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Millennium Challenge Account Zambia Hands over Completed Kaunda Square Waste Stabilization Ponds

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA – July 31, 2018 - Today, officials from the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka and the U.S. Government’s Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) joined the Millennium Challenge Account Zambia Limited and the Lusaka Water and Sewage Company for the inauguration of the US\$11 million Kaunda Square Stabilization Ponds. The ponds, which were initially designed for about 18,000 households, will now service over 155,000 households in the city of Lusaka. These completed ponds are part of the MCC funded US\$355 million compact that will benefit 1.2 million Zambians.

Speaking during the ceremony, the **Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, Hon. Dennis Musuku Wanchinga** said, “The rehabilitation and construction of the new Kaunda Square Ponds will help 155,000 households, including over 20,000 households in Mtendere, giving families an opportunity to transition from using pit latrines to flushable toilets. This will improve their health status and protect ground water from contamination.”

United States to Zambia Ambassador Daniel L. Foote noted that, “The U.S. Government’s investment through MCC, in partnership with the Government of Zambia, is an investment in the future of Zambia. Today’s commissioning of Kaunda Square Ponds shows us what we can do in partnership and the great impact we can have together.”

MCC Principal Deputy Vice President for the Department of Compact Operations Ms. Kyeh Kim said, “Our accomplishments today are a clear sign that our compact is delivering on its promise to improve the lives of the Zambian people. While there is still work to do before the compact’s end date in November, we have confidence that our partners will continue with their clear dedication to the compact program, including ensuring the completion of any outstanding works, sustainability of the infrastructure over the long-term, and continued strengthening of Zambia’s institutions to carry Zambia’s water sector — and citizens—forward.”

The MCC Zambia Compact is investing in water supply, sanitation, and drainage infrastructure with the goal of decreasing the incidence and prevalence of water-related diseases, productive days lost due to disease and time to collect water, cost of water and new sanitation, and business and residential flood losses. Overall, the sub-projects are aimed at reducing poverty and promoting economic growth. Over one million people in Lusaka are expected to directly benefit from the compact program.

Before/After Pond Photos

Before



Kaunda Square Ponds before construction started



Effluent from Kaunda Square Ponds before works started.

After



Aerial views of the Kaunda Square Ponds

