



Republic of Zambia

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**Ministerial Statement by Hon. Christopher Yaluma, MP, Minister of
Transport, Works, Supply and Communication on the partial power
outage at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport**

Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication

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Mr Speaker,

I wish to thank you Sir, for according me this opportunity to issue a statement on the partial power outage that occurred at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport on 2nd October 2012 at 16:41hours. May I take this opportunity to inform this August House and through it to the nation on what transpired and what extra steps that my Ministry has taken to avoid a reoccurrence.

Mr Speaker,

On Tuesday, 2nd October 2012 at 16.41 hours, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport experienced a power outage that affected part of the Passenger Terminal Building as a result of a fault on the Airport electricity supply system. As a result of this outage, the main power supply from the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO), the main airport standby generator set and local dedicated standby generator sets, despite being available, could not supply part of the Passenger Terminal Building due to a fault that was registered on the medium voltage panel. Preliminary investigations indicate that a fault in one of the Airport tenants' premises caused the main breaker at Substation No.6 to trip and burnt out. This affected 4% of the total load installed at the Airport.

Mr Speaker,

During the period of the partial power outage, the airport runway lights, taxiway lights, apron flood lights, control tower equipment, communication equipment and air navigation equipment operated without interruption as they had power supply. This therefore, allowed aeroplanes to safely land and take-off while the airport maintained security and safety measures in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Recommended Practices. To this effect, both domestic and international outgoing passengers were physically screened while luggage was electronically screened at an alternative site. Incoming passengers underwent ALL necessary formalities.

Mr Speaker,

The Airport is configured with three (3) alternate power supplies to ensure optimum reliability, as contingencies. The Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) supplies the Airport through two distinct source feeders; one underground and the other overhead. The two ZESCO feeders are interfaced, at Main Substation, with the 1,500KVA 11KV main standby generator set with automatic changeover switch. This system has worked very well over the years whenever there has been mains supply power failure.

The main standby generator set has an 11kV ring cable network with 14No. 11kV/400V Substations supplying the various loads in the Airport.

Currently, the airport maximum demand is averaging 500 KVA which is only one third of the capacity of the main standby generator set.

Mr Speaker,

In order to optimise reliability of power supply to critical areas of the airport, all essential areas have secondary power supply from localized dedicated standby generators as follows: -

- i) Airfield constituting runway, taxiway, and approach have two generators of capacity 100KVA 400V and 200KVA 400V located at Substation No. '3' and '12' respectively.
- ii) The Control Tower has a generator of capacity 40KVA 400V located at Substation No. '5A'.
- iii) The Transmitter has a generator of capacity 25KVA 400V located at Substation No. '18'.
- iv) The Terminal Building has a generator of capacity 800KVA 400V located at Substation No. '6'.
- v) The Air Navigation equipment is complimented with battery banks and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) units to ensure continued provision of electricity in the advent of mains and standby generators' failure.

The foregoing back-up strategy is deliberately instituted to ensure uninterrupted power supply, this is in consideration of the sensitive nature of Airport operation.

Mr Speaker,

The aforementioned substations and standby generator sets undergo preventive and conditional based maintenance and testing in accordance with manufacturer's specifications, the International Civil Aviation Organisation Standards and the Department of Civil Aviation guidelines. To this effect, all scheduled maintenance and testing have been done and records are available. Further, the Airports are inspected for adherence to international recommended standards and certified annually by the Department of Civil Aviation who upon assessment of satisfactory performance subsequently issue Aerodrome Operator's Licence. Additionally, our Airports are subjected to audits by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the International Air Transport Association, Airlines and other stakeholders. Performance indicators of these audits focus on safety, security, operations, routine maintenance of equipment and testing. To this effect, the next International Civil Aviation Organisation audit is due in November 2012.

Mr Speaker,

In conclusion, I would like to assure the Members of this August House and the general public that all the operations at the airport are normal

and that my Ministry has since put in place extra measures to avoid a reoccurrence. Furthermore, Government has embarked on a program of addressing the challenges of old airport infrastructure and equipment by developing and upgrading all the international airports in the Country.

I would also like to inform the public through this August House that ALL flights operated as scheduled, and that the delay by Kenya Airways on Saturday 6th October 2012 was not caused by National Airports Corporation Limited as reported in the local electronic and print media.

I thank you Mr Speaker.