



ZAMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

LUSAKA, 28TH AUGUST, 2017- Sulphuric Acid Spillage in Kifubwa River, Solwezi.

On Sunday, 27th August, 2017, An acid tanker Reg. number ACZ8934/ACM5893T owned and operated by Badwi Construction and Transport that was transporting acid to Kansanshi mine overturned at the Kifubwa Bridge approximately 12 Km from Kansanshi mine. Badwi is contracted by the supplier of acid (Chambishi Copper Smelter) to deliver the commodity to Kansanshi mine.

Acid spilled and entered Kifubwa River impacting its water quality and leading to loss of aquatic life (fish died) in the immediate area. The tanker was carrying approximately 29 tonnes of acid. However, the estimated amount spilled will only be determined after offloading the remaining acid from the wreckage of the tanker.

Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) wishes to inform the public that the affected area on Kifubwa Bridge has since been cleaned up through neutralization. Further, the neutralization of affected areas on Kifubwa River started yesterday and has continued. The readings of pH on some affected areas are indicated below:

Location	pH before Neutralization	Time	pH after Neutralization	Time
Kifubwa River (at Kifubwa Bridge)	3.67	9:37	8.59	13:33
	5.76	9:39	10.23	13:37
	5.05	9:47	8.80	13:39
	6.21	9:50	9.20	13:40
Kifubwa River (at Kimale Bridge)	7.20	10:03	8.02	13:53
	7.48	10:04	8.03	13:59
	7.50	10:05	8.23	14:04
Kifubwa River (at Zangamenu Bridge)	4.93	10:26	8.79	14:20
Kifubwa River (at Zangamenu Area)	3.33	10:38	9.13	14:24
	3.28	10:40	9.12	14:30
Kifubwa River (at Zangamenu Down Stream)	7.02	11:00	8.9	14:45

The affected communities have since been sensitized through the media and public announcements on the precautions that should be taken to mitigate the effects of the acid spillage.

Following this incidence, the Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, Hon. Lloyd Kaziya M.P, and the Director General of the ZEMA will today **Monday, 28th August, 2017** visit the scene of the accident and inspect the affected communities.

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