



## PRESS STATEMENT BY THE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

### For Immediate Release

11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### REGULATION OF BOREHOLE DRILLING IN ZAMBIA

The Water Resources Management Authority ("WARMA") wishes to clarify the matter relating to the Regulation of the Borehole drilling in Zambia and associated purported proposed increase in permit fees following a media report carried out by the Daily Nation on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 attributed to the WARMA Director General's presentation on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The fees and charges that were referred to in the presentation to Hon. Mike Mposha MP, relate to charges and fees applicable to commercial water users abstracting water from either groundwater or rivers for commercial purposes such as agriculture, hydropower and industry.

During the presentation, the Director General merely made an observation that the current fees and charges applicable to commercial water users in Zambia are lowest in comparison to what other countries in the region are charging. These fees are not cost reflective as they do not meet the cost of regulating, monitoring commercial water users to ensure other domestic water users are not disadvantaged. Zambia is currently charging ZMW3.80 per 100,000 litres of water for commercial use while the next lowest country in the region is charging ZMW13.40 per 100,000 litres of water. The Director General observed that these fees and charges may in future need to be reviewed to ensure effective management of water resources to avoid disadvantaging communities.

The public is urged to note that these **WATER USER FEES AND CHARGES DO NOT** apply to individual domestic boreholes or non-commercial boreholes. Therefore, no increment to fees has been proposed by WARMA for permits currently being obtained to drill domestic boreholes. Nor has there been any formal proposal to increase fees currently applicable to commercial water users. **The public is urged to ignore the inaccurate report by Daily Nation purported to have been issued by the Director General that WARMA is proposing increase in Water Tax.**

We wish to further inform the public that WARMA regulates the **drilling of boreholes** through the issuance of permits. The regulation of groundwater is done to ensure sustainable utilization of the water resources and equitable use by all water users. This allows for the monitoring of both the quality and quantity of the water resource. In light of the increase in borehole drilling activities, it is of paramount importance that

drilling of boreholes is regulated to avoid over abstraction, depletion and pollution of groundwater.

WARMA urges all members of the public to contact any of the WARMA Catchment offices or Headquarters on +260 211 – 251 934 should they require any further clarification. Further information can also be obtained on the WARMA website [www.warma.org.zm](http://www.warma.org.zm).

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