



Powering The Nation

PRESS STATEMENT

ZESCO LIMITED ENGAGES DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS

Lusaka, Zambia – July 5, 2024 – ZESCO Limited (ZESCO) reports that on the 3rd and 4th of July 2024, it had engagements with some dissatisfied customers who intend to protest the Corporation's handling of the power crisis through a planned protest on July 10, 2024.

Meeting Objectives:

The meetings were aimed at understanding the dissatisfied customers' concerns and addressing the said concerns. The customers sought answers to two questions as follows:

1. Why is ZESCO not complying with the load rationing schedules?
2. What are ZESCO's short and long-term measures to address the energy challenge in the county?

ZESCO responded to the issues raised in the meeting itself and by way of correspondence to the customers' lawyers as follows:

a) Non-Compliance with the Power Rationing Schedule

ZESCO explained that the Corporation endeavors to strictly adhere to the published schedules, but sometimes is unable to achieve this owing to the following factors which are beyond its control:

1. **Reduced Control Over Imported Power Stability and Scheduling:** The power imported from Mozambique is transmitted through South Africa, Zimbabwe, or Namibia. Any constraints in these power carrier paths can lead to a deficit, disrupting the planned schedules, for instance, Zimbabwe carried out maintenance works on 30th June 2024 and this disrupted the rationing schedules.
2. **Power System Stability:** To maintain the stability of the power system during deficits, ZESCO takes immediate action by either cutting off supply or delaying the restoration of supply. This may disrupt the load rationing schedules. Notably, failure to cut off supply or prompt restoration without managing the system's stability can result in the collapse of the entire network leading to a total blackout.
3. **Vandalism:** Instances of vandalism also cause prolonged outages, further complicating the adherence to the load rationing schedules.

While recognizing these challenges, ZESCO informed the dissatisfied customers that it would continue developing mechanisms and interventions to minimize departures from the schedules.

b) Short- and Long-Term Measures to Mitigate Power Rationing:

ZESCO advised that it was tirelessly working on many interventions to increase the generation capacity through harnessing solar, hydro, coal, wind and other sustainable energy sources; and to meet all our customers' electricity needs. Some of the initiatives underway in this regard include the following:

Short-Term Measures:

1. Importing up to 140MW from Electricidade de Mozambique.
2. Increased Electricity Purchases from the SAPP Competitive Market
3. Reducing electricity exports to maintain only lifeline exports.
4. Implementing power rationing.
5. Running up the 105MW Ndola Energy Power Plant to supplement the power supply.
6. Promoting solar rooftop solutions for household use and Net Metering
7. Promoting solar for water heating instead of grid power.
8. Championing energy efficiency and conservation, including replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs.
9. Encouraging customers to switch and save.
10. Implementing micro-generators up to 5,000kW to beef up local generation
11. Planned deployment of up to 400MW Diesel Power Generators

Medium to Long-Term Measures:

Generation

1. 100MWp ZESCO Chisamba Solar Project: Supporting the development of a 100MWp solar plant.
2. 50MWp ZESCO Luapula Solar Project: Developing 50MWp + (Energy Storage System) ESS solar plant.
3. 50MWp ZESCO Choma Solar Project: Developing 50MWp + ESS solar plant.
4. Supporting the development of Maamba Phase II.
5. Rehabilitating and upgrading Chishimba Hydropower Station to increase capacity from 6MW to 15MW.
6. Restoring Lusiwasi Lower Hydropower Project to increase capacity to 12MW.
7. Developing Kalungwishi Hydro Power Project at Kundabwika and Kabwelume to a total of 180MW

Transmission

1. Constructing the Zambia-Tanzania Interconnector with 612km of 330kV lines.
2. Constructing the Angola-Zambia Interconnector with a 330kV line between Kazombo and Lumwana.
3. Constructing the Zambia-Malawi Interconnector with 35km of 330kV lines from Chipata West to Mchinji.
4. Constructing the Mozambique-Zambia Interconnector with 375km of 400kV lines from Chipata West to Matambo.
5. Reinforcement of the Central Corridor Transmission Network

In concluding the engagement with the dissatisfied customers, ZESCO extended an invitation to visit the Kariba Dam for them to appreciate the hydrological crisis. However, the dissatisfied customers declined the offer stating that they were aware of the low water levels in the dam and the effects of the drought.

Following these meetings, ZESCO trusts that all the concerns raised by the dissatisfied customers have been addressed.

ZESCO recognizes the importance of reliable electricity and sincerely regrets any inconvenience caused by power disruptions. The Corporation remains steadfast in its commitment to providing stable and reliable electricity and constantly engaging customers through its various platforms.

**ISSUED BY
ZESCO LIMITED**



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