During the 8th Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition (ZAWAFE) which was held from the 10th to the 12th of June 2019, Her Honour the Vice President of the Republic of Zambia Ms. Inonge Mutukwa Wina directed the Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, Honourable Dr. Dennis Wanchinga, MP to ensure that the second week of June is gazetted as the Zambia Water Week to be commemorated country wide from hence forth. Her Honour the Vice President also directed the Honourable Minister to ensure that the Zambia Water Week was included in the Ministerial Work Plan and Budget.

The decision to establish the Zambia Water Week took into consideration the fact that Zambia is relatively well endowed with abundant water resources. However, this abundance is not uniformly distributed within the country and exhibits seasonal variations. The distribution of water resources follows the rainfall gradient whereby the northern regions of the country have significantly more rainfall than the southern parts. Consequently, some areas of Zambia are more prone to water stress and some level of water scarcity than others. In addition, Zambia normally experiences surplus water quantities in the rainy season which runs from November to April, and depletion of water resources in the dry season which typically runs from May to October. This variation in water resource availability in time and space calls for concerted efforts aimed at ensuring that Zambia’s industrialization, economic and social development agenda does not get derailed on account of the natural physical characteristics of Zambia’s water resource endowment. Critical in this regard is the need to have robust and effective institutions and partnerships that can drive and guarantee the much needed investments in water aimed at guaranteeing sufficient water resource availability throughout the year and countrywide; and also the need to ensure that water resource availability is resilient to the effects of climate change because this has a direct bearing on the economy through water dependent economic sectors and livelihoods.

In forging the required partnerships, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has recognized and appreciated the role that the Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition (ZAWAFE) has played over the years in bringing the Zambian Water and related sectors, and international actors together at annual ZAWAFE events. These events, which have been largely led by academicians, government, civil society and private sector have been important for networking, sharing knowledge and deliberating over pertinent matters around water and associated issues. However, the ZAWAFE events have been largely been attended by the practitioners in the Zambian water sector and beyond with little involvement of the ordinary Zambians who are in much need of water and water related services. Hence, it is the desire of the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection to ensure a national and country wide vision of the principles, values and goals that define ZAWAFE as well as appreciate mother nature for the spoon of water, just as our forefathers did in their thanks giving ceremonies.

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Zambia decided to declare the week when ZAWAFE is normally held (i.e. the 2nd Week of June every year) as the Zambia Water Week. Thus the ZAWAFE event would still remain the flagship event of the Zambia Water Week, but with additional events and stakeholder engagements in the rest of the country all centered on the main ZAWAFE theme. During this period, it will be expected of water sector organizations from the government, private sector, civil society, academic institutions, intergovernmental and cooperating partner institutions to reach out to the masses in various parts of the country and engage them over pertinent issues related to water and associated services, water related information and water related products. Furthermore, the Zambia Water Week would be launched by the Minister responsible for Water in Zambia through a nationally broadcast and published policy statement on water. The main elements of the policy statement would include but not be limited to performance of the water sector in the previous year; and key policy measures for the current and following year.

**9th Zambia Water Week Programme**

The 9th ZAWAFE will be held from 8th-10th June, 2020 at Mulungushi International Conference Centre under the theme “Innovative Action for Water and Sanitation: Leaving no one behind”. The Forum will bring together various experts, institutions and stakeholders from within Zambia, the SADC region and the broader international community to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and network with regards to water resources management and development, and water supply and sanitation. ZAWAFE is scheduled for three days (8th – 10th June, 2020) with field trips taking place on the first and fourth day. The programme will encompass keynote speeches, plenary sessions, parallel breakaway sessions and exhibitions.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

This Forum and Exhibition is open to practitioners in water, sanitation and hygiene Sector, health sector, local government and housing, experts of the environment, energy experts, climate change experts, academicians and researchers, planning and development practitioners, policy makers, cooperating partners, non-governmental organizations, civil societies and the general public.
EXHIBITIONS

ZAWAFE invites institutions and companies in the Water, Sanitation and related sectors to exhibit their products and services at this event in order to reach out to the Zambian populace on what they can offer in the sustainable management of water, sanitation and hygiene in Zambia.

REGISTRATION

All participants and exhibitors to the forum will be expected to register to attend sessions. Participants and exhibitors can register ahead of the forum by downloading registration forms from the ZAWAFE website (www.zambiawaterforum.org). A non-refundable registration fee will be charged per participant/exhibitor upon registration.

Participants are encouraged to undertake field trips (see field trip sites below) that have been planned during the forum. All participants interested in going on field trips must register in advance and registration fees will be charged per participant.

FIELD TRIPS

Local field trip
1. Lusaka Sanitation Programme (LSP) Faecal sludge management in George Compound.
2. Lusaka Sanitation Programme (LSP) Sewer ponds in Matero Compound.

Post ZAWFE field-trips
1. Water Management at Victoria Falls.
2. Water resource management and power generation at Kariba Dam.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee comprises members from the following institutions:
- Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection;
- The University of Zambia Integrated Water Resources Management Centre (UNZA-IWRM);
- National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO);
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
- Water and Sanitation Association of Zambia (WASAZA);
- Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company (LWSC); and
- Drillers Association of Zambia (DAZ).

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT;
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