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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WARMA)

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28TH JANUARY 2022

FLOOD WARNING ALERT IN KAFUE FLATS AROUND NAMWALA, ITEZHI-TEZHI AND KASAYA IN MWANDI DISTRICTS

The Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) is mandated by the Water Resources Management Act No. 21 of 2011, to conduct drought and flood forecasts and inform relevant stakeholders, as part of the government's response mechanism to potential disasters. Pursuant to the Act, WARMA has through the Global Flood Awareness System, detected high flood probabilities around Western and Southern Provinces of Zambia. The floods indicate more than 70 percent chance of occurrence with various magnitude. The percentage shown is beyond the trigger point and the likelihood of devastation around the area is high.

Affected areas are Itezhi-tezhi, Kafue Flats around Namwala District, and Kasaya in Mwandia District. Nanzhila River in Itezhi-tezhi is expected to flood on the 30th of January and water levels will remain high and will only start receding after 22nd February 2022. The Kafue River in the Kafue flats of Namwala district is also likely to experience floods with a peak around the 8th February 2022. Loazamba River at Kasaya in Mwandia District had reached a flood peak on the 14th January 2022 when floods occurred and had started receding but the river flows are expected to rise again on 30th January 2022 up to 9th February 2022.

The Authority wishes to alert members of the public especially those in the named areas to take precautionary measures. As we are partly experiencing the effects of the tropical storm ANA, WARMA will continue monitoring the situation for any changes in the flood, water levels and river flows in Zambia.

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