

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**ON THE**

**. SHUTDOWN OF IOLANDA (1) WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN KAFUE**

**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 nation through this august House on the matter of urgent public importance regarding the planned shutdown of Iolanda one Water Treatment Plant situated in Kafue District. This is meant to facilitate major repair works on the main transmission pipeline to Lusaka.

Madam Speaker, as you may be aware, my ministry is implementing the national rural water supply and sanitation programme and the national urban water supply and sanitation programme in order to improve the livelihoods and public health of the people of Zambia. However, in doing so, we are from time to time faced with challenges for which we are determined to resolve.

Madam Speaker, allow me to address the eminent shutdown of Iolanda one Water Treatment Plant in Kafue District to facilitate repair works on the main transmission pipeline to Lusaka which has been necessitated by failure of the pipeline due to its age.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that 55 per cent of the water supplied to Lusaka city is from Kafue River through the pipelines over a distance of 65 km. One of these pipelines was constructed in 1970 and has outlived its useful life. It is this pipeline Madam Speaker that has developed a serious leakage at one critical joint which is the first bend from the treatment plant in Kafue District.

Madam Speaker, to avoid a catastrophic failure of the pipeline, Lusaka Water Supply and Sanitation Company (LWSC) with the support of my ministry would like to carry out emergency

major repairs to this pipeline and fix the leaking point. The works have been planned to be carried out in-house by LWSC with support from my ministry.

Madam Speaker, the repair of this leakage is a short-term solution to the sustainable supply of water to the city of Lusaka. The long-term plan is to develop additional water treatment plant at Iolanda in Kafue District to meet the growing daily demand for water supply to the city of Lusaka. In view of the above, my ministry will be mobilising resources to finance the development of the new water treatment plant that will comprise of new booster stations and a new pipeline to supply Lusaka City.

Madam Speaker, in this regard, my ministry would like to inform this august House that in order for LWSC to successfully carry out these emergency major repair works on the pipeline, the treatment plant and the pipeline will have to be shut down for a period not exceeding sixty days beginning 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

This amount of time is required to ensure that the concrete that will be cast as part of the repair works cures and reaches its full strength to avoid premature failure.

Madam Speaker, my ministry will ensure that LWSC puts in place mitigation measures to reduce the stress of water supply for the parts of the city that will be affected. Some of the measures will be rationing of water supply and delivery of water supply by water bowsers to some parts of the city. However, the residents of Lusaka are advised to make arrangements for storing adequate water during this period. I want to repeat, the residents of Lusaka are advised to make adequate arrangements for storing water during this period.

Madam Speaker, I would like to assure this House that critical facilities like hospitals will be prioritised to have continuous water supply. My ministry will closely monitor the works and provide all the necessary support to ensure that the works are completed on time and normal supply resumes.

Madam Speaker, allow me to request that this effort by LWSC to carry out these works be supported by hon. Members of this House. In particular, those from Lusaka District, to accompany me to visit the Naboye Leak Site in order to not only appreciate the nature and magnitude of the problem being resolved that will give rise to reduced water supply to some parts of Lusaka and to their constituencies within Lusaka District for the next 60 days, but to also assist with dissemination of information regarding the highlighted problem.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, let me assure our citizens through this house that the United Party for National Development (UPND) New Dawn Government remains committed to providing universal access to clean and safe water in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6 and the 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.

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