

Home / Latest News

← Back

# First Quantum evaluating alternative power options for Zambia

Subscribe



Read Now

Advertise Now

— Providing an update on power supply to its Zambian operations, dual-listed base metals miner First Quantum Minerals noted on Tuesday that its Kansanshi mine and smelter, as well as its Sentinel project, in the North-Western province, were being consistently provided with a total of about 285 MW, despite the country's electricity woes.

Nevertheless, the miner revealed that is was also evaluating a number of options to independently secure power for its operations both in the near and long term.

Zambia's electricity shortage and weaker copper prices - owing to slow growth in China - have put the country's mining industry under pressure, threatening output, jobs and economic growth in Southern Africa.

However, the Zambian Chamber of Mines revealed last week that the country's copper production increased to 711 515 t in 2015 from 708 000 t the previous year, which was mostly attributed to the February ramp-up at First Quantum's Sentinel mine.

### **POWER SUPPLY IN ZAMBIA**


In a show of support for its host country, First Quantum explained that Zambia was in the midst of its annual rainy season, which generally starts in November and runs through April. With the onset of the rains, the catchment area that feeds the Kariba dam, from which the majority of the country's electricity is generated, was being recharged.

The river flows at all four upstream measuring stations above Kariba dam were all showing significant increases in flow rates over the past month. Water from the catchment area typically makes its way into the Kariba dam over a period of months with dam recharge occurring from January to June.

In addition to this annual replenishment, electricity availability would be augmented by about 420 MW of new in-country capacity expected online during the current year from projects nearing completion, including 300 MW of thermal power and 120 MW hydropower.

Zambia's State-run power company Zesco had been importing power from neighbouring countries and

recently announced that it would receive additional [power imports](#) of up to 300 MW from [South Africa's State-owned power utility Eskom](#), as well as 200 MW from an [independent power producer](#).

First Quantum also confirmed that plans to reduce its net debt position by over \$1-billion by the end of March, 2016, through a combination of asset sales and other strategic initiatives, were going ahead with the continued support of its secured lenders. 

EDITED BY: CREAMER MEDIA REPORTER

[EMAIL THIS ARTICLE](#) [SAVE THIS ARTICLE](#)

To subscribe email [subscriptions@creamermedia.co.za](mailto:subscriptions@creamermedia.co.za) or [click here](#)  
To advertise email [advertising@creamermedia.co.za](mailto:advertising@creamermedia.co.za) or [click here](#)

#### Related Articles

[Zambia's 2015 copper output up despite power woes, weak prices](#) →

[Zambia govt engages Sentinel over job cut plans - media report](#) →

[Sentinel development on track, as First Quantum takes steps to maintain financial stability](#) →

#### SERVICES

[Consulting Engineers](#)

[Contract mining](#)

[Crushing and Screening](#)

[Drilling and Tunnelling](#)

[Earthmoving](#)

[Energy Services](#)

[Explosives](#)

[Furnaces and Kilns](#)

[Material Handling](#)

[Opencast/Quarries](#)

[Pumps](#)

[Valves](#)

#### [Comment Guidelines](#)

**0 Comments** **Mining Weekly**

 **Login** ▾

 **Recommend**

 **Share**

**Sort by Best** ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

 **Subscribe**  **Add Disqus to your site** **Add Disqus** **Add**

**DISQUS**

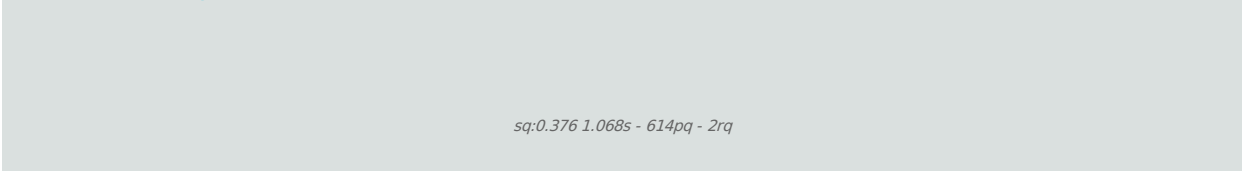
---

<a href="#">ABOUT</a>	<a href="#">NEWSLETTERS</a>	<a href="#">SUBSCRIPTIONS</a>	<a href="#">ADVERTISE</a>
-----------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------

om

[eamermedia.co.za](http://eamermedia.co.za)

[Channel](#)  
[Africa](#)  
[Polity](#)



*sq:0.376 1.068s - 614pq - 2rq*