

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MINISTER OF MINES,
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT HON.
CHRISTOPHER YALUMA DURING THE 6TH SOUTHERN
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) MULTI-
STAKEHOLDER WATER DIALOGUE, AT
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ON 1ST AND 2ND OCTOBER
2013.**

- HONOURABLE MINISTERS PRESENT
- PERMANENT SECRETARIES
- THE SADC REPRESENTATIVE
- AFRICAN MINISTERS COMMITTEE OF WATER
SECRETARIAT (AMCOW)
- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
- REPRESENTATIVES OF COOPERATING PARTNERS
- DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
- ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

IT IS MY HONOUR AND PLEASURE TO OFFICIATE AT THE
6TH SADC MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE.

I AM AWARE THAT THIS MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE IS NOW AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT STARTED IN 2007 UNDER A GENERAL THEME “WATERING DEVELOPMENT IN SADC”. EACH YEAR THERE IS A SPECIFIC THEME, THIS YEAR’S THEME IS “EXPLORING THE WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD NEXUS”.

I AM TOLD THAT THE DIALOGUE HAS ATTRACTED A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM THE SADC AND BEYOND. THEY INCLUDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, RESEARCHERS AND COOPERATING PARTNERS. I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO ZAMBIA, WE ARE HAPPY TO HOST YOU HERE. AM SURE YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR STAY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THIS YEAR’S DIALOGUE IS, TO GET A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD NEXUS” IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION.

THE CHOICE OF THIS YEAR’S THEME IS APPRECIATED BY OUR GOVERNMENT.

BECAUSE, WE HAVE A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF THE NEXUS IN THE KAFUE FLATS. AS YOU MAY BE AWARE WE HAVE A STORAGE RESERVOIR UPSTREAM AND A HYDRO-POWER STATION DOWNSTREAM OF THE KAFUE FLATS. IN BETWEEN, WE HAVE SOME OF THE BIGGEST FOOD PRODUCING AREAS, PRODUCING CROPS SUCH AS SUGARCANE AND ALSO LIVESTOCK. THE WATER RESOURCES IN THE KAFUE FLATS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY ESPECIALLY THE PRODUCTION FOOD AND HYDRO-POWER. THEREFORE, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIND A GOOD BALANCE ON THIS NEXUS FOR US TO DERIVE MAXIMUM BENEFITS FROM THE WATER FLATS.

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

THIS YEAR'S DIALOGUE FOCUSES AT FINDING A LINK BETWEEN WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD. AS THE POPULATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION INCREASES, DRIVEN BY AMONG OTHER THING INCREASE IN WATER DEMAND FOR FOOD AND ENERGY PRODUCTION. THERE IS A NEED TO FIND THE BEST USE OF WATER IN THE REGION. A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD NEXUS BECOMES IMPORTANT.

IT WILL HELP COUNTRIES IN THE REGION TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE WATER SHOULD PLAY IN THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION. THEREFORE, I WILL LIKE TO URGE ALL OF YOU TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES OPENLY AND FREELY SO THAT AT THE END, YOU COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AND A WAY FORWARD THAT WILL BE ADOPTED FOR THE BENEFIT THE PEOPLE IN THE REGION. AS YOU DISCUSS THE WAY FORWARD, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ENSURE THAT WHATEVER YOU RECOMMEND SHOULD MOVE FROM DISCUSSION TO IMPLEMENTATION. AM THEREFORE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT, AFTER THE DIALOGUE, THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A SADC WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING (WRTC). THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE, BECAUSE IT WILL HELP TO INCORPORATE THE ISSUES FROM THE DIALOGUE INTO SADC PROGRAMMES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS EXPECTED THAT AT THE END OF THIS MEETING, DELEGATES WILL HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WATER, FOOD AND ENERGY NEXUS.

FURTHER YOU WILL IDENTIFY THE GAPS, SHORTFALLS AND THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS WITHIN THE SADC REGION. THESE ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WILL COME OUT OF THIS MEETING.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER AS WATER EXPERTS AND STAKEHOLDERS IS IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF WATER UTILIZATION AS A TOOL FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT. THIS WILL FREE SOME WATER FOR OTHER USES. I KNOW THAT YOU MAY NOT FULLY ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AT THIS MEETING, BUT YOU CAN CONSIDER IT FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

MY GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT WATER PLAYS IN NATIONAL AND REGION DEVELOPMENT. IN REALISING THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER, THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA HAS REVISED THE WATER POLICY. FURTHER, ZAMBIA HAS IN PLACE A NEW WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT WHICH IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. THE NEW ACT ALLOWS US TO MANAGE SHARED WATER COURSES.

AS A RESULT, I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT ZAMBIA HAS NOW ACCEDED TO THE ZAMCOM AGREEMENT.

IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW ACT WHICH AIMS TO IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE STARTED WORKING ON THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. UNDER THIS WE WILL SEE THE CREATION OF THE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WARMA) THAT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. WE ALSO PLAN TO ESTABLISH A SMALL DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES MAINLY FOR POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ALL OF US IN THE REGION ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING AFTER THIS IMPORTANT RESOURCE. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I URGE YOU TO PLAY YOUR ROLE AND ENSURE IT'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT. IN PLAYING OUR ROLE WE SHOULD INFLUENCE OUR INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS. YOUR PARTICIPATION AT THIS MEETING

IS A CLEAR TESTIMONY OF HOW SERIOUS, WE ARE TAKING THIS ISSUE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MY HOPE AND CONVICTION IS THAT, AT THE END OF THIS MEETING, YOU WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED THE EXPECTED OUT COME FOR THIS MEETING.

PLEASE, TAKE SOME TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO SAMPLE, SOME OF ZAMBIA'S HOSPITALITY. I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A MEMORABLE STAY IN ZAMBIA.

LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ORGANISERS FOR THE GOOD ARRANGEMENT OF THE DIALOGUE. I WILL BE FAILING IN MY DUTIES IF I DIDNT THANK THE SPONSORS GERMANY CORPORATION, AUSTRALIAN AID, ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY, UK AID AND THANK THE IMPLIMENTORS GIZ AND GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP-SOLUTION AFRICA.

IT IS NOW MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) 6TH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER OFFICIALLY OPENED
I THANK YOU.