



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE ENERGY SITUATION IN THE
COUNTRY AND THE STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO
OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES**

BY

HON. DAVID MABUMBA, M.P.,

MINISTER OF ENERGY

NOVEMBER, 2016

Mr. Speaker,

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to update the nation through this August House on the current energy situation in the country and the steps taken by Government to overcome the challenges

THE CURRENT ENERGY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Hon. Members may wish to note that, Zambia has continued experiencing a power deficit due to the low rainfall experienced mostly during the 2014/2015 rainy season. As a result of the low rainfall experienced during the previous rain seasons, generation of power has been kept at reduced levels due to the low water levels in the main power generating dams at Kariba, Itzhi Tezhi and Kafue Gorge Power stations. These three power stations currently account for 90% of the total electricity supply.

ZESCO has faced challenges in adhering to the recommended generation at the Kariba North Bank and Kafue Gorge Power Stations in trying to meet the demand due to non-participation of the mining companies in reducing power consumption because of the critical nature of their business. This resulted in over generation of approximately 351MW and a further drawdown on the dam levels than projected.

The power generation from internal sources stands at 1,015MW, meanwhile the unsuppressed power demand has remained at an average

of 1,850MW. The power imports have been stable at an average of 300MW, bringing the total generation supply to stand at 1,315MW.

Hon. Members may also wish to note that, the country's total installed capacity is about 2,592 MW. This means that if all our power generation plants were operating at optimum, we would be able to meet the current projected peak demand of 1,850 MW.

EXTENDED LOAD SHEDDING

Mr. Speaker,

In October 2016, the load shedding increased to an average of 6 hours compared to that for the month of September 2016 when the number of load shedding hours was 4hours due to the following reasons:

- a) At Kafue Gorge power station, ZESCO Limited has reduced generation from an average of 750MW to 600MW due to the continue low water levels in the dam;
- b) At Kariba North Bank power station, the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) water allocation to the power station restricts the average generation from 300MW to 275MW.
- c) Ndola Energy Company Limited was shut down resulting in the loss of 48MW on 17th October 2016 due to lack of suitable fuel stock for the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) power plant.