



PRESS STATEMENT

REDUCED WATER LEVELS AT KAFUE GORGE POWER STATION CAUSING INCREASED LOAD SHEDDING

In the past 48 hours our customers across the country have experienced an increase in load shedding.

The increase has been caused by a reduction in power generation at Kafue Gorge, Zambia's largest hydro power station due to the reduced water levels in the storage dam. At present the power station which has an installed generating capacity of 990 Mega Watts (MW) is only able to generate 700 MW. This has created a power generation shortfall of up to 290 MW at the power station.

The reduced generation capacity has impacted negatively on ZESCO's ability to meet its customers' power demand. Consequently, ZESCO has increased the load shedding to balance the available power with demand with a view to protecting the entire power system from total collapse due to an overload.

The impact is most felt during morning (**05 30 to 09 00 hours**) and evening peak (**1800 to 22 00 hours**) demand periods. Arising from this challenge, ZESCO is unable to strictly adhere to the publicized load shedding schedules. That notwithstanding, ZESCO will ensure that there is equity and fairness in the way the load shedding is done.

As an immediate measure to cushion the impact of the load shedding, ZESCO has continued importing up to 100 MW from ESKOM of South Africa which is being supplied to our customers at a subsidized cost. However, the imports are not guaranteed as they are subject to import route availability and domestic demands in the exporting country.

ZESCO is also considering engaging major customers to find ways of managing the available power by among other things encouraging them to shift their loads to off peak periods.

ZESCO has also intensified the distribution of the One million energy saver lamps as part of its Demand Side Management efforts. This is an immediate measure aimed at saving at least 66 MW of power. In the pilot phase the energy saver lamps are being distributed to customers free of charge in Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola and Chingola through the World Bank supported Increased Access to Electricity Services Project.

ZESCO sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused.

For timely and convenient updates; join ZESCO **SMS Power** by linking your Cellphone number to your ZESCO ACCOUNT. Simply type: joinsms (leave space) your ZESCO Account number (leave space) 1234 and send to 3636. You can also register via www.zesco.co.zm

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