



**PRESS STATEMENT**  
**(For Immediate Release)**

**WATER ALLOCATION FOR POWER GENERATION AT KARIBA FOR**  
**THE 2023/2024 HYDROLOGICAL YEAR**

**Lusaka, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023** – The Zambezi River Authority (the Authority) hereby announces that it has allocated 16 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of water to be shared equally between ZESCO Limited (ZESCO) and Kariba Hydro Power Company (KHPC) for their power generation operations at Kariba for the year 2024.

The 2024 water allocation was informed by the 2023/2024 rainfall forecasts made by the Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum-27 (SARCOF-27) and the corresponding downscaled projections by the National Metrological Agencies of Zambia and Zimbabwe, which all showed a high probability of a normal to below normal 2023/2024 rainfall season for the Kariba Lower Catchment and normal to above normal rainfall season for the Kariba Upper catchment. This general outlook is highly influenced by the increasing occurrence of El Niño weather conditions, which are expected to significantly impact negatively, the rainfall season in Southern Africa. The 2023/2024 rainfall profile outlook implies a high likelihood of below-normal Zambezi River inflows into Lake Kariba.

Hydrological simulations carried out by the Authority using the Kariba Inflow Forecasting System (IFS) that is based on satellite rainfall measurements and numerical weather forecasts, providing short-term and seasonal flow forecasts, considered the high likelihood of a below-average rainfall season which, in turn, will likely result in below average inflows into Lake Kariba thereby negatively impacting the volume of water available for power generation during the year 2024. Accordingly, Power utilities have been advised to consider alternative sources of power to complement generation at Kariba in order to fill any power generation deficit that could arise due to the lower water allocation at Kariba for the year 2024.

**Zambezi River Flows Monitored at Victoria Falls and Chavuma Gauging Stations**

The Zambezi River flows recorded at key gauge reading stations have been lower since the commencement of the 2023/24 rainfall season.

The flows recorded at Victoria Falls have shown signs of minor increase in levels. The flow recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was 472 m<sup>3</sup>/s, slightly lower than the flow recorded on the same date in 2022 which was 482 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

For Chavuma, the flow recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was 324 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 41 m<sup>3</sup>/s lower than the flow recorded on the same date in 2022 which was 337m<sup>3</sup>/s.

## **Zambezi River Flows Monitored at the Kariba Dam**

Lake levels at the world's largest man-made lake continue to recede during this period of the season, mainly due to lower inflows than outflows from Lake Kariba with isolated fluctuations being observed recently due to sporadic rainfall activity on the Lake. The 2023/24 rainfall season performance of the lower Kariba Catchment thus far has been poor, resulting in below-normal inflows into Lake Kariba. On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Ume, Sanyati and Gwayi Rivers of the Kariba lower catchment recorded 0 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 53 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 0.2 m<sup>3</sup>/s respectively, while on the same date this year (2023), Ume recorded 8 m<sup>3</sup>/s; Sanyati recorded 53 m<sup>3</sup>/s and Gwayi recorded 0 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The recorded lake level on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was 477.12m with 7.25 BCM or 11.19% live storage.

With the two power generation utilities generating power within the confines of their respective water utilisation plans for the year 2023, the lake is projected to close the year 2023 at 477.23m with 7.78 BCM of live storage which translates to 12% live storage. It is recommended that the highest possible live storage be maintained going into 2024 as a buffer against the anticipated below-normal inflows. Accordingly, the Authority continues to engage the two utilities through the weekly Joint Technical Committee meetings to ensure that they continue to adhere to their approved water utilisation and water for power generation to ensure sustainable management of the Kariba reservoir.

*The Zambezi River Authority is a Bi-National organization mandated to contribute to the economic, industrial, and social development of the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe by obtaining the greatest possible benefits from the natural advantages offered by the waters of the Zambezi River (between Zambia and Zimbabwe) through the most economical and effective means of providing water for generation of electricity and for other purposes which the Contracting States may decide upon.*



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