



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

NATIONAL ADDRESS

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. LEVY P. MWANAWASA, S.C.,

ON

MEASURES TO MINIMISE LOAD SHEDDING OF

ELECTRICITY

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

17 MARCH 2008

COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN,

I HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE NATION THIS EVENING ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF ENERGY, FOCUSING ON ELECTRICITY. ELECTRICITY IS AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL RESOURCE. WE USE THIS RESOURCE IN OUR MINES, IN OUR INDUSTRIES, IN OUR HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND HOMES. OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES ARE NOW SO DEPENDENT ON ELECTRICITY THAT WHEN IT BECOMES UNAVAILABLE, WE GET ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

AND INDEED ELECTRICITY HAS BECOME SCARE. THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE WELL KNOWN. FIRSTLY, A NUMBER OF GENERATORS AT OUR MAJOR HYDRO ELECTRIC STATIONS OF KAFUE GORGE AND KARIBA NORTH BANK ARE NOT PRODUCING ELECTRICITY RIGHT NOW BECAUSE THEY ARE BEING REHABILITATED. THERE WAS NO CHOICE ABOUT THIS BECAUSE THE MACHINES WERE LONG OVERDUE FOR REHABILITATION SINCE MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN IN SERVICE FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. DELAYING THEIR REHABILITATION WOULD HAVE RISKED OUR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY EVEN MORE.

SECONDLY, THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPORTING ELECTRICITY HAS BECOME NARROWER BECAUSE ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS WHERE WE HAVE IMPORTED FROM IN THE PAST ARE ALSO FACING SHORTAGES.

THIRDLY, THE SUCCESS WE HAVE SCORED IN GETTING THE ECONOMY TO GROW FASTER HAS INCREASED THE DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY BEYOND OUR INSTALLED CAPACITY, EVEN THOUGH THIS CAPACITY WAS FOR A VERY LONG TIME WELL BEYOND OUR NATIONAL REQUIREMENT.

IN TIME, THE GENERATORS THAT ARE BEING REHABILITATED WILL RETURN INTO SERVICE. AFTER THIS REHABILITATION, THEIR CAPACITY TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY WILL BE GREATER THAN BEFORE BECAUSE THEY ARE ALSO BEING UPGRADED IN ADDITION TO BEING REHABILITATED. BY MARCH 2009 IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL GENERATORS WOULD HAVE COME BACK INTO SERVICE.

WHILE THIS WILL HELP, I AM AFRAID THAT THE OVERALL SUPPLY-DEMAND BALANCE WILL REMAIN TIGHT BECAUSE NEW SOURCES OF DEMAND FOR ENERGY HAVE EMERGED AND WILL CONTINUE TO EMERGE. THIS YEAR ALONE, FOR EXAMPLE, NEW CONNECTIONS WILL BE MADE AT LUMWANA MINE, THE KAFUE STEEL PLANT, THE EXPANDED CHILANGA CEMENT, MUNALI NICKEL MINE AND MANY OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW HYDRO ELECTRIC PLANTS SUCH AS THE ITEZHI-TEZHI, KAFUE GORGE LOWER AND KALUNGWISHI AND MANY OTHERS SO AS TO INCREASE THE TOTAL INSTALLED CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY.

GOVERNMENT IS ALSO LOOKING AT ENCOURAGING COAL BASED ELECTRICITY GENERATION USING THE MAMBA COAL MINE WHICH WILL SOON BE REVAMPED AFTER A STRATEGIC PARTNER COMES ON BOARD. BUT IT WILL TAKE YEARS FOR THESE EFFORTS TO PRODUCE INCREASED CAPACITY BECAUSE OF THE LONG LEAD TIME REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT THE FACILITIES AND TO GET THE GENERATORS MANUFACTURED.

AT PRESENT THEREFORE, LOAD SHEDDING OF ELECTRICITY HAS BECOME UNAVOIDABLE BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH OF IT. I SHARE THE SERIOUS CONCERNS OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR CITIZENS ON THE DISRUPTION THAT THIS LOAD SHEDDING IS CAUSING ON OUR INDUSTRIES AND LIVES. WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IMMEDIATELY.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT INDEED THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE CAN COLLECTIVELY DO AS A NATION SO THAT WE MINIMISE AND EVEN POSSIBLY ELIMINATE LOAD SHEDDING. IT ALL DEPENDS ON OUR COLLECTIVE WILL. I NOW THEREFORE WISH TO FOCUS MORE ON THIS.

EVERYONE WILL HAVE NOTED THAT EXCEPT WHEN THERE IS A TECHNICAL FAULT, LOAD SHEDDING USUALLY TAKES PLACE IN THE MORNING, AT LUNCH TIME AND IN THE EARLY EVENING. THESE ARE THE TIMES WHEN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY SURGES BECAUSE OF COOKING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS. AT ALL OTHER TIMES DURING THE DAY, THE USE OF ELECTRICITY IS USUALLY WITHIN THE SUPPLY THAT IS AVAILABLE. IN FACT, A GOOD SURPLUS OF ELECTRICITY EXISTS IN THE NIGHT.

THIS MEANS THAT WE CAN COLLECTIVELY IN OUR INDIVIDUAL HOMES TAKE ACTIONS THAT WILL REDUCE THE NEED FOR LOAD SHEDDING. FIRSTLY WE SHOULD ALL STRIVE TO USE LESS ELECTRICITY AT ALL TIMES. SECONDLY AND MORE PARTICULARLY, WE SHOULD ALL BE VIGILANT TO SEE TO IT THAT WE REDUCE THE USE OF ELECTRICITY DURING PEAK TIMES THAT I HAVE REFERRED TO.

A NUMBER OF SIMPLE MEASURES EXIST FOR REDUCING POWER CONSUMPTION IN OUR HOMES, FACTORIES AND SO ON. ZESCO WILL GIVE DETAILS OF THESE IN TIME. ALLOW ME TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW WHICH ARE VERY SIMPLE AND YET CRITICAL.

❖ SWITCH OFF APPLIANCES SUCH AS SWIMMING POOL PUMPS, BOREHOLE PUMPS, DEEP FREEZERS, GEYSERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT DURING THE PEAK DEMAND PERIOD FOR ELECTRICITY WHICH IS FROM 18.00HRS TO 21.00HRS. THE APPLIANCES MAY BE SWITCHED ON AT NON PEAK TIMES.

❖ USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES SUCH AS ENERGY SAVER LAMPS WHICH ONLY USE 18W AND PRODUCE THE SAME LIGHT AS A 100W INCANDESCENT LAMP. FOR CUSTOMERS, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THIS CAN REDUCE THEIR MONTHLY BILLS BY CLOSE TO 90% FOR A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD. NATIONALLY, I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT ENERGY SAVINGS ESTIMATED AT 145MEGA WATTS MAY BE REALISED.

WITH THIS SAVING FROM LIGHTS ALONE LOAD SHEDDING WILL BE GREATLY MINIMIZED SINCE THE SHORTFALL AT PEAK IS AROUND 300MEGA WATTS.

❖ ANOTHER IMPORTANT SAVING DEVICE IS THE WATER GEYSER. I URGE ALL PEOPLE CONSTRUCTING HOUSES NOW TO OPT FOR THE SOLAR GEYSERS RATHER THAN THE CONVENTIONAL GEYSERS. IN OUR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO THE SOUTH, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOLAR GYRES HAS BEEN MORE THAN PROVED AS EVIDENCED BY THEIR POPULARITY.

IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING SITUATION, MY GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO INSTITUTE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RETAIL COST OF ENERGY SAVING DEVICES AND APPLIANCES.

ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING TO URGENTLY USE APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTS TO SUSPEND DUTY ON A SELECTED NUMBER OF THE ENERGY SAVING DEVICES AND APPLIANCES LIKE THE BULBS. VAT ON THESE ITEMS WILL ALSO EITHER BE ZERO RATED OR EXEMPT. I EXPECT THE RETAIL OUTLETS TO FULLY PASS ON THE BENEFITS OF THESE MEASURES TO THEIR CUSTOMERS.

I NOW APPEAL TO EACH AND EVERY RESIDENT OF THIS COUNTRY TO MAKE CONCERTED EFFORTS TO APPLY THESE SIMPLE ENERGY SAVINGS MEASURES SO THAT WE RID OURSELVES OF THE NUISANCE OF LOAD SHEDDING.

THESE MEASURES ARE ALSO GOOD FOR US AT INDIVIDUAL FAMILY LEVEL BECAUSE THEY WILL REDUCE OUR ELECTRICITY BILLS.

IN THE CASE OF THE BULBS, THE ENERGY SAVING TYPES ARE IN FACT EVEN CHEAPER WHEN YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR CONSIDERABLE LONGER LIFE WHEN COMPARED TO THE CONVENTIONAL TYPE.

COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN,

THESE MEASURES I HAVE OUTLINED AND THOSE TO BE PRESENTED BY ZESCO LATER ARE QUITE SIMPLE AND ARE WITHIN THE ABILITY OF ALL OF US TO IMPLEMENT. TRUE, THEY INVOLVE SOME INCONVENIENCE OF HAVING TO CHANGE SIMPLE DEVICES AND APPLIANCES LIKE BULBS.

IT ALSO INVOLVES SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY TAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SWITCHING ON AND OFF DEVICES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIMES INSTEAD OF LEAVING THEM ON ALL THE TIME AS PER COMMON PRACTICE TODAY. THE COLLECTIVE BENEFITS WILL BE FELT BY THE NATION AT LARGE.

PLEASE DO NOT EXPECT A MONITOR FROM GOVERNMENT TO COME AND SUPERVISE YOU FOR COMPLIANCE. THE MONITOR FOR YOUR COMPLIANCE WILL BE YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE. THINK OF THAT NEWLY BORN PREMATURE BABY WHOSE SURVIVAL UNDER THE INCUBATOR DEPENDS ON THE TOTAL AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRICITY.

THINK OF THE BAKERY NEXT DOOR WHOSE ABILITY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH BREAD TOMORROW MORNING DEPENDS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRICITY. THINK OF YOUR OWN FOOD IN THE FREEZER AND THAT IT COULD BE SPOILT IF ELECTRICITY GOES OFF FOR LONG.

IF YOU VOLUNTARILY ADOPT THE ENERGY SAVING MEASURES, YOU HAVE A SAY IN THE FATE OF THE EXAMPLES I HAVE MENTIONED. IF YOU DO NOT, ZESCO HAS LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO LOAD SHED TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT LIKE GENERATORS.

OUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN AVOIDING THE LOAD SHEDDING IS IN OUR OWN HANDS. LET US THEREFORE UNITE AND TOGETHER WE CAN OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES OF LOAD SHEDDING.

**MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS
ZAMBIA.**

I THANK YOU.