



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

*(For Immediate Release)*

### **UPDATE ON WATER LEVELS AT LAKE KARIBA**

**Lusaka, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022** – The Zambezi River Authority (*the Authority*) hereby updates the public regarding the water situation in the Kariba Catchment and lake levels at Kariba Dam. This is the fourth update for the year 2022.

#### ***Lake Levels Recorded at Kariba***

As per hydrological trends in the last quarter of every year, the lake level is in recession pending the onset of the ensuing rainfall season. In this case, the 2021/2022 rainfall season came to a close mid-year 2022 and saw reduced river flows thereafter.

The recorded Lake level on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 was 476.85m with 6.04 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) stored usable water or 9.32% of live storage. This recorded lake level of 476.85m placed the lake 1.35 meters above the Minimum Operating Level (MOL) of 475.50m. On the same date in 2021, the Lake level was higher at 479.97m with 20.47 BCM or 31.59% of usable live storage, with the water being 4.47m above the Minimum Operating Level.

Lake levels are expected to start rising in the first quarter of 2023 if the flows recorded at Chavuma are sustained.

#### ***Zambezi River Flows as Monitored at Chavuma Gauging Station***

As earlier stated, the hydrological pattern during the last quarter of the year normally records reduced river flows owing to the close of a rainfall season pending the onset of an ensuing season.

Accordingly, the Zambezi River flows recorded at Chavuma receded between June 2022 and end of October 2022. At the end of October 2022, the flows had receded to 60 m<sup>3</sup>/s. However, the catchment around Chavuma has now recorded some rainfall activity leading to a slight increase in the recorded flow. The recorded flow on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 increased to 63m<sup>3</sup>/s. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, the flows were slightly higher at 95 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

#### ***Zambezi River Flows as Monitored at Victoria Falls Gauging Station***

The Zambezi River flows monitored at Victoria Falls were also receding owing to the close of the 2021/2022 rainfall season.

The recorded flow at Victoria falls on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 was at 238 m<sup>3</sup>/s. On the same date in 2021, the recorded river flows were higher at 294 m<sup>3</sup>/s. However, with the 2022/2023 rainfall season activity now recorded at Chavuma which is located upstream of Victoria Falls, the flows at Victoria falls are also expected to start increasing by the beginning of the first quarter of 2023.



### **Water Allocation for Power Generation at Kariba Dam for the Year 2023**

The 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of regional weather experts, the Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-26), took place at the end of August 2022 to provide the rainfall projections for the upcoming 2022/2023 rainfall season.

SARCOF-26 and the associated downscaled forecasts from the Meteorological Departments of the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe all predicted a normal to above normal 2022/2023 rainfall season outlook for the SADC Region including the Kariba catchment.

The Authority accordingly undertook hydrological simulations using the normal to above normal rainfall projections for the upcoming 2022/2023 rainfall season and allocated 40 BCM of water to cater for power generation operations at Kariba for 2023. The 40 BCM water allocation will be shared equally between Zesco Limited and Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) for their power generation operations at Kariba North Bank Power Station and Kariba South Bank Power Station, respectively.

The Authority will continue to monitor the hydrological outlook in the Kariba catchment and where necessary, make adjustments to this water allocation to sustain reservoir operations at Kariba.

### **Water Levels at Kariba and Implementation of the on-going Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project.**

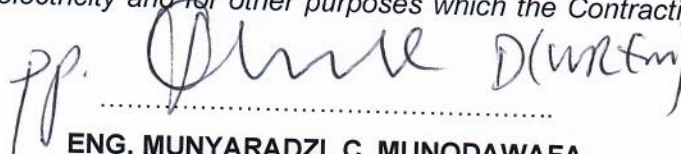
Since 2017, the Authority has been implementing the Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project (KDRP) which involves two components, namely; the reshaping of the plunge pool and the refurbishment of the six (6) spillway gates to ensure continued long-term safe operation and reliability of the Kariba Dam.

It is worth noting that the water levels currently obtaining at Kariba are favourable to the smooth implementation of the rehabilitation works.

In this regard, the Authority will continue to closely monitor and optimise the water allocation for power generation operations to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the KDRP works together with the power generation operations while avoiding the need for spilling which has potential to halt the works.

### **About the Zambezi River Authority**

*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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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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