



PRESS STATEMENT

GOOD MORNING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,

AS YOU ARE AWARE, FOLLOWING THE UNPRECEDENTED NATIONWIDE POWER BLACKOUTS OF 19, 21 AND 22 JANUARY 2008, THE ENERGY REGULATION BOARD (ERB) DECIDED TO COMMISSION A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO EXAMINE THE CAUSES OF THE BLACKOUTS AND RECOMMEND MEASURES THAT WOULD PREVENT THEIR REOCCURRENCE.

THIS MORNING I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY THAT THE ERB HAS APPOINTED. THE ERB VIEWS THE OCCURRENCES OF 19, 21 AND 22 JANUARY 2008 IN A VERY SERIOUS LIGHT GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANT BEARING THAT SAFE, RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES OF THE CORRECT QUALITY HAVE ON THE OVERALL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE NATION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY IS COMPRISED OF MEMBERS FROM DIVERSE PROFESSIONS WHICH INCLUDE ENGINEERING, ECONOMICS, ACCOUNTANCY AND LAW. THE CORE SKILLS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE COUPLED WITH THEIR CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE OF GREAT VALUE TO THE CHALLENGING TASK THAT LIES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY IS AS FOLLOWS:

PROFESSOR JORRY MWENECHANYA, AN ENERGY CONSULTANT SHALL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ARE **MR. MATHEWS M LINDUNDA**, A FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KARIBA NORTH BANK AND AN ENGINEER BY PROFESSION, **MR JOHN MULEYA**, FORMER DIRECTOR OF DISTRIBUTION AT ZESCO LIMITED , **MR CHITETA CHINGAMBU** A CONSULTANT WITH AN ENGINEERING AND ACCOUNTANCY BACKGROUND, **MR. RAPHAEL SALASINI** A SENIOR LECTURER OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AT UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA, **MR. CLEMENT SASA**, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AT THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER BY PROFESSION, **MRS NELLY MUTTI** A LUSAKA LAWYER AND FORMER CHAIRPERSON OF THE ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION AND **MRS AGNES MUSINGA** WHO IS CURRENTLY ACTING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING.

THE BROAD TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- a. INQUIRE INTO, INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE THE OPERATION OF THE PROTECTION SYSTEM, TRACING THE STEPS IN THE CASCADE FROM THE

INCIDENCE OF THE FAULT TO THE BLACKOUT, WITH THE VIEW TO ESTABLISHING WHETHER ZESCO HAD IMPLEMENTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT INTO THE 4 JUNE 2006 NATIONWIDE BLACKOUT;

- b. INQUIRE INTO, INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE THE CONDITION AND OPERATING STATUS OF GENERATING STATIONS, SWITCHGEAR AND THE MAIN TRANSMISSION LINES BEFORE THE EVENTS;
- c. INQUIRE INTO, INVESTIGATE AND ESTABLISH THE LOAD FLOW CONDITIONS BEFORE THE FAULT, INCLUDING IMPORTS AND EXPORTS;
- d. ESTABLISH WHAT WAS THE LOAD ON THE ZAMBIA-ZIMBABWE INTER-CONNECTOR BEFORE THE FAULT AT KARIBA NORTH BANK POWER STATION;
- e. INQUIRE INTO, INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE WHAT WAS THE STATUS OF THE ZAMBIAN SYSTEM BEFORE THE NATIONWIDE POWER OUTAGE OF 19, 21 AND 22 JANUARY, 2008;
- f. INQUIRE INTO, INVESTIGATE AND ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT THE EVENT WHICH CAUSED THE NATIONWIDE POWER OUTAGE OF 19, 21

AND 22 JANUARY, 2008 ORIGINATED FROM WITHIN THE ZAMBIAN SYSTEM OR WHETHER THEY ORIGINATED FROM OUTSIDE;

- g. INQUIRE INTO, INVESTIGATE AND ESTABLISH WHETHER THE COLLAPSED PYLON ON THE KARIBA-LEOPARDS HILL LINE PLAYED ANY ROLE IN THE EVENTS, AND TO WHAT EXTENT.
- h. ESTABLISH TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY, OF THE NATIONWIDE POWER OUTAGES OF 19, 21 AND 22 JANUARY 2008.

FURTHER THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY SHALL:

- a. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR EVENTS AS THOSE OF 19, 21 AND 22 JANUARY, 2008;
- b. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANY MATTER CONNECTED TO OR INCIDENTAL TO THE EVENTS OF 19, 21 AND 22 JANUARY, 2008

IN CARRYING OUT ITS INQUIRY, THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

- a. SUMMON WITNESS FROM ANY LICENCED UTILITY;
- b. CALL SUCH OTHER WITNESSES AS IT SHALL DEEM FIT;
- c. RECORD THE EVIDENCE OF EVERY WITNESS WHO SHALL APPEAR BEFORE IT;
- d. SIT AND HOLD ITS PROCEEDINGS AT SUCH PLACES AND VISIT SUCH SITES AND INSTALLATIONS AS IT SHALL THINK FIT;
- e. OPEN ITS PROCEEDINGS TO THE PUBLIC EXCEPT WHERE IN THE COMMITTEES' SOLE OPINION, DOING SO IS LIKELY TO PREJUDICE NATIONAL SECURITY;

THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY SHALL COMMENCE ITS WORK ON WEDNESDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2008 AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT SHALL SUBMIT ITS PRELIMINARY FINDINGS TO THE ERB SIX WEEKS AFTER THIS DATE.

AS WAS THE CASE WITH EXPERT TEAM INVESTIGATION INTO THE OUTAGE OF 04 JUNE 2006, THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I THANK YOU.

SIKOTA WINA

BOARD CHAIRMAN

05 FEBRUARY 2008