



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY

Tel: +264 61 284-8308
Fax: +264 61 2848363 / 220386
E-mail: officeoftheminister@mme.gov.na
Website: www.mme.gov.na

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

*1 Aviation Road
Private Bag 13297
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA*

NEWS EDITOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Power supply under strain – Please reduce electricity usage

The Ministry of Mines and Energy wishes to inform the Namibian and investor public that Namibia is experiencing an interim power supply constraint as of this evening, Thursday 21 May 2015 due to transmission constraints. The shortage of power came about because of the following:

- The Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) is facing a challenge to deliver the agreed 80 MW due to a physical breakdown of a voltage transformer at one of their major substations.

- In addition to the above challenge, the system of one of our regional suppliers and transmission partners, Eskom is currently under severe constrain and as a result, it has withdrawn all power exports to its neighbours during evening peak hours.

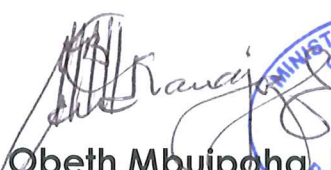
The above events are impacting on guaranteed supply in terms of direct imports from the two countries, resulting in a shortage of up to 90MW in the NamPower supply system, and this is applicable to evening peak hours (18H00- 21H00. The peak demand for the country currently stands at 530MW (excluding Skorpion Zinc Mine) against a peak supply of 285MW from local generation sources.

Efforts are being made by the utilities to get the line back on stream. This line supplies four utilities in the region. In the meantime, NamPower has requested assistance from partner utilities in line with the Southern African Power Pool protocols.

While NamPower will continue to do everything in its power to ensure security of supply, we appeal to all our customers and the nation to continue implementing electricity saving measures such as switching off air-conditioners, geysers and swimming pool pumps and all other non-essential appliances during peak times – which is eight to ten in the morning and seven to nine in the evening - to reduce the demand.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy and NamPower relies on your cooperation and support and pledges to keep you informed about developments regarding the situation.

Issued by the office of the Minister:


Obeth Mbuipaha Kandjoze
Minister of Mines and Energy

