

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY HON. KENNETH
KONGA MP, MINISTER OF ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT ON THE MAINTANANCE SHUTDOWN
OF THE INDENI PETROLEUM REFINERY**

Mr Speaker,

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to brief the public through this August House regarding the fuel situation in the country in view of the maintenance shutdown of the refinery from 1st October to 15th November, 2010.

As Hon. Members are aware, we had serious challenges in 2009 during the refinery shut down. Unlike 2009 when we had serious supply constraints including inadequate storage capacity, the situation this year is different.

Using our own resources, we have finished the construction of a 40 million litre diesel storage tank in Ndola. Further, two tanks, each with a 14 million litre capacity have also been rehabilitated at the Ndola Fuel Terminal.

In addition to the above, the Government has since January this year, been importing fuel to supplement what is produced at the refinery. As of today 1st October, 2010, the following are the fuel stock levels in the country:

- a) 75 million litres of diesel equivalent to 47 days of national consumption
- b) 34 million litres of petrol equivalent to 55 days of national consumption
- c) 2.4 million litres of Kerosene equivalent to 49 days of national consumption

d) 5 million litres of Jet A1 equivalent to 41 days of national consumption

e) 29,000 tonnes of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) equivalent to 165 days of national consumption

Mr Speaker,

From the above figures, Government is convinced that there will be sufficient fuel supply during the refinery shut down. In addition to the above, fuel imports will continue during and beyond the refinery shut down.

As a way to continue securing our fuel supplies, the Government will continue with the programme of rehabilitating and building storage tanks. The next phase of this programme will see the expansion of storage facilities in Lusaka, Solwezi and Mongu. A new storage facility will also be built in Mpika which will be the supply hub for Northern Province. Thereafter storage facilities in other provinces will be rehabilitated and/or expanded. The bulk of these works will be completed before the end of 2011.

Having briefed the nation through this August House on the fuel supply situation in the country during the refinery shut down, I wish to take this opportunity to assure all fuel consumers that the fuel already in the country will be enough to supply the country during the refinery shut down. The continuation of fuel importation is meant to replenish what will be used when the refinery is not operating.

No fuel consumer should therefore have any anxieties about fuel supply during the refinery shut down.

Thank you Mr. Speaker