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Conserve power, CEB tells consumers

by Ranil Wijayapala

The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) yesterday appealed to the public to conserve power in their daily activities as energy consumption has increased to 20 million units on Tuesday despite the CEB's warning about a possible energy crisis in another two weeks.

The CEB's warning to the public came following a steep drop in water levels in the hydro reservoirs. "Despite this appeal the CEB recorded the highest power consumption so far on Tuesday which is at 20.19704 million units as against the 15 million units of power consumed even on Vesak Poya Day", the spokesman added.

The CEB is now considering the steps to be taken to avert possible power cuts within the next two weeks as no rainfall has been recorded in the

hydro catchment areas during the last few days too resulting in a further drop in the water levels. Power generation capacities of the reservoirs have further declined as follows: Maussakelle to 8.58%, Kotmale to 12.24%, Victoria to 17.83%, Samanalawewa to 14.43%, Randenigala to 62.24 % and Rantembe to 65.61%, the spokesman added.

The water levels of the reservoirs reported to be below spill level are: Maussakelle 18.48 m, Victoria 37.14 m, Kotmale 29.19 m, Samanalawewa 27.28 m, Randenigala 9 m and Rantembe 2.30 m.

The CEB had to generate 12 million units of power from thermal power stations as hydro power stations could contribute only 8 million units to supply 20 million units consumed on Tuesday, the spokesman said.