



# FQM's Kansanshi mine, Smelter & Sentinel receiving consistent Power supply. Not being "load shaded"

By **ZBT Editor** - January 23, 2017

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Despite the general populous and household power consumers in Zambia going through a rolling load shading program, FQM has confirmed that its Kansanshi mine, smelter and Sentinel project in Zambia is consistently receiving 285MW of power to smoothly run their operations.

In a statement issued by FQM president, Clive Newall, the company stated that "First Quantum's Zambian operations, the Kansanshi mine, smelter and the Sentinel project, are being consistently provided a total of approximately 285MW. This allows for normal operations at the Kansanshi mine and smelter complex and for Sentinel to achieve above nameplate capacity throughput for periods".

The statement further stated that "Zambia is 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, is being recharged. The river flow at all four upstream measuring stations above Kariba dam are 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 will be augmented by approximately 420MW of new in-country capacity expected online during the current year from projects nearing completion (300MW thermal and 120MW hydro). Currently, the state-run power company is importing power from neighboring countries, and has announced additional power imports of up to 300MW from another utility in the region, and a further 200MW from an independent power producer.

The company has however for the first time indicated that they may get involved in sourcing for alternative energy sources. The Dangote cement plant in Zambia has provided an example on how bulk power users and consumers such as copper mines can get involved in solving the current power deficit in Zambia as opposed to merely demanding for cheaper energy from state owned utility Zesco, at the expense of retail and household consumers. The statement further stated that "First Quantum is also evaluating a number of options to independently secure power for its operations both in the near and long term".

No details of the alternatives "sources of power" have been given which may mean that the reliance on Zesco may continue. The fact that mines like FQM and their supporting businesses are among the biggest tax payers in Zambia have

put the Zambian government in a weak negotiating position which need astute negotiators to ensure a better deal for the country. The state through ZCCM-IH holds on average about 20.6% stake in Kansanshi mine after the massive privatization of state owned companies.



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