PRESS STATEMENT

***(For Immediate Release*)**

UPDATE ON THE HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AT THE KARIBA DAM

Lusaka, 10th March 2026 – The Zambezi River Authority (*the Authority*) hereby shares an update on the hydrological outlook for the Kariba Catchment, including the status of water levels in the reservoir at the Kariba Dam.

The Hydrological data recorded by the Authority at its gauging stations located across the Kariba catchment indicates improved rainfall performance across much of the Kariba Catchment during the ongoing 2025/2026 rainfall season. This has contributed to higher river flows and the gradual increase in reservoir storage levels.

Hydrological Data Overview

The river flows recorded at key monitoring points/gauging stations within the Kariba Catchment, including at the Kariba Dam, Chavuma and Victoria Falls gauging stations, are summarised below:

a) Water Levels at Kariba Dam

The water levels in the Kariba Reservoir have been gradually rising since the beginning of the 2025/2026 rainfall season. This is primarily attributed to intensified rainfall activity on and around Lake Kariba and the trend is projected to continue as we approach the end of the first quarter of 2026.

As of 10 March 2026, the Kariba Reservoir level stands at 477.74 metres above sea level. Usable live storage stands at 15.57 percent, equivalent to 10.08 billion cubic metres of usable water.

This reflects an improvement compared to the same date in 2025, when the reservoir stood at 476.93 metres above sea level with usable live storage of 9.87 percent, equivalent to 6.44 billion cubic metres of stored usable water.

In order to provide a clearer perspective, a summary of the Weekly Comparative Chart in respect of the Lake Kariba water levels is presented below:

Date	2026			2025		
	MASL	**BCM**	**%**	**MASL**	**BCM**	**%**
17th February 2026	477.28	7.98	12.32%	476.41	4.09	6.31%
24th February 2026	477.36	8.35	12.89%	476.68	5.28	8.16%
3rd March 2026	477.47	8.85	13.66%	476.89	6.21	9.60%
10th March 2026	477.74	10.08	15.57%	476.93	6.39	9.87%

BCM – Billion Cubic Metres *MASL – Meters above sea level*

b) Zambezi River Flows Recorded at Chavuma Gauging Station

The Zambezi River flows at the Chavuma gauging station are gradually rising and are slightly higher than those recorded during the same period in 2025. The situation is likely to improve by mid-March 2026, due to the rainfall activity that is projected to increase in the Kariba lower and upper catchments.

Flows recorded at the Chavuma Gauging Station reach 3,058 cubic metres per second on 10 March 2026, compared to 2,088 cubic metres per second recorded on the same date in 2025. This indicates stronger inflows into the Zambezi River system from the upper catchment during the current season.

Below is a Weekly Comparative Chart for Zambezi River Flows Recorded at Chavuma Gauging Station.

Date	2026	2025
17th February 2026	2,590 m^3/s	1,790 m^3/s
24th February 2026	2,651 m^3/s	1,740 m^3/s
3rd March 2026	2,810 m^3/s	2,039 m^3/s
10th March 2026	3,058 m^3/s	2,088 m^3/s

m^3/s – *cubic metres per second*

c) Zambezi River Flows Recorded at Victoria Falls Gauging Station

The Zambezi River flows at Victoria Falls Gauging Station are also gradually rising due to the positive impact of the rainfall activities upstream and around the Victoria Falls area. Hydrological monitoring shows that flows recorded at the Victoria Falls (Nana's Farm) Gauging Station reach 1,645 cubic metres per second on 10 March 2026, compared to 871 cubic metres per second recorded on the same date in 2025. This reflects improved rainfall conditions across the Zambezi Basin and a stronger response of the river system during the current season.

The gradual rise in flows recorded at Victoria Falls during the period under review is highlighted in the weekly comparative chart below.

Date	**2026**	**2025**
17th February 2026	918 m³/s	591 m³/s
24th February 2026	1,030 m³/s	680 m³/s
3rd March 2026	1,228 m³/s	769 m³/s
10th March 2026	1,645 m³/s	871 m³/s

m³/s – cubic metres per second

The Authority will continue to monitor rainfall and inflow conditions across the basin to guide water utilisation at the Kariba Hydro Power Stations.

About the Zambezi River Authority

The Zambezi River Authority is a bilateral organisation that is jointly and equally owned by the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe (the Contracting States). The Authority's primary function is to operate, maintain, monitor and regulate the water level in the Kariba Reservoir. It is also mandated to construct, operate and maintain any other dam infrastructure on the Zambezi River and to collect, accumulate and process hydrological and environmental data regarding the Zambezi River for improved performance of its functions and for any other benefit to the socio-economic development of the Contracting States.

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