



## **PRESS RELEASE** ***(For Immediate Release)***

### **UPDATE ON THE KDRP- SPILLWAY REFURBISHMENT WORKS**

**Lusaka, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026** – The Zambezi River Authority (the Authority) is pleased to provide an update regarding the progress recorded thus far in respect of the execution of the Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project (KDRP), which is approximately 94% complete. The project, which is critical in so far as the safeguarding of the long-term safety and operational efficiency of the Kariba Dam is concerned, remains on course for completion by the end of the fourth Quarter of 2026.

#### **Update on the Spillway Refurbishment Phase 2**

The purpose of the Spillway Refurbishment project component under the KDRP was mainly to restore and improve the reliability, safety and functionality of the Kariba dam's spillway system. Over the six decades of the existence of the Kariba dam, natural processes like concrete expansion and aging due to a phenomenon referred to as alkali aggregate reaction, affected the six sluice gates by making them more difficult to open and close smoothly. The refurbishment was therefore intended to restore their full operability and reliability.

The Spillway Refurbishment project component is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 of the Spillway Refurbishment works, which commenced in May 2019, is currently 99% complete. The works are being executed by GE Hydro France in association with Freyssinet International and involve the rehabilitation of the upstream control system for all the six sluice gates. These works include hydro-demolition, concrete repairs, installation of Built-In-Parts (BIP) and rewatering and commissioning of rehabilitated sluices. The remaining works include the commissioning of the Gantry Crane and site demobilization.

On the other hand, Phase 2 of the Spillway Refurbishment works, which commenced in August 2024, are currently at approximately 70% complete and are expected to be fully completed by September 2026. The works are being undertaken by Morris and Stub Engineers Joint Venture (Morris Stub JV). The activities for all the six sluice gates include mainly the design and manufacturing of new hoisting systems, installation of the new hoisting system and execution of gate maintenance works.

The design, manufacturing and site delivery of all 6 hoisting systems were completed in 2025, while site works commenced in December 2025. Currently, the hoisting system installations for sluices No. 1, 2, 5 and 6 are in progress.

#### **Overview of the Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project**

The Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project is a comprehensive initiative aimed at securing the long-term safety and functionality of the dam.

The project comprises three components valued at approximately US\$294 million. The project is funded by the African Development Bank, the European Union, the Government of Sweden and the World Bank while the Governments of the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe provide counterpart funding:

The following are the three project components:

1. **Plunge Pool Reshaping**, which was successfully completed and commissioned in September 2024.
2. **Spillway Refurbishment**, with Phase 1 and Phase 2 scheduled for completion before the end of 2026.
3. **Institutional Strengthening**, which focuses on enhancing dam safety monitoring, technical capacity and governance systems within the Authority.

To date, the key milestones achieved include the successful completion of the Plunge Pool reshaping works, completion of Spillway Phase 1 and ongoing implementation of Spillway Phase 2 relating to electro-mechanical upgrades.

### **Project Impact**

The undertaking of the KDRP is critical in so far as mitigating the risk of uncontrolled water releases that could result in downstream flooding, infrastructure damage and loss of life are concerned. The project also includes the development of an Early Warning System meant to improve communication with downstream communities during both scheduled and emergency water releases from the Kariba Reservoir.

Once completed, the KDRP will enhance the sustainable management of the Kariba Reservoir and support reliable hydropower generation which is one of the key drivers of socio-economic development in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

*The Zambezi River Authority is a bilateral organisation that is jointly and equally owned by the Governments of the Republics 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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