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Press Statement

Solar licensing regime revised

21st November 2016

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has introduced a license requirement for all importers of solar equipment with effect from 1st January 2017.

This initiative is intended to manage the solar sub sector to protect consumers from sub-standard solar products as well as promote operations of legitimately licensed solar companies.

The Zambian market has lately been flooded with solar products, some of which are sub-standard and are sold to unsuspecting members of the public. In addition, unlicensed operators are selling solar appliances without providing technical advice necessary for the proper use and installation of this energy type. Further, operations of licensed entities that operate in line with set standards and guidelines have been negatively impacted by the wanton proliferation of solar products on the Zambian market.

The import license requirement is therefore intended to control the quality of solar products that will be allowed in the country and also to provide impetus to licensed investors in the solar sub sector. The ERB has therefore partnered with the Zambia Revenue Authority and the Zambia Bureau of Standards as regulators at border entry points to enforce this requirement. Therefore, with effect from 1st January 2017 solar equipment imported without a licence will not be permitted into the country. This requirement is applicable to solar equipment such as solar panels, inverters, solar batteries and charge controllers.

It should however be noted that this requirement does not apply to items purchased for own use including appliances that use solar power such as solar lamps, cell phone chargers, fridges, geysers, radios and television sets among others.

Importers of the named products and other interested parties and members of the public are encouraged to contact the ERB at our offices in Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingstone and Chinsali or call the ERB Toll Free Line **8484** or access the list from the website: www.erb.org.zm.



Kwali Mfuni (Ms.)
Manager - Public Relations
ENERGY REGULATION BOARD

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

The ERB has pegged the solar license fee at 0.5%. This is less than the 0.7% license fee applicable in the petroleum and electricity sub sectors, which is in line with Government policy to keep costs low in the solar sub sector to encourage investment.