

## Project Management Update from Zimbabwe<sup>1</sup>



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### ***Zimbabwe's 300MW Thermal Power Project Launched***

Zimbabwe's state power utility Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) has commissioned a new Hwange based 300 megawatt (MW) thermal power project, the generating unit started feeding electricity into the national grid on Monday 20 March 2023. Speaking at the feed commissioning ceremony in Hwange, ZPC Executive Chairman of the Power Utility Dr Sydney Gata said the new power feed is expected to reduce load sheddings and power outages that have impacted businesses and households.

Zimbabwe is expanding the 920 MW Hwange thermal power station by adding two 300 MW units at a cost of \$1.4 billion, with 85% of the funding coming from China.

The two units thermal project built by China's Sino-hydro was successfully completed early this year and synchronized into the national grid on Monday 20 March 2023. At maximum performance capacity, each unit is expected to potentially produce 300MW of power.

"Power will be progressively fed into the grid until it reaches 300 MW," Dr Gwata said in a statement.

ZPC expects the second 300 MW thermal unit to start generating power in October, bringing new generation capacity to 600 MW by the end of 2023.

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Zimbabwe is currently generating less than half of its 1,700 MW demand as the old thermal units at Hwange, commissioned between 1983 and 1987, frequently break down and are performing below capacity.

Low water levels due to inadequate rains have seen generation from the country's other major plant, the 1,050MW Kariba South hydro station, being capped at a third of its capacity.

In December, the government announced incentives to help accelerate 1,000MW solar projects worth \$1 billion planned by independent power producers, seeking to ramp up renewable power generation amid a funding freeze on coal-fired power projects as the world shifts away from the polluting fossil fuel.



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*The above is based on announcements by the Zimbabwe national government and news reports in Zimbabwe media.*

## About the Author



### **Peter Banda**

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**Peter Banda** is an agile Portfolio Manager with Change Management, Marketing & Project Management Skills, and an accomplished entrepreneur with broad stakeholder management experience. He is a founder member of Zimbabwe's largest Association of Project Managers with a membership of over 4000, Project Management Zimbabwe (PMZ). He has worked in both the private & public sectors during the last 20 years in Zimbabwe, Botswana & South Africa. Peter is a born & passionate teacher, mentor & trainer with skills ranging from Personal Development Planning to Project Management. Peter has presented & published over 30 papers at high profile international conferences & leading newspapers & publications respectively during the last 10 years.

Peter is currently Secretary- General & CEO of PROJECT MANAGEMENT ZIMBABWE (PMZ). Responsibilities cover strategic navigation of PMZ towards the vision covering board advisory and stakeholder management. He was previously a Higher Education Examiner, Facilitator, Lecturer, Curriculum Developer and Assessor for both local and International Diploma and Degree courses for the Zimbabwe Ministry of Higher & Tertiary Education. Peter holds a Bachelors (Hon.) degree and MSc qualification, and is currently studying for a PhD & other certifications. A God-fearing father of 2 lovely daughters & 1 son, Peter likes reading & researching current affairs, coaching others to realise their dreams, and watching soccer & cricket.

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