



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

**MAWLR MINISTER HON. CARL H.G SCHLETTWEIN WILL BE ON AN
OFFICIAL VISIT IN ANGOLA ON WATER MATTERS**

On Wednesday, 09 November 2022, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Honorable Carl H.G. Schlettwein will be in Angola to visit water projects commissioned by the Republic of Angola in 2019 in the Cunene Province. The Honorable Minister will be accompanied by MAWLR Executive Director Ms Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, Director of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination Dr. Elijah Ngurare and NamWater CEO, Mr Abraham Nehemia.

As part of the joint transboundary water management between the two countries (Republic of Namibia and Republic of Angola), the Republic of Angola Minister of Energy and Water has extended an invitation to Honorable Schlettwein, to visit water commissioned projects aimed to alleviate water supply challenges experience in the Cunene Province as a results of the prolonged droughts.

Namibia shares the Kunene River with Angola. Namibia's water use rights from the Kunene River are provided for in six border and water use agreements concluded between 1886 and 1991 between the two countries. The first four agreements were agreed to between the colonial powers governing the two states during that time but have been ratified in 1990 by the two independent countries of Angola and Namibia. These agreements, together with the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses

of 2000, are being used in all arrangements for water related matters on the Kunene River between Angola and Namibia.

In addition to the familiarization visit to the project sites, Honorable Minister will sign an Agreement on the Interim Joint Operational Rules for the Calueque Scheme at the Calueque Village. The Calueque Scheme (Dam and Pumps) (*located in Angola on the Cunene River and is situated approximately 30 kilometres upstream from Ruacana Falls and 14 kilometres north of the border between Angola and Namibia*). The purpose of the Calueque Scheme, as described in the 1969 agreement is to:

- i. assist with the regulation of the flow of the Cunene River in accordance with the requirements of the power station to be built at Ruacana;
- ii. and for the pumping of an agreed volume of water 6m³/s from the Cunene River to supply water for human and animal requirements in Namibia, as well as for initial irrigation in Northern Namibia.

Once signed, the Interim Joint Operational Rules will provide a framework for the establishment of the joint operation of the Calueque scheme as provided for in the Water Use Agreement signed by the two countries and further strengthen the cooperation between the two countries through the Permanent Joint Technical Committee (PJTC) tasked with the transboundary cooperation on the Cunene River Basin.

Namibia's population, in the Central Northern Areas of Namibia, depends highly on water supply from the Cunene River Basin and therefore enhancing cooperation between Namibia and Angola is highly important not only to ensure sustainable water supply but regional integration, peace and security. Transboundary management requires that riparian countries encapsulate cooperation, joint planning and management.

Angola and Namibia has been working on the Calueque Scheme, such as, rehabilitation of the Calueque Dam and pipeline to Mahenene, installation of permanent pump station at the Calueque Dam and rehabilitation of the canal from Mahenene to Olushandja Dam which all are aimed at improving water supply the population of both countries. In addition, the two countries have recently commissioned, with UNDP and Global Environment Facility (GEF), a preliminary assessment towards developing an

Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for the Kunene River Basin which will contribute to joint effective and efficient water resources management in the basin.

Issued by:

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