

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

REDUCED LOADSHEDDING IN THE COUNTRY

BY THE

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (MR NKHUWA), MP

Madam Speaker, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to give a Ministerial Statement on the issue of loadshedding to the House and to the people of Zambia at large, and more importantly, the measures we have undertaken to completely eliminate loadshedding.

Madam Speaker, loadshedding is a term used when a utility decides to interrupt power supply to its customers due to the electricity supply system being overwhelmed by the connected loads or electricity demand. Loadshedding has mainly been caused by insufficient generation capacity due to reduced water levels in our major reservoirs following low rainfall patterns in recent past years. This is also attributed to an increase in demand which has been growing at about 150 to 200 mega watts per annum. Currently the country's installation capacity is 2 976 mega watts with hydro power at 80.45 per cent. The current peak demand is at 2 300 mega watts. However, due to reduced water levels only about 1 400 mega watts is available, creating a deficit of 810 mega watts.

Madam Speaker, in light of the foregoing, Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) limited commenced implementation of loadshedding programmes with customers experiencing power outages for about ten to twelve hours daily⁶. This measure was introduced to prolong power generation operations at our major hydro power stations.