

**WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH, 2018**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**POWER OUTAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITALS**

**The Minister of Health (Dr Chilufya)**

Mr Speaker, thank you for granting me this opportunity to inform the House and the nation at large on the power outage that occurred at the University Teaching Hospitals (UTHs) on 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

Sir, the House may wish to note that there was a planned maintenance by the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) at main substation 1 located at the main gate of the UTH.

Mr Speaker, let me start by stating that the maintenance works were planned and executed as such by ZESCO and our technical staff at the UTHs. This was done with the view to minimise disruption to key strategic and critical services at the UTHs. The strategic effort to minimise power loss to critical areas necessitated that power be rationed in less critical areas and that this exercise began at 0800 hours on the morning of Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

Mr Speaker, ZESCO exceeded the planned time span for the maintenance works and this resulted in a continuation of the rationing of power in non-critical areas to be beyond the planned time of 1800 hours until 2100 hours when full power was restored to the entire hospital. During this time of maintenance, the UTHs were being powered by the installed generator set capacity within the UTHs. The wards that were deemed to be non-critical at the particular time were E and G Block which are the medical and surgical wards, respectively.

Sir, no life was lost due the power outage in E and G Block at the UTHs.

I thank you, Sir.