



PRESS STATEMENT

(For Immediate Release)

UPDATE ON THE HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AT THE KARIBA DAM

Lusaka, 3rd February 2025 – 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.

Hydrological Data Overview

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

(a) Lake Levels at Kariba Dam

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

To provide a clearer perspective, a four-week comparative chart of the Lake Kariba water levels is presented below:

Date	2025			2024		
	Meter ASL	BCM	%	Meter ASL	BCM	%
13th January	475.94m	2.00	3.09%	477.42m	8.62	13.31%
20th January	476.01m	2.31	3.57%	477.87m	10.68	16.49%
27th January	476.37m	3.91	6.04%	477.87m	10.68	16.49%
3rd February	476.39m	4.00	6.17%	477.85m	10.59	16.34%

(b) Zambezi River Flows recorded at Chavuma Gauging Station

River flows at the Chavuma gauging station are gradually rising, although they remain significantly lower than those recorded in 2024. This is due to the recent dissipation of the El-Niño-induced drought, which caused substantial moisture loss from both the ground and the atmosphere. As a result, much of the rainfall will first seep into the ground before it can flow as runoff. The situation is, however, likely to improve by mid-February 2025, due to the increasing rainfall activity that is projected in the lower and upper catchments.

The current Zambezi River flow trend at Chavuma is depicted in the four-week comparative chart below:

Four (4) Week Comparative Chart for Zambezi River Flows Recorded at Chavuma Gauging Station.

Date	2025	2024
13 th January	180 ³ /s	489 ³ /s
20 th January	186 ³ /s	527 ³ /s
27 th January	197 ³ /s	516 ³ /s
3 rd February	365 ³ /s	468 ³ /s

(c) Zambezi River Flows recorded at Victoria Falls Gauging Station

The Zambezi River flows at Victoria Falls Gauging Station are also slowly rising due to the positive impact of the rainfall activities upstream and around the Victoria Falls area. This gradual rise of flows experienced at Victoria Falls during the period under review is highlighted below:

Four (4) Week Comparative Chart for Zambezi River Flows recorded at Victoria Falls (Nanas Farm) Gauging Station.

Date	2025	2024
13 th January	378 ³ /s	579 ³ /s
20 th January	458 ³ /s	660 ³ /s
27 th January	548 ³ /s	698 ³ /s
3 rd February	535 ³ /s	717 ³ /s

About 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 purpose beneficial to the socio-economic development of the Contracting States.



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