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Press Statement

Operations at 2 Kobil Retail Sites in Kitwe Suspended

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 24th January 2017

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has temporarily closed two Filling stations belonging to Kobil Zambia in Kitwe following investigations which revealed that petrol being sold at the sites did not comply with technical specifications.

The stations operating under the Oil Marketing Company (OMC) are Kobil Zambia Way and Oxford Service Stations, which were closed after complaints were received from various consumers, including bus operators and taxi drivers, who had bought petrol from the retail sites between 9th and 11th January 2017.

Consumers complained to the dealers and later to ERB, who moved in and barricaded the facilities pending conclusion of investigations. It was observed that some motor vehicles which refuelled at the two stations produced unusual smoke or black soot and lost power after moving for a short distance. About 108 vehicles were reportedly affected.

At the time of the incident, petrol samples were collected from three (3) underground tanks at the two (2) sites and later taken for testing at an independent laboratory. The laboratory results have since shown that all the samples collected from the affected sites did not comply with provisions in the **Zambian Standard for petrol, ZS 395: 2008 Unleaded Petrol (Gasoline) for Motor Vehicles – Specification.**

However, other Kobil sites supplied with petrol from the Kobil Depot in Lusaka have not reported similar complaints.

In view of the foregoing, the ERB has directed that the two sites remain closed until the contaminated product is pumped out and the tanks cleaned before a fresh supply of petrol is delivered to site. The filling stations will only reopen once this process has been witnessed and verified by the ERB and the quality of the supplied product is guaranteed.

The ERB reiterates that it will continue to closely and rigorously monitor the quality of fuel before it is offloaded on the market to safeguard the interest of consumers.



Members of the public are encouraged to report similar irregularities to the ERB through toll free line 8484 or at any of our offices in Chinsali, Kitwe, Livingstone and Lusaka.

Meanwhile, the ERB recently summoned 22 erring licencees to appear before the regulator for breach of Licence Conditions and applicable technical Standards.

Licencees were challenged to show cause why enforcement action could not be carried against them for various anomalies detected at their respective filling stations.

Breaches ranged from illegal offloading of fuel from a foreign tanker, failure to display new prices, inadequate leak detection system, faulty forecourt lights, inadequate fire extinguishers, potholed forecourt driveways, absence of control valve on oil interceptor, blocked forecourt drainage, absence of switch off/no cell phone symbols and dirty drainages.

Nationwide audits of filling stations conducted by ERB in 2016 revealed that some sites failed to achieve 85% compliance rate.



Agnes Phiri

DIRECTOR – CONSUMER & PUBLIC AFFAIRS