

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON THE

PLANNED POWER OUTAGE AT KAFUE GORGE POWER STATION

BY THE

MINISTER OF ENERGY (MR NKHUWA), MP

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for according me this opportunity to present a ministerial statement on the planned outage at Kafue Gorge Power Station to facilitate the filling of Kafue Gorge Lower Dam.

Mr Speaker, the construction of the 750 MW Kafue Gorge Lower Power Station commenced in 2016. This project is valued at US\$2.3 billion. The project is located in Chikankata District of the Southern Province and is currently at 93 per cent completion.

Mr Speaker, as earlier stated, the project has advanced and the initial phase of power generation will commence soon. The commissioning of the first phase entails filling of the dam with water known as impounding process, which is planned to start on Sunday, 8th November, 2020. The process is expected to take at least one week.

Mr Speaker, the Kafue Gorge Lower lies on the downstream of the existing Kafue Gorge Upper Power Station with an installed capacity of 990 MW. With the planned commissioning of Kafue Gorge Lower, ZESCO Limited will have to restrict generation upstream at the Kafue Gorge Upper Power Station by closing the diversion tunnels and gates at Kafue Gorge Lower Dam, thereby reducing water dispensing from Kafue Gorge Upper.