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# Press Statement

## National Fuel Supply Update

**21<sup>st</sup> March, 2016**

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has waived the requirement for petroleum transporters (tankers) to transport fuel only between 06:00 hours and 18:00 hours. This is to ensure quick movement of petroleum products following the recent shortages in some parts of the country. The waiver is valid until the fuel supply situation normalizes.

In that regard, authority has been granted to some Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) that have sought permission to transport petroleum products outside the stipulated time of 06:00 hours to 18:00 hours. However, the ERB is encouraging other OMCs to come forward for express permission regarding the same. This is in order to facilitate for the prompt delivery of fuel following Government authorisation for OMCs to import refined products.

Further, the ERB has established that fuel stocks are improving as of today, with more filling stations recording available stocks. Most of the filling stations sampled have reported either having fuel or are expecting deliveries. Therefore, there is no need for panic-buying of fuel by consumers.

This position is confirmed by statistics from licensees and on-site technical audits which are currently being carried out by ERB inspectors. The targeted areas include Lusaka, Livingstone and the Copperbelt Province. Out of 15 filling stations monitored in Lusaka, 11 had both petrol and diesel while three recorded only one of the two products while one had none.

This is an improvement from Thursday's outlook where four major OMCs specifically Total, Puma, Engen and Mount Meru reported stock outs for many filling stations in the capital. The ERB also permitted a newly constructed filling station in Kanyama, Lusaka that had fuel on site to sell it to the Public.

With regard to the Copperbelt and specifically Kitwe, the ERB this morning inspected 13 filling stations out of which eight (08) had both petrol and diesel, two petrol only and

three had stock outs. However, all filling stations without stocks were expecting products during the course of the day.

In addition, some major OMCs have reported that their stock levels are increasing steadily with most expecting to have normal quantities by mid this week. Total indicated that their diesel and petrol stocks are increasing and levels should be normal by Wednesday; Puma reported adequate diesel stocks while the petrol stocks will also be adequate within the course of the week. Engen stated that their stocks are improving and have put logistical measures in place to hasten product delivery. Other OMCs have also generally given the ERB a positive outlook.

The ERB has directed filling stations to avoid holding fuel for account holders, except where prior payment has been made for the product. Members of the public and motorists are urged to report suspected product holding to the ERB at any of our offices in Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingston and Chinsali or the Toll Free Line 8080.

The ERB would also like to inform the public that Indeni has resumed operating. The combination of imports by OMCs and refined products from Indeni will adequately provide for the national energy needs. Consumers are therefore urged to purchase fuel normally and avoid panic buying as supply is expected to stabilize throughout the country.

The ERB will continue to monitor the situation to ensure all license conditions are adhered to. In addition, the fuel stocks situation will be regularly monitored and the public updated accordingly.



Kwali Mfuni (Ms.)

**MANAGER – PUBLIC RELATIONS**