



Ministry of Agriculture

SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME-1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ministry of Agriculture would like to dispel rumours which have been making rounds insinuating that the intake structure of the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP) at Kapichira Dam has been washed away by the floods which occurred from 24th to 25th January, 2022 in the Shire Valley. The floods are reported to have caused extensive damage in the Shire Valley districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje.

The Ministry wishes to inform the general public that the construction of the intake structure was at foundation stage with two yet-to-be-completed superstructures of front wing walls. The preliminary investigations which the Ministry has carried out using drone aerial surveillance have actually revealed that the foundation of the structure is intact. However, one incomplete wing wall was damaged. What is correct, though, is that the floods breached both the EGENCO dyke and SVTP coffer dam and flooded the intake foundation. The public may wish to be informed further that the other structure which has been partially damaged is a section of the 750-metre siphon which connects the intake and the main canal.

The public is further informed that the Ministry, together with the Engineer and contractor, will carry out detailed assessment of the damage once the water subsides and the site becomes accessible. The general public will be updated accordingly on the status of the damage and mitigation measures.

Generally, all the critical structures are intact including the flume, the siphon, culverts and the main canal.

It remains the wish of the Ministry that construction of the SVTP culminates into providing irrigation water to 223,000 smallholder farmers in the Shire Valley and transforming them from subsistence to commercial farmers in line with Malawi 2063 agenda.

The Ministry of Agriculture, therefore, wish to assure the general public that all measures will be employed to ensure continuation of construction works.

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