



MINISTRY OF ENERGY

STATEMENT

BY HON. DAVID MABUMBA, MP

MINISTER OF ENERGY

STATEMENT

ON THE SABOTAGE OF 330KV PYLONS IN KAFUE

27.06.17

The Minister of Energy (Mr Mabumba): Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to update the august House and Zambians on the sabotage of the 330 KV pylons in Kafue West on Friday, 23rd June, 2017.

Sir, Friday, 23rd June, 2017, at 1654 hours, a system disturbance was experienced on the Interconnected Power System. This was a result of the tripping of the 330 KV Lusaka West-Kafue Line on differential protection. The line tripped and locked out at both ends, and was, therefore, left isolated for ground patrols to identify the fault. As a result, about 250 MW of system load was lost. Especially affected were the mines and some industries on the Copperbelt.

Sir, early morning on Saturday, 24th June, 2017, the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) Line Maintenance Team discovered that Tower No. 7 on the 330 KV Kafue West-Lusaka West Line had collapsed to the ground as a result of sabotage. Further evidence of sabotage was discovered on the adjacent a tower on the adjacent 330 KV Kafue West-Leopards Hill Line, which was barely held in position. That was on a private farm in the Munga area of Kafue West.

Sir, the nature of the sabotage revealed that unknown people had used gas torches to cut the steel legs of the pylon from the base, just above the foundation. They also cut the four diagonally-placed galvanised steel ropes that hold the tower in position, thus exposing the structures to failure.

Mr Speaker, ZESCO maintenance teams quickly assessed the extent of the damage, and started mobilising spares and equipment to commence repair works. Tower No. 5 on the Leopards Hill Line was repaired and the line was brought back to service in the evening of Saturday, 24th June, 2017, while the assembly of a