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AS KARIBA RECEDES MAAMBA COLLIERIES RELOCATES PUMPS AT LAKE TO KEEP GENERATING POWER

*Erratic rainfall forces power generator to move pump station a second time
in Africa's largest man-made lake due to receding water levels*

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA – Falling water levels in Kariba have necessitated Maamba Collieries Ltd (MCL) to relocate its pumps to a new location in the Kariba lake to provide water essential for the boilers of its 300-Megawatt power plant. MCL runs two power generating units, with a capacity of 150 MW, each of which consumes about 9,000 cubic metres of water a day, when running at full capacity.

Low rainfall during the last wet season caused water levels at the primary location of the pump station in Lake Kariba to drop dramatically from the usual 9-metre depths to zero levels leading to the water at the pumps running dry. Mindful of the power crisis in the country and the need to generate essential power, MCL redeployed its pumps to a new location in order to keep the thermal plant of the nation's largest Independent Power Producer operating at full capacity and avoid further load-shedding.

However, the water at the temporary pump station set up about 400m from the original suction point, also dried up last year, despite dredging efforts to sustain water depths. Maamba Development Trust manager Jethro Sikalunda said, "We have been experiencing very low rainfall in this part of the country this year and that has impacted us heavily to the point where we have lost the depth completely at our original pump site. When the water levels started reducing following last year's drought, we had to move quickly and establish an alternative temporary pumping station – 400 metres from the original site. We installed four pumps each with a capacity to pump 500 cubic meters of water an hour to the power plant 28km away."

Mr Sikalunda explained that despite dredging, the temporary pumping site also ran dry, forcing yet another relocation of the pumps further up the lake in deeper waters. Given the urgency of the situation, the MCL engineering team, swung into action and within three weeks created infrastructure including temporary power lines and sub-stations, creating a road to transfer the heavy pumps and laying high capacity pipelines to install the two-132kW pumps at an alternative pumping point further up the lake to keep the plant operating at full capacity.

Mr Scott Phiri, the Mining Manager who led the team in the execution of the work said, "Installing the pumps at a deeper location was not easy in crocodile and hippo infested waters, as these had to be kept at bay as men worked in knee deep waters. We often had to seek the assistance of wildlife wardens to ensure safety". He also said the team was motivated as MCL's power is critical for the country as a whole.



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About Maamba Collieries Ltd

Maamba Collieries Limited (MCL), in Sinazongwe District in Southern Province, is Zambia's largest coal mine and the nation's biggest Independent Power Producer (IPP) with Zambia's only coal-fired Thermal Power Plant (TPP).

The company operates a 300 MW (2 X 150 MW units) modern, eco-friendly coal-fired power plant - the only one of its kind in Zambia – with the capacity to supply 10 percent of the country's current installed electricity generation capacity.

MCL is owned 65 percent by Nava Bharat Singapore Pte and 35 percent by ZCCM-IH, with some US\$919 million invested since 2010.

The plant provides diversity in the nation's energy mix and contributes to the nation's base load electricity demand with high-availability power that is independent of climate change, thereby augmenting energy security of Zambia,

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