



REMARKS

BY

THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

H.E. MR. ELIAS M. MAGOSI

AT THE OCCASION OF THE

**COMMISSIONING OF THE KAZUNGULA BORDER TOWN WATER SUPPLY AND BASIC
SANITATION PROJECT**

KAZUNGULA, REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

9TH JUNE 2025

**Your Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of
Zambia, and Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ;**

Honourable Ministers;

Representatives of KfW, DBSA, and other Cooperating Partners;

Municipal Leaders, Project Team, Community Members,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is a privilege and a very exciting moment for me to take part in this momentous occasion of commissioning the Kazungula Border Town Water Supply and Basic Sanitation Project. This initiative transcends a local infrastructure upgrade; it is a regional flagship that strengthens SADC's collective drive towards water security, climate resilience, public health, and regional economic integration.

We are therefore greatly honoured by the presence of H.E Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, and Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ, to officiate at this event. Your presence, Your Excellency, attests to your exemplary leadership and commitment to enhance the well-being of the nation of Zambia, especially the Kazungula Border Town Community.

Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Guests

Kazungula is a border town straddling the strategic cross-border corridor connecting the Republics of Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. With a population of over 11,000 people, the town has long suffered from inadequate access to clean and safe drinking water, poor sanitation infrastructure, and increasing stress due to regional transit and trade.

Before this intervention:

- Only 35% of the Kazungula population had access to piped, treated water.
- Sanitation services were severely inadequate, with less than 30% coverage.
- Women and children bore the burden of water collection from unsafe sources.

Through this project:

- Over 95% of the town's population will now access reliable, and potable water.
- Sanitation coverage will be expanded to over 85%, including gender-sensitive public facilities.
- By 2030, the project is expected to serve over 20,000 people, due to population growth and it shall:
 - deliver safe, reliable water and sanitation services to approximately 20,000 people in Kazungula.

- improve community health, reduce waterborne diseases, and enhance livelihoods through access to clean water.
- Ensure service continuity through a 220KV solar photovoltaic system, reducing dependence on the national power grid ,and supported the creation of over 220 local jobs during the construction phase

Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests

With the commission of this project, we note that it has significantly contributed to:

- The upgrading of storage reservoirs and pumping stations,
- Improving public sanitation blocks near the Kazungula Bridge and border post, and
- Ensuring that climate-resilient infrastructure has been designed to withstand floods and water scarcity in the community.

It is important to note that Kazungula water supply is a €12 million project, and the Zambian Government contributed 10%, with additional preparation funding of €985,000 from the SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF).

These investments are part of an integrated development strategy that:

- Enhances cross-border transport and trade efficiency,
- Reduces disease burden from waterborne illnesses,

- Provides economic stimulus via local employment and improved health, and
- Contributes to SADC's gender equity goals through reduced domestic water collection burdens on women and girls.

This Project further reflects the priorities articulated in:

- The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030),
- The Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) V (2021-2025) on Integrated Water Resources Management, and
- The Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000).

Kazungula, strategically located along the Zambezi River Basin, benefits from Zambia's active participation in the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), showcasing how transboundary water cooperation can deliver tangible outcomes.

Moreover, this Project embodies Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Clean Water and & Sanitation) and 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, while contributing to broader climate change adaptation goals.

Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers,

The current SADC Water Fund pipeline projects include over 15 cross-border projects at various stages of development, and just to name a few we have:

- Lomahasha - Namaacha Water Supply Project (Eswatini and Mozambique) which is under construction;
- Chirundu Cross-Border Water Supply project (Zimbabwe and Zambia)- whose feasibility studies have been completed and is at fundraising Stage for implementation; and
- Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project- A bulk water transfer scheme, and Dam and it is at appraisal stage for project structuring support from the SADC - PPDF and other Project Preparation Facilities.

These initiatives are designed to improve cross-border sanitation, support agricultural and industrial water demands, and build resilience in shared basins vulnerable to climate extremes.

We need to note, however that, despite progress made thus far, Africa faces a USD 64 billion annual investment gap to achieve universal access to water and sanitation. Regional programmes like the SADC Water Fund cannot meet this alone. I therefore call upon:

- KfW and other development partners to deepen support for pipeline projects,
- Private sector investors to engage in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs),
- Member States to increase domestic allocations for water infrastructure,
- Multilateral agencies to prioritise cross-border project financing.

Investing in water is not only about development, but also about security, equity, and survival. A water-secure SADC region is a prosperous SADC region.

Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Zambia for its leadership; the German Government through KfW, for its reliable partnership and flexible financing instruments; DBSA, for managing the Water Fund with fiduciary excellence; and the Kazungula community, for active ownership and resilience.

Let us celebrate this milestone not as an end, but as the beginning. Let it inspire renewed action towards a fully integrated, water-secure SADC region where no community is left behind.

Thank you for your attention! Zikomo kwambiri!