



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

*(For Immediate Release)*

### **UPDATE ON THE 2025 WATER ALLOCATION FOR POWER GENERATION AND THE CURRENT HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AT KARIBA DAM**

**Lusaka, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024** – The Zambezi River Authority is pleased to provide an update on the water allocation for power generation at Kariba dam for the year 2025, the hydrological outlook for the Kariba Catchment as well as the status of water levels in the Kariba reservoir. This update follows the previous press release issued on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

#### **(a) Water Allocation for Power Generation at Kariba Dam for the Year 2025**

The Authority, in collaboration with ZESCO Limited and Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) has finalized the processes for water allocation in respect of power generation at Kariba dam for the year 2025.

During the Southern African Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) held in Harare, Zimbabwe in August 2024, local, regional and international weather experts provided the forecast for the upcoming 2024/2025 rainfall season. The forum predicted that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, which includes the Kariba Catchment, is likely to experience **Normal to Above-Normal rainfall** during the 2024/2025 rainfall season. Furthermore, it was indicated that the season would commence during the last quarter of 2024.

In addition to the SARCOF projections, the Meteorological Departments of Zambia and Zimbabwe provided the associated downscaled forecasts. Both forecasts indicate that the **Kariba Lower Catchment** (covering northern Zimbabwe) and the **North-eastern Angola** section of the Zambezi River Catchment are likely to receive **Below-Normal rainfall** from October 2024 to January 2025. This could negatively impact river inflows into Lake Kariba during that period.

In view of these forecasts, the Zambezi River Authority conducted hydrological simulations using its state-of-the-art lake-inflows forecasting system to determine the quantity of water to be allocated for power generation at Kariba Dam for the year 2025. Consequently, upon undertaking consultations with both ZESCO Limited and ZPC, it was agreed that a total of **Twenty-Seven Billion Cubic Meters (27 BCM)** of water will be allocated for power generation at Kariba Dam for the year 2025.

This allocation will be **equally shared** between ZESCO Limited and ZPC, with each Utility being allocated **13.5 BCM** of water. As per the operational framework governing Kariba Dam reservoir operations, the water allocation will be reviewed

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at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The review will take into account the actual rainfall performance for the 2024/2025 rainfall season, the river inflows and the resulting water levels at Kariba Dam.

**(b) Current Hydrological Outlook at the Kariba Dam**

The water levels recorded at the Kariba Dam and the river flows recorded at Chavuma and Victoria Falls gauging stations are as tabulated below:

**(i) Lake Levels at Kariba Dam**

The water levels at Lake Kariba have continued receding due to reduced inflows from the upstream section of the Zambezi River following the close of the 2023/2024 rainfall season, as illustrated in the four-week comparative chart below:

**Four (4) Week Comparative Chart for Lake Levels recorded at Kariba Dam.**

Date	2024			2023		
	Meter ASL	BCM	%	Meter ASL	BCM	%
<b>4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	476.68m	5.28	8.16%	479.16m	16.66	25.72%
<b>11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	476.60m	4.93	7.61%	479.02m	16.00	24.70%
<b>18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	476.56m	4.75	7.34%	478.85m	15.20	23.47%
<b>27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	476.48m	4.40	6.79%	478.73m	14.64	22.60%

Please note that below normal rainfall was predominantly recorded during the 2023/2024 rainfall season resulting in significantly reduced Zambezi River flows overall.

**(ii) Zambezi River Flows recorded at Chavuma**

River flows at the Chavuma Gauging Station have continued to recede following the conclusion of the 2023/2024 rainfall season, as illustrated in the four-week comparative chart below:

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

Date	2024	2023
<b>4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	90m <sup>3</sup> /s	112m <sup>3</sup> /s
<b>11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	81m <sup>3</sup> /s	101m <sup>3</sup> /s
<b>18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	72m <sup>3</sup> /s	94m <sup>3</sup> /s
<b>27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	65m <sup>3</sup> /s	83m <sup>3</sup> /s

**(iii) Zambezi River Flows recorded at Victoria Falls**

The flow rate of the Zambezi River recorded at the Victoria Falls Gauging Station also continued to recede following the close of the 2023/2024 rainfall season. The reduction in flows over the period under review is as indicated below.

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

Date	2024	2023
4 <sup>th</sup> September	294m <sup>3</sup> /s	414m <sup>3</sup> /s
11 <sup>th</sup> September	277m <sup>3</sup> /s	386m <sup>3</sup> /s
18 <sup>th</sup> September	253m <sup>3</sup> /s	360m <sup>3</sup> /s
27 <sup>th</sup> September	238m <sup>3</sup> /s	329m <sup>3</sup> /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 levels 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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