

## **ZESA extends power cuts after Hwange collapse**

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POWER supply interruptions currently being experienced around the country are expected to continue after the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) announced a complete collapse of generation at its Hwange thermal plant.

The national power utility announced in a statement on Saturday that the Hwange power station which has a designed capacity of 750 mega watts of electricity had been hit by a series of faults on the regional power grid leaving it unable to produce any power.

"These forced outages caused complete loss of generation at Hwange and in the process resulting in major equipment damage.

"Hwange power station is making efforts to bring back those generation units they have repaired, one at a time, and hopes to achieve 350 MW production within a week," the statement read.

An update on the plant was only producing 95 mega watts adding that engineers were working to address the problem.

The power utility said power said load-shedding would be extending as a result of the problem.

Most of the country's urban areas have for the past week experienced prolonged electricity cuts, sometimes lasting more than 24 hours.

Zimbabwe is relying on the 750 MW Kariba hydro plant, which is producing at full capacity, while imports, mainly from Mozambique are dwindling as regional demand for electricity rises.

Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo also export to the country, when they have low demand at home.

The southern African country has a peak demand of 2 000 MW and needs up to \$4 billion to build planned new power stations to improve electricity supplies.



Darkness ... Power cuts extended