

#COMMODITIES

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Zambia reduces power supply to First Quantum Minerals copper mines

Reuters Staff



LUSAKA (Reuters) - Zambia's state power company reduced electricity supply to two First Quantum Minerals copper mines on Monday, after a dispute over new, higher prices, Energy Minister David Mabumba said on Tuesday.

First Quantum had failed to pay the new flat electricity tariff of 9 cents/Kwh agreed by power utility Zesco and mining companies, Mabumba told a news conference.

Mabumba said supply to First Quantum's Sentinel mine was cut from 155 megawatts (MW) to 110 MW while that at Kansanshi mine reduced from 187 MW to 133.

Copperbelt Energy Corp. (CEC), which buys power from Zesco and sells to the mines, had also slashed supply to Glencore's [GLEN.L](#) Mopani Copper Mines from 190 MW to 94 MW, the minister said, confirming a statement issued on Saturday by the mining company.

"Those mines that are not paying (the new tariff), we will give them the amount of power equivalent to the new tariff at 9.3 cents/Kwh," Mabumba said.

"If the other customers are paying, why should we be subsidizing the industry? I think that will be unfair. The mines that are not paying, they want to blackmail the government."

First Quantum Minerals government affairs officer John Gladston declined to comment.

Mopani Copper Mines said on Monday it had halted all output at its operations in Kitwe and Mufurila after Copperbelt Energy Corp. reduced power supply to the mining firm.

Scotiabank senior base metals analyst Orest Wowkodaw said the reduction of power supply to First Quantum mines had coincided with a maintenance shutdown at Kansanshi and power supply had been redirected to Sentinel Mine.

“Therefore, the company anticipates that there is likely to be no impact to production during the next four weeks. However, if the dispute drags on beyond four weeks, production would indeed be negatively impacted,” he said in a note to investors.

Reporting by Chris Mfula; Editing by Adrian Croft

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#WORLD NEWS

AUGUST 21, 2017 / 8:14 AM / 35 MINUTES AGO

Ten sailors missing after U.S. warship collides with tanker near Singapore

A map shows the location where the Alnic MC merchant vessel came to a halt after a collision with the guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain east of Singapore August 21, 2017. REUTERS

Sam Holmes and Lesley Wroughton



SINGAPORE/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Ten sailors are missing after a U.S. warship collided with an oil tanker east of Singapore on Monday, the U.S. Navy said, the second accident involving U.S. Navy destroyers in Asian waters in little more than two months.

The guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain collided with the merchant vessel Alnic MC while heading to Singapore for a routine port call, the Navy said in a statement

"Initial reports indicate John S. McCain sustained damage to her port side aft," the Navy said. "There are currently 10 sailors missing and five injured."

A search-and-rescue mission was under way involving Singaporean ships, helicopters and tug boats, as well as U.S. Navy aircraft.

The warship was currently sailing under its own power and heading to port, the Navy said.

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[Oil tanker hit by U.S. warship laden with fuel oil; no spill](#)

The Alnic MC is a Liberian-flagged, 183 meter-long oil or chemical tanker of 50,760 deadweight tonnes, according to shipping data in Thomson Reuters Eikon.

Shipping data showed it last sent a transponder signal at 2258 GMT Sunday and has since come to a halt 10-20 km (6-12 miles) off the east coast of the Pengerang peninsula in Johor, southern Malaysia. The ship data showed it was "ballasting", meaning that it was not loaded full of oil for cargo.

The waterways around Singapore are some of the busiest and most important in the world, carrying around a quarter of the world's trade in goods and oil.

FILE PHOTO: The U.S. Navy destroyer USS John S. McCain conducts a patrol in the South China Sea, January 22, 2017. U.S. Navy/Petty Officer 3rd Class James Vazquez/Handout via

File Photo

The U.S. Navy said last week it had removed the two senior officers and the senior enlisted sailor on a U.S. warship that almost sank off the coast of Japan in June after it was struck by a Philippine container ship.

That collision killed seven U.S. sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer the USS Fitzgerald.

Slideshow (2 Images)

The USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain are both ballistic missile defense (BMD) capable ships and part of the same Japan-based destroyer squadron. The Seventh Fleet has six ships assigned to BMD patrols, with half of those out on patrol at any one time.

Asked whether the U.S. Navy would need to bring forward other ships to maintain its strength, a spokesman for the Seventh Fleet said it was "way too early to know".

North Korea threatened last week to fire ballistic missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, ratcheting up tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump, who had threatened to unleash "fire and fury" on Pyongyang if it threatened the United States.

The U.S. Navy vessel involved in the latest collision is named for the father and grandfather of U.S. Republican Senator John McCain, who were both admirals in the United States Navy.

"Cindy & I are keeping America's sailors aboard the USS John S McCain in our prayers tonight - appreciate the work of search & rescue crews," McCain said on Twitter.

Senator McCain is a Vietnam War-era naval aviator who was shot down and held prisoner for five-and-a-half years. He is now undergoing treatment for brain cancer.

Additional reporting by Henning Gloystein in SINGAPORE, Tim Kelly in TOKYO; Writing by Lincoln Feast; Editing by Peter Cooney and Paul Tait

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