



ZAMBEZI RIVER AUTHORITY

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COMMUNIQUÉ BY THE ZAMBEZI RIVER AUTHORITY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOLLOWING ITS 38TH MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY, 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS PLATFORM

The Zambezi River Authority Council of Ministers held its 38th Session on 28th January 2021 to receive progress reports on the preparatory activities for the implementation of the 2400MW Batoka Gorge Hydro-Electric Scheme, the on-going Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project and approve the Zambezi River Authority's 2021 Budget, among others.

Amongst the key issues discussed were the following:

1. DEVELOPMENT OF THE BATOKA GORGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME (BGHES)

The Council of Ministers **NOTED** the significant progress made at BGHES.

The Council of Ministers was briefed that the public disclosure process for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study was completed and the updating of study has commenced whereby a revised report will be submitted to Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) and Environmental Management Agency (EMA) by mid-March 2021.

The Council of Ministers **NOTED** with gratitude that the Africa Legal Support Facility (ALSF) had started to provide legal, financial, and technical advisory services that would assist the Zambezi River Authority in undertaking negotiations with the Developer.

2. KARIBA DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT (KDRP)

The Council of Ministers recognised that the Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project was a complex and very essential project with the objective of improving the safety and increasing the lifespan of the Kariba Dam.

The Council of Ministers further noted that early delays in contracting the works were compounded by unforeseen technical challenges and more recently supply constraints due to outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic. This will result in a cumulative delay of two years. Notwithstanding the delays, it remains possible to complete the KDRP project within the timeframe due to primarily the modified designs of the spillway refurbishment.

3. ZAMBEZI VALLEY DEVELOPMENT FUND (ZVDF)

The Council of Ministers **NOTED** that the Authority has continued to carry out various planned projects under the Zambezi Valley Development Fund (ZVDF), as part of an ongoing effort to improve the well-being of the communities that were displaced during the construction of the Kariba Dam.

Various projects have been implemented in the areas of irrigation schemes, water supply, health facilities and education which included housing for teaching staff and health workers.

The Council of Ministers also **NOTED** progress that has been made to-date and commended the Authority for the good work.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORITY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2021

The Council of Ministers **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED** the Zambezi River Authority's 2021 annual budget totaling USD 71,298,329. The Budget shall be financed through a combination of internally generated funds and amortized Loans and Grants sourced from Cooperating partners comprising of the World Bank, African Development Bank (AFDB), European Union (EU) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

5. HYDROLOGICAL SITUATION AT KARIBA


The Council of Ministers **NOTED** that the Hydrological situation at Kariba Dam is encouraging during this time of the year as the Lake level increased by 2.53m during the period 1st January 2020 to 27th January 2021 from 476.67m to 479.20m which is 3.70m above the Minimum Operating Level (MOL) of 475.50m, and that it has continued to register a positive rise and further expected to sustain this rise during this period of the 2020/21 rainfall season.

The Council of Ministers **NOTED** that following the 2020/2021 rainfall projections made by both local and regional weather experts of normal to above normal rainfall for the Zambezi River Basin, the Authority allocated 30 Billion Cubic Meter of water to be shared equally by ZESCO and Zimbabwe Power Company for 2021 power generation at Kariba. The Authority shall conduct quarterly reviews of the allocations thus giving room to increase allocation should the water levels increase further.

6. ROTATION OF THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP

The 2021 Council of Ministers Chairpersonship was handed over to Zambia.

The Chairpersonship rotates annually and therefore, the outgoing Chairperson, Hon. Zhemu Soda, MP, Minister for Energy and Power Development, Zimbabwe, handed over to the incoming Chairperson Hon. Mathew Nkhuwa, MP, Minister of Energy for Zambia, who assumed the role of Chairperson for the year 2021.



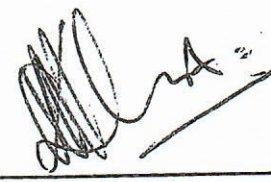
Hon. Zhemu Soda, MP.
CHAIRPERSON
Minister of Energy & Power Development

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



Hon. Prof. Mthuli Ncube, MP.
Minister of Finance & Economic Development

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



Hon. Matthew Nkhuwa, MP.
CO-CHAIRPERSON
Minister of Energy

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Mr. Bwalya K. Ng'andu, MP.
Minister of Finance

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA