

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR

The Minister of Water Development and Sanitation (Mr Mposha): Madam Speaker, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to inform the nation, through this august House, on the planned activities for improving access to water through construction of water infrastructure for rural communities in the 2022 Fiscal Year.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation is responsible for the management and development of water resources as well as provision of water supply and sanitation services in the country. The ministry is implementing the national rural and urban water supply and sanitation programmes whose main objective is to improve livelihoods and public health for the people of Zambia.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that the country is still facing a number of challenges in terms of access to clean and safe water. According to the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) Report, access to improved sources of water stands at 72 per cent of the households, of which 92 per cent are in urban areas and 58 per cent in rural areas. With regards to access to sanitation facilities, the disparity is even worse in that, while access to improved sanitation stands at 54 per cent of the households at national level, 78 per cent are in urban areas and 37 per cent in rural areas. This clearly shows the wide inequality in terms of accessibility between urban and rural areas. The wide inequality is attributed to inadequate investment in water supply and sanitation infrastructure, especially in the rural parts of our country.

Madam Speaker, to address this situation, the Government, through my ministry, with support from our co-operating partners, is implementing various interventions aimed at improving access to water supply and sanitation services in the country. In this regard, the ministry, in the 2022 Budget, provided for the construction of 1,350 boreholes and eighty solar powered small piped water schemes in all our ten provinces. So far, procurement of 972 boreholes has been completed and contracts awarded to various contractors.

Madam Speaker, the distribution of the 972 boreholes by province, contractor and amounts are as follows.

| <i>Province</i> | <i>Contractor</i> | <i>No. of Boreholes</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Western | Zambezi Drilling & Exploration Ltd | 10 | K1,566,251.72 |
| Southern | Fine Corp (Z) Ltd | 60 | K4,721,896.00 |
| | Dyke Company | 65 | K5,729,170.40 |
| Eastern | Sunshine Boreholes (Z) Ltd | 85 | K4,807,823.00 |
| | Nchanga South Enterprise | 100 | K4,866,246.40 |
| Central | ML Drilling and Exploration | 60 | K3,820,000.00 |
| | Orbit Drilling & Explorations | 60 | K3,800,000.00 |
| Lusaka | United Drilling Exploration30 | | K2,400,000.00 |
| | Simplex Drilling & Construction Ltd | 30 | K2,400,000.00 |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----|----------------|
| Luapula | Sweet Waters Drilling | 50 | K3,002,874.60 |
| | Alfrechi Investment Ltd | 73 | K5,240,021.60 |
| Northern | Alfrechi Investment Ltd | 60 | K4,602,532.00 |
| | Sunshine Borehole Drilling (Z) | 75 | K4,649,425.00 |
| Muchinga | DDYPE Company | 45 | K3,677,867.00 |
| | DDYPE Company | 59 | K4,691,115.40 |
| North-Western | GANSU Corporation | 50 | K4,236,320.00 |
| | Engineering | | |
| | GANSU Corporation | 60 | K4,936,264.00 |
| | Engineering | | |
| <i>Total</i> | | | K69,185,727.12 |

Madam Speaker, once the 972 boreholes have been constructed, it is envisaged that about 243,000 people will benefit by having access to clean and safe water. Further, you may wish to note that the construction of the eighty small piped water schemes is under procurement process. Once the eighty small piped water schemes have been constructed, it is anticipated that over 40,000 people will benefit through access to clean and safe water.

Madam Speaker, with regards to the eighty small piped water schemes that are earmarked for construction, the distribution by province is as follows:

| <i>Province</i> | <i>Allocated piped water schemes</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Central | 11 |
| Copperbelt | 7 |
| Eastern | 9 |
| Luapula | 10 |
| Lusaka | 7 |
| Muchinga | 8 |
| Northern | 9 |
| North-Western | 9 |
| Southern | 8 |
| Western | 2 |
| <i>Total</i> | 80 |

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, the ministry, with support from our co-operating partners, is implementing a number of water supply and sanitation projects in rural areas. Some of the notable projects include the transforming of rural livelihoods in western Zambia, which involves drilling 2,100 boreholes and installing ten solar powered medium piped water schemes to improve access to water among rural communities. Once completed, the boreholes and piped

water schemes are expected to benefit around 525,000 people and 15,000 people, respectively, through improved access to clean and safe water.

Madam Speaker, the Government is also implementing the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project in refugee settlements and host communities in Nchelenge, Kaoma and Lusaka districts with support from the German Government, through the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). This involves the construction of over 300 boreholes and sixteen solar powered medium piped water schemes, which are expected to benefit around 75,000 people and 16,000 people, respectively. This august House may wish to note that the ministry is undertaking borehole rehabilitation countrywide to accelerate universal access to clean and safe water and improve the livelihood of our people.

Madam Speaker, the ministry plans to rehabilitate five small dams for multipurpose use which include irrigation, fish farming and animal watering among others. These dams are being rehabilitated at a total cost of K23,320,519.01. The distribution and cost of these dams is as follows:

| <i>Name of Dam</i> | <i>District</i> | <i>Province</i> | <i>Cost</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mitukutuku | Solwezi | North-Western | K3,943,004.73 |
| Akansokoshi | Luwingu | Northern | K724,431.20 |
| Singonya | Monze | Southern | K4,984,683.71 |
| Siazwela | Sinazongwe | Southern | K4,032,697.28 |
| Mwase | Lundazi | Eastern | K6,635,702.09 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | K23,320,519.01 |

Madam Speaker, the dams were selected based on the assessment that was undertaken considering the required works as well as the available resources. You may further wish to note that the ministry has been undertaking countrywide assessment of dams to establish the status and location for planning purposes. So far, four provinces have been covered and the exercise is still ongoing.

Madam speaker, the rehabilitation of these dams is being undertaken by the Zambian National Service (ZNS), through an agreement that was signed in August 2022. You may wish to further note that rehabilitation works commenced in September 2022 and are expected to be completed in December this year. The rehabilitation of the dams is expected to restore and prolong the lifespan of the dams and continue to provide the much-needed water to help sustain various livelihood activities derived from the use of water such as livestock, watering, gardening, fishing as well as water for domestic use. Once completed, the rehabilitated dams are expected to benefit over 21,000 people through their various livelihood activities.

Madam Speaker, let me also use this opportunity to state here that the New Dawn Government and, indeed, the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation recognises and appreciates the co-operation and support that various stakeholders, including the hon. Members of Parliament both from you right and your left, have continued to render to the ministry and to our citizens through water resources development, water supply and sanitation services. The ministry will continue to strengthen its collaboration with our co-operating partners and the various stakeholders in our quest to improve access to clean and safe water and sanitation services in our country.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to encourage hon. Members of Parliament to continue sensitising people in the various constituencies on the importance of taking ownership and safeguarding the water and sanitation infrastructure, which the Government is putting up in different parts of the country at a great cost. I wish also to take this opportunity to appeal to the hon. Members of Parliament to prioritise water and sanitation projects using the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), as this is fundamental to the human and social development of our country.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.