

HH orders 2MW power stations in every constituency

MATHEWS MALAZIKA

Lusaka

TO ENSURE electricity availability across the country, President Hakainde Hichilema has decreed that every constituency should invest in two megawatts of power generation.

President Hichilema said once this is done, 312 megawatts of electricity is expected to be generated

from across all the 156 constituencies.

He said a small portion from the enhanced Constituency Development Fund (CDF), which is already in the budget, will fund the putting up of the two-megawatt power stations.

The President said he sympathises with citizens affected by the current load-shedding, adding that his administration is having sleepless nights to have the

power challenge resolved.

“Let me give you an example of Nyimba in Eastern Province which only consumes 1.5 megawatts of power. Why should Nyimba be load-shedded, if I may ask? Now we are saying ‘Nyimba constituency must invest in two megawatts and we are working hard to get a battery power as well. That is the presidential decree.

Continues on page 3

hatred towards him among some people, saying "this level of

on my hands," said President Hichilema.

HH orders 2MW power stations in every constituency

From page 1

"Instead of consuming that money, they will now invest that money, and they will get regular income for the first time. We already arranged that the community will get a 20 plus- year power purchase agreement from Zesco. The banks have come to leverage the move," he said.

He said the banks could not believe that out of the initiative, taking a small portion from CDF, over US\$100 million seed money has been created.

Mr Hichilema said his administration decided it

couldn't sit back and watch the country struggle with the electricity problem for years on end.

"Everyone is coming on board; the banks are coming on board and they are saying 'we will put about 60 percent in this initiative so that these power stations can develop quickly'."

President Hichilema said his administration is working quickly to have the electricity problem resolved.

He emphasised that in the next two to three years, whether with or without rains, the country should be energy and food secure.