



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

### **UPDATE ON THE HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AT THE KARIBA DAM**

Lusaka, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – The Zambezi River Authority (*the Authority*) wishes to provide an update on the hydrological outlook in respect of the Kariba Catchment and the water levels at the Kariba Dam as follows:

#### **Zambezi River Flows at Chavuma**

River flows at Chavuma gauging station have continued receding. The current flows are not only considerably lower than the flows recorded during the same period last year but are also significantly below the historical average flows for the station. This signifies a severe negative performance of the river system for the year 2024 regarding water levels.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> April	717m <sup>3</sup> /s	2,614m <sup>3</sup> /s
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	897m <sup>3</sup> /s	2,146m <sup>3</sup> /s
29 <sup>th</sup> April	916m <sup>3</sup> /s	1,700m <sup>3</sup> /s
8 <sup>th</sup> May	706m <sup>3</sup> /s	1,223m <sup>3</sup> /s

#### **Zambezi River Flows at Victoria Falls**

The Zambezi River flows at Victoria Falls are increasing but insignificantly owing to inflows from the upstream of the Zambezi River. The current levels, however, are significantly lower than those recorded on the same date last year. However, the levels are 5.63% higher than what was recorded last week as indicated below:

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> April	704m <sup>3</sup> /s	2,000m <sup>3</sup> /s
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	694m <sup>3</sup> /s	1,899m <sup>3</sup> /s
29 <sup>th</sup> April	711m <sup>3</sup> /s	1,874m <sup>3</sup> /s
8 <sup>th</sup> May	764m <sup>3</sup> /s	2,095m <sup>3</sup> /s

#### **Kariba Lake Levels.**

The recession in the lake levels has also persisted from the last update of 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024. This is due to low inflow and reduced rainfall activity on and around the lake and in the Kariba Catchment generally.

The table below illustrates the current lake level in comparison to the levels recorded over the past three weeks. Notably, the lake level is presently lower than it was during the same period last year. Moreover, the lake level is receding, which is contrary to expectations, as it typically rises during this time of the year.

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

Date	2024			2023		
	Meter ASL	BCM	%	Meter ASL	BCM	%
15 <sup>th</sup> April	477.51m	9.03	13.95%	478.82m	15.06	23.25%
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	477.49m	8.94	13.80%	478.90m	15.43	23.83%
29 <sup>th</sup> April	477.44m	8.71	13.45%	478.98m	15.81	24.41%
8 <sup>th</sup> May	477.41m	8.58	13.24%	479.08m	16.29	25.13%

In its quest to keep stakeholders informed regarding the evolving situation, the Authority will continue monitoring the hydrological outlook vis-à-vis the performance of the Kariba Catchment and provide the public with timely updates on any new developments.

*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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**ENG. MUNYARADZI. C. MUNODAWAFA**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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**Issued by:**  
 Selusiwe Y. Moyo  
 Manager - Public Relations and Communications  
 Lusaka, Zambia | Cell: +(260) 779663323 | Email: pr@zambezi.org  
[www.zambezi.org](http://www.zambezi.org)