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## MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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PRESS RELEASE

LUSAKA, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

### ZAMBIA TO HOST THE EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS FOR THE LAKE TANGANYIKA AUTHORITY

Government through the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, will host the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers for the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) at Twangale Park, Chilanga District on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

The Conference of Ministers will be preceded by the Ninth Meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Management Committee which will be held from 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

The Conference of Ministers is the highest decision making body under the Convention on Sustainable Management of Lake Tanganyika and provides guidance to the LTA on the implementation of the Convention on Sustainable Management of the Lake Tanganyika and updated Strategic Action Programmes. The four-day event which will be attended by approximately 50 delegates from the host country, Zambia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania will see Zambia assume the Chairmanship of the regional group, taking over from Burundi.

Key decisions expected to come out from the deliberations during the Conference include:

1. The appointment of the new Executive Director for LTA, following the expiry of the contract from the previous Executive Director from Burundi; and
2. Resource mobilization initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention and updated Regional Strategic Action Programme on the development of Lake Tanganyika basin.

Lake Tanganyika is an asset to the four riparian states with a global significance as it is the largest water body in Africa, holding almost one sixth of the world's available fresh water resources. The Lake has more than 2000 species of plants and animals recorded in its basin and over 500 of these species are endemic to the Lake's ecosystem. It is a resource for meeting a diversity of development needs of the riparian populations in the basin.

Zambia is one of the four Riparian States and last hosted this meeting in 2010.

Issued by:

Mr. Mabvuto Sakala

PERMANENT SECRETARY