



Press Statement

ERB STATEMENT ON ZESCO'S EMERGENCY TARIFF APPLICATION

19th August 2024

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB), on 12th April 2024, through Gazette Notice and in accordance with Section 18 of the Electricity Act No. 11 of 2019, declared an emergency with respect to ZESCO Limited's (ZESCO) inability to meet the national electricity demand due to external factors beyond the control of the Utility.

Subsequent to the declaration of emergency, the ERB received an application from ZESCO for the approval of an emergency tariff adjustment for its Residential, Commercial and Maximum Demand customer categories.

The ERB on 16th August 2024, issued a Public Notice and Consultation Paper (PCP) to the public in the interest of best regulatory practice and in keeping with the ERB's mission to be responsive to stakeholders' needs. This has been done to ensure transparency regarding the emergency situation and the efforts to manage the energy crisis.

Specifically, the PCP seeks to solicit input and views from interested and affected parties to achieve a fair balance among the interests of customers (end-users), the licensee (ZESCO) and the public at large. The input will be considered and form part of the decision-making process of the Board of Directors of the ERB.

In their application, ZESCO has in part proposed to maintain the tariff for domestic consumers using 200 units and below. As a measure to protect low income and small businesses, ZESCO has proposed that the tariff for consumers in the C1 range, that caters for Small and Medium Sized businesses (SMEs) be reduced during the emergency period. The utility has indicated in their application that the measure will further encourage efficiency in the use of energy for the affected consumers.

The hearing regarding the matter is scheduled for Wednesday 21st August, 2024 at Mulungushi Conference Center in Lusaka from 09:00 to 13:00 hours. The hearing, which will be both physical and virtual, is open to the public. However, attendance is open to those who register using the online link provided in the PCP. Therefore, it is important to note that only those who make written submissions, or indicate that they wish to make oral submissions will be allowed to address the Board during the hearing.

In this regard, the ERB will inform the public of its decision after the due process of stakeholder engagement following the conclusion of the hearing. Further, the ERB will continue to effectively regulate the energy sector and be responsive to stakeholders' needs to achieve sustainable, reliable and quality energy products and services.



Namukolo Kasumpa (Mrs)

MANAGER – PUBLIC RELATIONS