

## *His Excellency Zia Masood, Speech points during National Groundwater Conference. 7th June 2015*

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The conference topic is very important and special issue for our people

Water is a big economic point for our people, if we could have been used water in a better manner, today our people would have a better life. There were some shortcoming in this regard and our country had not used water resources perfectly.

If we can do this now and manage natural resources of water, it will directly affect economic situations of our societies.

During previous government ruled by Hamid Karzai, a high level committee for water resource management established. The aim of this national committee was to coordinate water management issues between line ministries and stakeholders; and also to develop a national water use strategy how to use water for agriculture, energy and also drinking water. The water national committee had some achievement, about 20 meetings were held. For the first time in Afghanistan the Water Law drafted. Some other policies and strategies regarding water resource development and to control water were prepared. Policies for groundwater management, flood management, residential construction over groundwater resources were prepared. In total, a very good strategy for Afghanistan water management approved.

Groundwater management is a strategic

issue in our country. If it is not managed better, with no doubt a tragedy may suffer our people. People had drilled waterpoints for agriculture which is not correct and in no country groundwater is used for Agriculture. This problem comes to the capital Kabul, where water table reduced to 2 to 2.5 meter during few years. We have to find alternatives to keep the water table stable especially in Kabul. For this purpose, there are two dams for Kabul are recharge; one is named Shatoot which is located in south of Kabul and it will cost around 350,000,000 USD which will provide for 2,500,000 residences of Kabul. Another dam is in the north of Kabul name Shah & Aros which 60% construction work is completed. I think its work is now stopped. We hope to resume its work, and hope to have a change in climate, and water resources in Kabul in 5 years from now. These dams will be used for energy production (in small scale), environment and drinking water supply of our people.

Groundwater is misused in Kabul, for car wash, semi agriculture, and many other activities are using groundwater.

Besides, I request MEW to use other alternatives like solar and wind system to provide energy. Even for importance water, once it was planned during previous government to split MEW to 2 ministries, ME and MW.

We hope MEW minister can have good achievements to manage and use groundwater resources for the coming 5 years.