

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
WATER SUPPLY SITUATION IN KANCHIBIYA AND PETAUKE
CONSTITUENCIES
BY
THE MINISTER OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION (MR MPOSHA),
MP

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you more sincerely for giving me this opportunity to inform the national through this august House on the water supply situation in Kanchibiya and Petauke Constituencies on Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

Madam Speaker, as you may be aware, my ministry is implementing two national programmes namely: The national rural water supply and sanitation programme and the national urban water supply and sanitation programme. These programmes are aimed at improving livelihoods and public health for the people of Zambia.

Madam Speaker, allow me to present a ministerial statement in two parts. The first part of my statement will address the water supply situation obtaining in Kanchibiya Constituency on a matter of public urgent public importance has raised by Hon. Sunday Chanda, Member of Parliament for Kanchibiya Constituency. The second part of my statement will address the water supply situation obtaining in Petauke urban which is also on a matter of urgent public importance as raised by Hon. Banda, Member of Parliament for Petauke Central Constituency.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that the country is facing water supply challenges such as drying of wells and in some cases boreholes, as reported by the hon. Member for Kanchibiya Parliamentary Constituency. This state of affairs could be attributed to climate change which has led to droughts and shifting rainfall patterns which are heavily impacting on the availability of both ground and surface water resources. In addition, human activities such as encroaching on the head waters, indiscriminate cutting down of trees and siltation of rivers among others, have reduce ground water recharge thereby causing the water tables to go down

leading to drying up of protected wells. The country has also witnessed the drying up of some boreholes. This situation has been further compounded by noncompliance to borehole specifications as stipulated under the ground water and borehole regulations No. 20 of 2018 promulgated by the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation.

Madam Speaker, fifty-eight years after independence, our people do not need to be subjected to drawing water from unprotected shallow wells. Our people, especially women and youths, have for a long time suffered in terms of covering long distances in fetch of water. This has made women has less time to engage in income generating activities there by affecting their livelihoods. School attendance by school going children especially girls have been severely affected which has contributed to their poor performance. In this regard, the New Dawn Government under the leadership of His Excellency, President Hakainde Hichilema is determined to ensure that pour people have access to clean and safe water from protected water sources. As a clear demonstration of Government's commitments to ensuring water and sanitation for all, including our people in Kanchibiya Constituency, the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation has signed a contract worth K3,677,867.00 under lot 14 with a company called Ddype Company Ltd to drill forty-five boreholes in Muchinga province. Out of this number, ten boreholes will be drilled in Kanchibiya Constituency to increase access to improved sources of drinking water for our people. The contractor is expected to mobilise on site by the end of October, 2022 and is expected to complete the works by the end of December, 2022.

Madam Speaker, going forward, the New Dawn Administration under the leadership of His Excellency the President, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia is determined to ensure that our people have access to clean and safe water in our communities, public institutions and other similar places. In this regard, the Government has commenced construction of piped water schemes and water bone sanitation facilities in public institutions and other places in rural areas. This will significantly contribute to the reduction of water bone diseases such as cholera and dysentery. This will also promote human dignity among our people.

Madam Speaker, allow me to also address the water supply situation in the urban areas of Petauke District as raised by the hon. Member of Parliamentary for Petauke Central Constituency as a matter of urgent public importance. The house may wish to note that the current water source for Petauke is ground water which has four boreholes that were drilled and commissioned in the year 2012 at the farmers training centre area. This was meant to service the urban areas of Petauke District. One out of the four boreholes is currently not operational due to a decrease in water levels due to the effects of climate change. To supplement the three boreholes and cushion the water supply challenges in Petauke urban, another borehole has since been rehabilitated at an area called Anusa.

Madam Speaker, the other water supply challenges that Petauke urban is facing are attributed to calcium accumulation in the water distribution network. The accumulation of calcium in the water distribution network has resulted in severe blockage of water pipes and meters leading to water supply interruptions and high water losses through the flushing of calcium from the network. This resulted in high non-revenue water and high cost of meter replacements thereby leading to high operational costs and ultimately affecting the water supply to the residents of Petauke urban.

Madam Speaker, the New Dawn Government remains resolute to address the water problems by implementing short and long term measures in Petauke urban and these include:

Short Term Measures

This will involve unblocking and replacing all blocked pipes and water meters as well as drilling of four extra boreholes to supplement the current boreholes.

Long Term Measures

This will involve the rehabilitation of Lusowe Dam to increase water storage capacity, construction of water intake and conveyance infrastructure to take water to the existing water treatment plant. The rehabilitation of the dam is budgeted for under the 2023 Budget while the construction of the water intake and conveyance infrastructure will commence after a feasibility

study has been undertaken. It is anticipated that once these measures are implemented, water supply and calcium challenges in Petauke urban area will be addressed.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to assure the people of Kanchibiya, Petauke urban and the Zambians at large that the New Dawn Government remains committed to ensuring universal access to clean and safe water in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 6 and Vision 2030 considering the critical role that water continues to play in ensuring public health, improvement of livelihood and promotion of human dignity.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.
