



Press Statement

Countrywide Fuel Supply

9th October, 2024

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) is proactively addressing localized fuel shortages in various parts of the country and is implementing targeted regulatory measures to restore nationwide supply and ensure a reliable fuel supply chain.

The ERB has identified cross border logistical challenges as one of the primary causes of the fuel shortages. Specifically, persistent congestion at the port of Beira, which is likely to exacerbate as the Government of Mozambique has declared 9th October, 2024 as a public holiday to allow citizens to participate in the general elections, which is likely to cause further delays in loading of petroleum products. Furthermore, the introduction of a new customs law in Zimbabwe has prompted fuel transporters to suspend imports through Zimbabwe, resulting in bottlenecks at the Chanida Border Post and extended transit times due to the increased routing distances.

To increase fuel delivery efficiency and alleviate shortages, the ERB has temporarily relaxed the movement restrictions for Petroleum Road Tank Vehicles, and extended the operating hours to 05:00 hours to 22:00 hours for the period between 7th to 31st October, 2024, from the previous 06:00 hours to 18:00 hours. During the stated period, the ERB urges transporters to adhere to all necessary safety and regulatory procedures that ensure safe passage of fuel during the extended operating hours.

The public are also advised to avoid panic buying as the ERB will continue to provide oversight and monitor fuel stocks countrywide. The ERB is collaborating with relevant Government Ministries and Departments, the Zambia Revenue Authority, the Road Transport and Safety Agency, TAZAMA, Indeni and Oil Marketing Companies to enhance fuel distribution logistics and guarantee a consistent, reliable fuel supply.

Members of the public are encouraged to engage the ERB on the current supply situation through the ERB offices in Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingstone and Kasama or through the Toll-Free Line number 8484 and Chatbot Line 0977791087.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Namukolo Kasumpa', is positioned above the printed name.

Namukolo Kasumpa (Mrs)
Manager-Public Relations
ENERGY REGULATION BOARD