



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY
HONOURABLE CHRISTOPHER YALUMA, MP,
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, WORKS, SUPPLY,
AND COMMUNICATIONS, ON THE POWER
INTERRUPTION DUE TO THE FAULT ON THE
ZESCO POWER SUPPLY TO KENNETH KAUNDA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**7th NOVEMBER, 2012
LUSAKA**

Mr. Speaker,

Contrary to the point of order raised by Honourable Jack Mwiimbu claiming that I issued a statement to the fact that the Airport will never have a power blackout, I wish to clarify that whilst reliability of equipment performance could be enhanced, failure cannot be completely avoided as there are natural occurrences that are outside our control. I have therefore not made such an irresponsible statement.

It is also wrong for Honourable Mwiimbu to allege that we lost supply to the Airport for more than 12:00hrs on 5th November 2012.

Mr. Speaker,

On the 5th of November 2012 at 10:25hrs, the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) power supply to Kenneth Kaunda International Airport developed a

fault and immediately the Airport Standby Generator Set (GENSET) automatically deployed and supplied power to the entire Airport. This therefore meant that operations at the Airport continued normally despite the ZESCO fault.

At 11:00hrs ZESCO decided to supply the Airport through the alternate power supply. National Airports Corporation Limited (NACL) granted permission to ZESCO to work on their network configuration. This took one hour seven minutes which was more than the anticipated time necessitating NACL to switch back to GENSET. The operation was deferred to another window when the Airport experiences low traffic. Meanwhile, repair of the ZESCO fault continued. The power interruption to selected areas of the Airport was one hour seven minutes.

Mr. Speaker,

During the one hour seven minutes, i.e. from 11:00hrs to 12:07hrs, Kenya Airways and South African Airways check-in process was partially affected and consequently the Airlines were delayed by 20minutes and 29minutes respectively.

In the period that the main GENSET was off, the small GENSETs supplied power to the essential areas constituting the runway lighting, taxiway lighting, apron flood lighting, control tower, communication equipment and air navigation equipment which operated without interruption. Scheduled operations were normal as Kenya Airways and South African Airways planes safely landed within the hour of the controlled shutdown. The Airport maintained security and safety measures in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Recommended Practices. Only part of the Terminal

Building was affected but **ALL** the essential areas had power supply from localised small GENSETs.

Mr. Speaker,

At 17:30hrs when the Airport experiences low traffic, ZESCO was granted permission to continue working on the fault and power was successfully restored at 17:39hrs.

The fault on the ZESCO power supply was identified and repaired on 6th November 2012. The Airport power supply is back to normal.

Mr. Speaker,

In conclusion, I would like to assure the members of this August House and the general public that the Airport did not experience a total power blackout as reported in the local media.