

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
REPAIRING OF THE IOLANDA ONE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
BY
THE MINISTER OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION (MR
MPOSHA), MP

Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to brief the House, and through this House the nation at large, on the progress made on the repair works on the Iolanda One Pipeline.

Madam Speaker, the House will recall that on 12th September, 2023, I informed the nation through this House on a matter of urgent public importance. This was with regard to the shutdown of the Iolanda One Water Treatment Plant in Kafue in order to facilitate the repair works on the main transmission pipeline to Lusaka for a period not exceeding two months. Through this statement, I wish to update the House and the nation at large on the progress made so far.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to report that immediately after the announcement I made on the Floor of the House on 12th September, 2023, our Lusaka-based hon. Members of Parliament were taken to the site in the company of various media personnel to physically show them what we had reported on the Floor of the House. In addition, Lusaka-based honourable councillors were also taken to the site and the Lusaka Water and Sanitation Company (LWSC) further engaged the media through a press briefing on the issue before shutting down the pipeline on Monday, 18th September, 2023.

Thereafter, Madam Speaker, a team of engineers from LWSC went on to start the repair works and worked sixteen hours daily and managed to conclude the repair works on 29th September, 2023. Prior to the completion of the said works, on 27th September, 2023, I personally undertook an inspection on the said repair works in the company of members of the press. All this was being done to keep our people in Lusaka and the nation at large informed about the progress on the repairs.

Madam Speaker, I am, therefore, delighted to once again address this House on this matter, but this to time around to inform the nation through this House that the repair works were concluded on 29th September, 2023, and that the works were undertaken within eleven days against the initial planned period of twenty days.

Madam Speaker, I wish to state that the completed works, besides replacing the leaking pipe bend, included the casting of a concrete support block, which has been allowed to cure for twenty-one days to attain adequate strength to support the pipe. As such, we are currently in the period where we are allowing the concrete to fully cure, which is a period of twenty-one days, effective 30th September, 2023.

Madam Speaker, I am also glad to inform this House and the nation that the twenty-one days curing period for the concrete support block, which as earlier stated commenced on 30th September, 2023, will end on 20th October, 2023. The team of engineers from LWSC will then undertake pressure testing of the pipeline for a maximum period of forty-eight hours immediately after the curing period on 20th October, 2023.

Madam Speaker, in view of the above, I wish to report that the Iolanda One Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to resume operations on 22nd October, 2023. I wish to repeat that in view of the above, I wish to report that the Iolanda One Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to resume fully operations on 22nd October, 2023. This will be exactly thirty-four days from the time the works were started. As you would recall, LWSC had initially requested for sixty days, but the effort put in has resulted in the completion of the said works in almost half the time indicated prior to the commencement of the repair works.

Madam Speaker, I am fully aware of the water supply challenges our people in the City of Lusaka are facing because of the shutdown of the Iolanda 1 Water Treatment Plant. I am further alive to the impact this undertaking has had on the lives of our people in Lusaka and that this undertaking is at a critical time of the year when water is needed the most.

Madam Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention that even during these difficult times, the utility company which is Lusaka Water Supply and Sanitation Company (LWSC) has made it possible for our critical installation such as the University Teaching Hospital (UTH), Maina Soko Military Hospital, Levy Mwanawasa Hospital, just to mention a few have steady piped

water supply on a daily basis. Furthermore, the utility company has been deploying water bowsers to communities that have been severely affected to mitigate the impact.

Madam Speaker, I wish to end my statement by assuring the people of our City of Lusaka that once the water treated plant becomes operational the challenges being faced will be minimised.

Allow me further, Madam Speaker, to place my sincere apologies to the affected people in the City of Lusaka for the convenience shutdown may have caused to them. However, it is worth noting that the repair works were extremely necessary to avert daily loss of about 20 million litres of treated water.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.
