



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY HON. KENNETH KONGA MP,
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT ON THE
RESUMPTION OF INDENI REFINERY OPERATIONS

Mr Speaker,

I thank you for giving me yet another opportunity to brief the public through this August House regarding the fuel situation in the country. As members of the House may recall, during my last statement to this House on this matter, I had indicated that the refinery shutdown would last for 45 days with the startup of the refinery expected to be on 15th November 2010. I am glad to inform the nation that maintenance works have been completed and the refinery started operations on 17th November 2010.

The nation may wish to note that the refinery will operate better after maintenance. The works carried out included catalyst regeneration, maintenance works on all units and last but not the least upgrade of the control and instrumentation system. A total of US\$8 million (about K38.4 billion) was spent.

The units that have been worked on include furnaces, heat exchangers, air coolers, the recycle gas compressor, vessels, columns, the water basin, cooling tower, the flare, rotating equipment, piping and utilities. The repair of these units will enhance refinery operational reliability and efficiency. Upgrade of the instrumentation and control system involved replacement of the old control system with a digital control system that will make control of refinery operations easier and more efficient. The new system will also enhance refinery safety. The regenerated catalyst will also contribute to efficient production of petrol.

Mr Speaker,

I would therefore like to reassure the public through this August House that the security of supply of petroleum products is a matter Government has prioritised. At the time of the refinery resuming operations we had the following fuel stock days:

- Diesel – 13 days
- Petrol – 30 days
- Kerosene – 9 days
- Jet A1 – 15 days
- Heavy Fuel Oil – 120 days

With this stock position, plus what the refinery will be producing our stock position will increase.

I would like to thank staff in my ministry, Indeni Refinery and TAZAMA Pipelines Limited for working so hard to ensure that this year's refinery shutdown did not lead to disruption of fuel supply. The cooperation of all Oil Marketing Companies as well as fuel consumers is highly appreciated.

Mr Speaker,

The above situation will not have been achieved without the tremendous support my ministry got from the Ministry of Finance & National Planning. It is the desire of Government that never again should this country suffer fuel shortages as a result of factors we can control.

Thank you Mr. Speaker