

**Head Office**

P.O. Box 37631, Lusaka 10101, Zambia  
Plot No. 9330 off Alick Nkhata Road  
Tel: +260 211 258844-9  
Fax: +260 211 258852  
Email: [erb@erb.org.zm](mailto:erb@erb.org.zm)

**Kitwe Office**

P.O. Box 22281, Kitwe, Zambia  
Plot 332, Independence Avenue  
Tel: +260 212 220941,43,44  
Fax: +260 212 220945

**Livingstone Office**

P.O. Box 60292, Livingstone, Zambia  
Plot No. 708, Chimwemwe Road  
Nottie Broadie  
Tel: +260 213 321562 / 321563  
Fax: 260 213 321576

# Press Statement

## National Fuel Supply Update

**1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016**

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) wishes to caution Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to guard against filling station attendants selling fuel to illegal vendors at unauthorised prices at the expense of motorists.

We have received reports that some fuel attendants are taking advantage of perceived fuel shortages by refusing to sell to motorists in preference to vendors from whom they are soliciting payment. The ERB is aware of an incident in Mazabuka where an attendant refused to refuel motorists but was instead selling fuel to consumers with jerry cans at K10 per container.

Illegal fuel vendors are allegedly selling a 5 litre container at K100 which is double the normal price.

The ERB will not hesitate to take enforcement action against OMCs whose employees are involved in this practice. We wish to request members of the public to be vigilant and report such malpractices to any ERB office in Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingstone and Chinsali or indeed call the Toll Free Line 8080.

Meanwhile, the ERB has continued to monitor the fuel supply situation as stocks continue to roll in.

Further, the ERB would like to reassure the public that Indeni Petroleum Refinery in Ndola resumed operations on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 after it received feedstock. The refinery had temporarily suspended operations as it awaited delivery of the right feedstock.

To forestall shortages, Government recently authorized OMCs to import refined petroleum products. This was to allow for a smooth transition from the previous supplier of feedstock to the next one. The nation will recall that following the issuance of Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 21 of 2016, Government suspended customs duty on diesel and petrol and allowed OMCs to import finished products. These measures are valid from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016. The OMCs have since started importing finished petroleum products.

The ERB has continued to monitor fuel stocks to ensure availability of product throughout the country. The stock levels have shown steady improvement, mainly owing to the two measures instituted through the SI and the availability of feedstock at Indeni and imports.

This will complement the refinery products from Indeni and also the ongoing importation of petroleum products which has always been done by Government. The ERB would like to assure the nation that measures to urgently normalize the national fuel supply have been put in place.

Meanwhile during periods of scarcity, ERB is cautioning filling stations that are in the habit of hoarding products and only serving account holders, that this is a violation of their license conditions which states as follows:

***"The Licensee shall not hoard petroleum products nor show undue preference to, or exercise undue discrimination against any particular persons or persons of any class or description as regards any aspect of the provision of petroleum products or any service under the Licence."***

As earlier stated, consumers are encouraged to report erring OMCs to the ERB.

The ERB is therefore also appealing for an end to the unnecessary speculation which could create anxiety and consequently result in panic buying.



Kwali Mfuni (Ms.)

**MANAGER – PUBLIC RELATIONS**