



MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

PRESS RELEASE

Accra, February 27, 2017. Following the joint press release by VRA, GRIDCO and ECG on January 23, 2017 in connection with the planned shut down by the Ghana National Gas Company (GNGC) for maintenance and also to allow for the connection and commissioning of the gas supply system from the TEN fields to the Atuabo processing plant, we wish to advise that the work has been successfully completed and it is our expectation that power supply will return to normal by February 27, 2017.

The schedule for the completion of the works, which was originally slated from 3rd to 20th February 2017 had to be extended to February 26th 2017 due to certain operational difficulties experienced by Tullow Oil, the operators of the TEN fields.

We wish to note that on the assumption of the NPP government, our first major objective was to stop a looming "dumsor" resulting from these operational challenges.

The tie-in of the TEN-gas FPSO necessitated the shutdown of the gas processing plant and consequently led to the curtailment of natural gas to the Aboadze Power Enclave with the shutdown of the AMERI Energy power plant (230 Megawatts). Furthermore, the entire Takoradi Thermal Power Plant (TAPCo of 330 Megawatts) and two-thirds of the capacity of Takoradi International Power Plant (TICo, 220 Megawatts) were shut down and have remained so for manufacturer-warranted major maintenance work. These became necessary to protect the plants from long term operational failures. Of all the power plants in the Aboadze Power Enclave, only TICo was available with only 110 Megawatts of generation. Fuel stocks for the operation of thermal power plants in Tema had ran out in the second week of January 2017 due to financial challenges. The combination of these factors effectively created conditions for the return of "dumsor".

The government took the necessary steps to prevent the return to "dumsor" by procuring Light Crude Oil (LCO) and Diesel to operate the power plants which hitherto were not being operated due to lack of fuel:

Additionally, to safeguard the integrity of the national transmission system and to reduce the possibility of grid instability during the period, government sent a delegation to La Cote d'Ivoire which successfully negotiated an increase in power supply despite Ghana's indebtedness of about US\$60 million to our neighbour as at the end of December 2016.

