



**PRESS STATEMENT
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

UPDATE ON THE HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AT KARIBA

SIAVONGA, 12TH APRIL 2024 – THE ZAMBEZI RIVER AUTHORITY HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT, A JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD EARLIER TODAY BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVES OF ZESCO LIMITED, ZIMBABWE POWER COMPANY (ZPC) AND THE AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK FOR KARIBA. THE REVIEW TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE BELOW - NORMAL PERFORMANCE OF THE 2023/2024 RAINFALL SEASON. IN THAT REGARD, THE 16 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF WATER ALLOCATED FOR POWER GENERATION OPERATIONS AT KARIBA THAT WAS ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER 2023 WILL BE MAINTAINED AS ALLOCATED.

AS AT 12TH APRIL 2024, THE POWER UTILITIES HAD UTILISED A COMBINED TOTAL OF 5.35 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF WATER LEAVING A BALANCE OF 10.65 BILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER. . THIS BALANCE ON ALLOCATION IMPLIES A COMBINED AVERAGE POWER GENERATION THRESHOLD OF 385 MEGAWATTS AT KARIBA DAM FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO DECEMBER 2024.

A REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024 AND THE 2023/24 RAINFALL SEASON, WHICH IS PROJECTED TO END BY MAY 2024, WAS UNDERTAKEN THROUGH SIMULATIONS OF WATER AVAILABILITY AND PROJECTIONS UP TO DECEMBER 2024. THIS EXERCISE WAS EXECUTED USING THE AUTHORITY'S STATE OF THE ART AND ROBUST KARIBA INFLOW FORECASTING SYSTEM WHICH IS UNDERPINNED BY OVER 100 YEARS OF ZAMBEZI RIVER HYDROLOGICAL DATA AND OTHER TOOLS FOR NUMERICAL WEATHER PREDICTION AND HYDROLOGICAL SIMULATIONS OF THE KARIBA CATCHMENT. THE REVIEW SHOWED THAT THE 2023/2024 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE IN THE KARIBA CATCHMENT WAS

BELOW-NORMAL AS FORECASTED BY WEATHER AUTHORITIES (THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORECAST AND THE RESPECTIVE METEOROLOGICAL AGENCIES OF ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE). THE REVIEW ALSO INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE YEAR 2024 BEING RECORDED AS THE LOWEST LAKE INFLOW YEAR FOR LAKE KARIBA.

ZAMBEZI RIVER FLOWS MONITORED AT VICTORIA FALLS AND CHAVUMA GAUGING STATIONS

THE ZAMBEZI RIVER FLOWS AT VICTORIA FALLS DROPPED FROM A PEAK OF 800 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND ON 4TH MARCH 2024 TO 657 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND ON 8TH APRIL 2024 BEFORE MARGINALLY RISING AGAIN TO 703 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND ON 12TH APRIL 2024, COMPARED TO 2,052 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND RECORDED ON THE SAME DATE LAST YEAR AND A LONG-TERM MEAN OF 2,952 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND.

THE ZAMBEZI RIVER FLOWS AT CHAVUMA ALSO RECEDED FROM A FIRST PEAK OF 530 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND RECORDED ON 23RD JANUARY 2024, DOWN TO 343 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND ON 9TH MARCH 2024, BEFORE RISING AGAIN TO 614 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND ON 12TH APRIL 2024, COMPARED TO 2,586 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND ON RECORDED ON THE SAME DATE LAST YEAR AND A LONG-TERM MEAN OF 2,081 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND .

LAKE LEVELS RECORDED AT THE KARIBA DAM

LAKE LEVELS AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST MAN-MADE LAKE CONTINUE TO RECEDE AS WE APPROACH THE CLOSE OF THE 2023/2024 RAINFALL SEASON, MAINLY DUE TO LOW INFLOWS FROM THE MAINSTREAM ZAMBEZI RIVER AND REDUCED RAINFALL ACTIVITY ON AND AROUND THE LAKE. THE RECORDED LAKE LEVEL TODAY, 12TH APRIL 2024, WAS AT 477.48 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL TRANSLATING TO 8.89 BILION CUBIC METERS OR 13.73 PERCENT OF LIVE STORAGE MEANT FOR POWER GENERATION. ON THE

SAME DATE IN 2023, THE LAKE WAS 478.75 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL WITH 14.73 BILLION CUBIC METRES AND 22.74 PERCENT OF LIVE STORAGE.

THE AUTHORITY PROJECTS THAT THE GROSS WATER YIELD IN 2024 IS LIKELY TO BE NO MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF THAT USUALLY RECEIVED DURING PERIODS WHEN THE RAINFALL HAS PERFORMED NORMALLY , LEADING TO THE KARIBA RESERVOIR CLOSING THE YEAR 2024 AT A LEVEL OF ABOUT 475.85 METRES (1.61 BILLION CUBIC METRES OR 2.49 PERCENT LIVE STORAGE). TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE AUTHORITY WILL CONTINUE TO ENGAGE WITH AND ENSURE THAT THE UTILITIES ADHERE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE WATER UTILISATION PLANS FOR THE YEAR 2024. THE ENGAGEMENTS WILL INCLUDE THE CONTINUED HOLDING OF WEEKLY JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WHERE THE UPDATED HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK FOR THE KARIBA CATCHMENT IS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. THROUGH THE JOINT TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS, THE AUTHORITY AND THE TWO UTILITIES WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK , AND WHERE NECESSARY , IMPLEMENT MEASURES COLLABORATIVELY TO SUSTAIN RESERVOIR OPERATIONS AT KARIBA.

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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