country.

Mr. Speaker,

My Ministry has the mandate of management and development of water resources in the country. The main objective of this mandate is to:

1. Develop and manage water resources in the country in an integrated and sustainable manner;
2. Increase access to safe reliable water so that our water resources can play its role in the social and economic development of the country.

Access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is the foundation for the fulfillment of basic needs and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal now Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As you know, at a global level, the vision under the United Nations is to ensure '**access to clean water and sanitation**', under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6.

It is worth-noting that our national vision 2030 "clean and safe water supply and sanitation for all by 2030" resonates well with the target under the SDG 6. As you are aware according to the 2030 goals:

- i. Improve access to appropriate, environmental friendly sanitation by all Zambians;
- ii. Attainment of 80 percent access to clean water supply to all by 2015 and 100 percent by 2030;
- iii. Attainment of 68 percent access to sanitation to all by 2015 and 90 percent by 2030; and

iv. Fully integrated and sustainable water resource management

The above goals are well aligned to the objectives of the National Water Policy of 2010 which aims to *optimally harness water resources for the efficient and sustainable utilization of this natural resource to enhance economic productivity and reduce poverty.*

Mr. Speaker,

The Water Sector is divided into two subsectors namely Water Supply & Sanitation and Water Resources Management & Development with my Ministry being the sector leader.

- Water resource development through the Department of Water Resources Development (formerly known as the Department of Water Affairs)
- Water resource management (regulation, allocation and use) through Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA)
- Regulation of water supply and sanitation services through the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO).

Water and Sanitation

The Ministry prioritizes water for domestic purposes. Members may wish to note that the Ministry of Local Government and Housing (MLGH) is responsible for the actual supply of the service through local authorities which in turn have established commercial utilities while my Ministry oversees the operations of these Commercial Utilities' access to water and sanitation through NWASCO. NWASCO was established under the Water Supply and Sanitation Act of No. 28 of 1997 to regulate the provision of water supply and sanitation services for efficiency and sustainability. It has also the mandate of informing the public on the performance of the sector. Currently, it regulates 11 Commercial Utilities (like Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company) and 6 private schemes (i.e. companies like Zambia Sugar, Larfarge, ZESCO, KCM, Napundwe,

Kafue Sugar and Kaleya small holders have been issued with licenses to provide water and sanitation services) across the country.

According to the NWASCO sector report for 2015, the water and sanitation coverage levels are as follows:

Area	Water Coverage (%)	Sanitation Coverage (%)
Rural	67	44
Urban	83.5	61.4
National	74	50.9
MDG target	74	42
MDG Baseline CSO (2000)	53	23

Based on the afore-mentioned statistics, it is evident that Zambia has met the MDG targets. However, we await to compare the results with the Joint Monitoring Programme which is a UN institution mandated to monitor global indicators. My Ministry is committed to meeting the new goals/targets set under the UN SDGs and the National Vision 2030.

1. Challenges for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-Sector

While we have recorded remarkable progress in the water and sanitation coverage levels, I wish to bring to the attention of the house that the sector has encountered the following challenges:

1. Reduction of both underground and surface water – Service providers were not able to abstract enough water even when power was available. Examples of areas mostly affected include Lusaka, Mwense, Kalomo, Nakonde, Chongwe, Nyimba, Chibombo, Serenje, Mumbwa, Mkushi, Gwembe and Katete.
2. Increased power outages – Service providers were not able to pump enough water to customers resulting in reduced water supply hours. Consequently billing reduced compromising sustainability of both the CUs and NWASCO.

3. Pollution of water courses especially Copperbelt – made treatment cost high hence impacting adversely on water and sewerage tariffs.
4. Inadequate investment in infrastructure which is dilapidated and inadequate resulting in non-revenue water (commonly known as water losses). According to the 2015 NWASCO report, Non-Revenue water (i.e. water which is the difference between the quantity of treated water distributed in the network and the quantity of water billed-Water losses) stood at 52% which in monetary terms the commercial utilities are losing K736 million per annum. The water losses are mainly through leakages and unauthorized connections.
5. Inadequate storage reservoir tanks especially overhead tanks to counter effects of load shedding.
6. Uncoordinated development planning, culminating in low service coverage.

Mr. Speaker,

Mitigation Measures

In addressing the above, the following measures are being undertaken:

1. NWASCO is working in collaboration with Zambia Environmental Management Authority (ZEMA) and WARMA to help commercial utilities facing pollution of water courses by ensuring that polluters pay for their actions.
2. In order to ensure coordinated planning, Local Authorities and commercial utilities will soon sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the purpose of ensuring service provision in new development areas.
3. My Ministry spearheaded the formation of a National Task Force this year (comprising my Ministry, Ministry of Local Government and Housing, University of

Zambia, Commercial Utilities, NWASCO and Devolution Trust Fund) to address high levels of non-revenue water. In addition, NWASCO has developed guidelines in all areas of operations such as non-revenue water and tariff setting to improve service delivery among water utilities.

4. Further, the government through the Ministry of Local Government and Housing has developed the National Urban and Rural Water and Sanitation Programme (2011 - 2030) to achieve the targets for the Vision 2030. You may wish to note that the urban programme requires a minimum of US\$4.081 billion for infrastructural investment which translates into US\$200 million per year. This is prior to the establishment of the new districts which require piped water and sanitation services.

Mr. Speaker,

Water Resources Management

In order to improve water resources management, government established Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) by an act of parliament, the Water Resources Management Act No. 21 of 2011. My Ministry through WARMA ensures efficient management and regulation of the abstraction and permitting of raw water for social environmental and economic needs. As a matter of fact all water utilities, hydro power companies, farming entities and commercial entities obtain water permits from WARMA. Under the Water Act, WARMA has power to vary or cancel water permits as factors like climate change and social economic interest may dictate. You may wish to note that non-commercial including self supplied domestic water use is exempted from water permits demonstrating government's commitment to the provision of water resources in order to secure livelihoods of communities.

To achieve the above, the WRM Act has placed emphasis on an integrated approach to water resources management with full stakeholder involvement through the

establishment of Catchment Councils and Water Users Associations in each sub-catchment. Catchment Councils are a composition of local representatives of various interest groups to superintend water management in a particular catchment (i.e. area drained by a water body). On the other hand, Water Users Associations entails a group composed of all water users in a given locality. These two decentralized water governance structures among other roles are expected (under the guidance of WARMA) to preside over local water conflicts as may arise.

As members of the house maybe aware, there have been outstanding conflicts on water usage in areas such as Lunsemfwa, Chalimbana, Kaleyia and Kafue flats sub-catchment which have higher water demand than available supply. As a case in point, there has been protracted conflicts within the farming community in Mkushi district as well as the hydroelectric producers downstream which has paused challenges for the Agriculture and power generation sectors. It is gratifying to note that through the establishment of WARMA, there has been improved engagements with water users in this catchment to resolve these age-old water conflicts.

Mr. Speaker,

Under the WRM Act, Zambia has been divided into 6 catchments namely; Zambezi, Luangwa, Chambeshi, Kafue, Luapula and Tanganyika with the purpose of managing water resources on a catchment basis as opposed to managing resources based on political boundaries which presents challenges for downstream users. This approach will bring about equitable distribution of water resources. To implement the above, the delineation of these 6 catchments has been finalized with 3 catchments offices established in Chambeshi, Kafue and Luangwa, this year.

Mr. Speaker,

My Ministry has sadly noted the impact of climate change and its attendant El Nino phenomenon which has rendered the availability of water for social, environmental and

economic needs very challenging, particularly for 2015/2016 season which was projected to receive normal to below normal rainfall.

It is for this reason that the Ministry through WARMA has upgraded 65 River Gauging stations in order to improve the country's data collection for better flood forecasting and planning. There has been further investment in water resources information management through the establishment of an Integrated Resources Management Information System (IWRMIS) for improved data sharing among key stakeholders involved in the management of our water resources.

Mr. Speaker,

Water Resource Development

Members of the house may wish to note that the key drivers of the economy namely Agriculture, tourism, mining, energy among others, rely on river flows, dams, weirs and boreholes all of which are all dependant on secure and well managed water resources.

To this end, Government, through my Ministry has embarked on an aggressive program to alleviate some of these challenges through the development of water sources to ensure water security and its availability through expansion and construction of new dams. Government has already mobilized resources internally from the World Bank (WB) and African Development Bank (AfDB) to rehabilitate and construct new dams in many parts of the country starting with Nakonde, Katete, Ndola (Kafulafuta), Choma and Kalomo for the year 2016.

For the year 2016, My Ministry has a budget of K255, 161,874.28 for water resources development.

No.	Source of funding	Amount (K)
1.	Government of the Republic of Zambia	14,000,000.00
2.	African Development Bank (AfDB)-Grant	9,148,274.98
3.	World Bank-Loan	231,570,076.98
GRAND TOTAL		255,161,874.28

In this regard, my Ministry has planned to construct nine (9) dams and rehabilitate eight (8) existing dams. In terms of boreholes, we have planned to drill ninety nine (99) and rehabilitate thirty six (36), in an effort to ensure that we develop our water facilities.

Mr. Speaker,

Under the World Bank funded Zambia Water Resources Development Project, my Ministry will between 2016 and 2018;

- i. Design at least 100 small dams;
- ii. Construct Twenty two (22) new small dams;
- iii. Rehabilitate Twenty two (22) existing dams;
- iv. Upgrade Twelve (12) existing dams with auxiliary structures;
- v. Develop a Dam Development Investment Master Plan;
- vi. Rehabilitate three canals in Western Province at Muoyowamo, Musiamo and Namitome in Mongu District;
- vii. Develop three hundred (300) exploratory boreholes

To improve exploration and access to groundwater, my Ministry has this year, 2016, procured four (4) rigs in addition to the six (6) drilling rigs which were procured in 2014. These new drilling rigs procured by the Ministry will be made available to Commercial Utilities in order to drill boreholes to help mitigate the water problems.

Mr. Speaker,

In conclusion, although Zambia is endowed with sufficient water resources, the storage capacity is only about 250 cubic meters in comparison to our immediate neighbours like Zimbabwe (400 cubic meters per capita) and South Africa (700 cubic meters per capita).

Therefore, my Ministry is stepping up efforts to ensure that water plays a critical role in the development of this country. We are encouraging the public, private and other stakeholders to invest in this sector.

I thank you.