



19 September 2019

**Gender and Energy Network in Zimbabwe (GENEZ) Submission on the 2020 National Budget to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy and Power Development**

Energy is an essential factor for sustainable development and poverty eradication. Nevertheless, it is estimated that in 2016 about 2.8 billion people in the world had no access to modern energy services and over 1.1 billion did not have electricity. Furthermore, around 4.3 million people are dying prematurely every year due to indoor pollution resulting from cooking and heating with traditional bio fuels that are not clean sources of energy. In addition increased pressure on forest resources has been a result of limited access to energy. The challenge lies in the fact that access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is critical to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are realized.

Zimbabwe has vast renewable energy resources like solar, wind, hydro and biomass that to date have largely gone unexploited. The majority of the people especially in rural areas have no access to basic energy services, and the energy supply-demand gap is continuing to widen. Efforts by the Government of Zimbabwe, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector in supporting development of renewable energy since Independence are commendable. We are mindful of a number of programmes implemented to promote the adoption of renewable energy technologies such as National Energy Policy, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff (REFIT), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA), Climate Change Policy and others. However, the national electrification rate (less than 40%) is still below expectations. According to the National Energy Policy, energy electricity has reached 83% of the urban households and 13% of rural households.

Climate-induced disaster effects on the continent are particularly devastating and are mainly caused by drought, flood, and cyclones. Cyclone Idai shows the deadly reality of climate change in Africa. For a continent already afflicted by the effects of the climate crisis, Idai is another frightening reminder of the damaging power of the kind of storms that will become more common as the world warms up. The disturbing fact is, the most vulnerable communities are the ones facing the real impact of climate change on the ground. The increase in occurrence of cyclones and other extreme weather phenomena like droughts and floods, clearly indicate that climate change effects are intensifying. Cyclones that hit Zimbabwe have increased in the near past, a sign that climate change is fast taking its hold on the country. There was Cyclone Eline in 2000, Cyclone Japhet in 2003, Cyclone Dineo in 2017 and now in 2019 Cyclone Idai, all with devastating effects. While we cannot completely stop climate change, there is much the Government can do to adapt to the weather phenomenon. As the clamor surrounding Cyclone Idai dies down, it will be critical for Government to have a re-look at the adaptive strategies to climate change which it has put in place. Zimbabwe needs to upscale its efforts to ensure the adaptive capacity of its citizens is improved. Guided by the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol,

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and the Paris Agreement, there is need to mobilize everyone to ensure that the country's adaptive capacity to climate change is excellent.

The government of Zimbabwe is in the process of developing the 2020 National Budget which we hope will speak to the Renewable Energy and Biofuel Policies that were recently approved. GENEZ has noted with concern the inadequate funding from treasury to the Ministry of Energy and Power Development in previous annual budget allocations. Given this background, GENEZ call upon the National budget for 2020 to address issues around funding efforts to increase performance of the energy sector particularly the renewable energy arm so it meets its targets for the above cited instruments by addressing the following:

	CHALLENGE	RECOMMENDATION	COMMENT
1	Inadequate funding from the treasury to the Ministry of Energy and Power Development	<p>Increased allocation to the Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase allocation from the usual 0.2% of 2016,2017, 2018 and 2019 of the total budget</li> <li>- The Ministry of energy in the 2020 budget should have a specific vote for Renewable energy and should be allocated the highest %</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the climate change the country is facing energy is fast becoming a humanitarian issue hence increasing the piece of cake the energy sector is getting from treasury will enable to meet the supply deficit in the country as well as to meet the emissions objective as per the Nationally Determined Contributions report. It will support the goal of Renewable Energy (RE) policy of generating 1,000 MW by 2025 from renewable energy sources</li> </ul> <p>This tallies with the goal in the Blue book (National Budget estimates) of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. increase power generation capacity from 1250MW to 2950MW by 2020</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This will enable the long overdue RE projects like the Mbare Biogas project to see completion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Case Study</b></p> <p><b>Tanzania is currently allocating 22% of the National budget towards the Ministry of Energy and because of this it now has the capacity to double the energy production.</b></p>
2	Inadequate	Increase financial	It will help to achieve NDC target of 33% emissions

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	<p>allocation of resources to</p> <p>-Hydro-electricity, Thermal electricity and Solar electricity power projects</p>	<p>allocation to hydro-electricity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financing identified mini-hydro power plants in Manicaland</li> <li>2. Replication of Gwanda Solar Electricity Project across Mashonaland, Midlands and other feasible areas.</li> <li>3. Repair and maintenance of existing power plants to increase power output and efficiency</li> <li>4. Maintenance and upgrade of electricity distribution network.</li> </ol>	<p>reduction below the projected business as usual level.</p> <p>It will help to achieve RE target of generating additional 2,400 GWh of energy by 2025 and around 4,600 GWh by 2030. Increased access to energy will reduce the current rate (330 000 hectares per year) of deforestation.</p> <p>The challenge tallies with two goals in the Blue book:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extending the national grid (transmission and distribution) by 21 000km by 2020.</li> <li>2. Reduce the percentage population dependence on traditional forms of energy from 67% to 47% by 2020</li> </ol>
3	<p>Lack of Monitoring and evaluation framework of the Renewable Energy Policy and Biofuels Policy implementation</p>	<p>Prioritize appointment of an independent body for monitoring and evaluation of the Renewable Energy Policy and Biofuels Policy implementation</p>	<p>The policy and its embedded targets will help to promote and drive investment into the energy sector, by proffering ways to overcome identified barriers in the current energy landscape. The implementation of the M&amp;E framework should justly and fairly monitor the sector and ensure there is benchmarking with regional and international standards.</p>
4	<p>Non-prioritization of resourcing for decentralized RE technologies in both rural and</p>	<p>Increased allocation for decentralized RE technologies and also create a link between the budget and the</p>	<p>Budget allocation should consider decentralized RE technologies for example more than 10 000 people are benefitting from \$202 million solar project in Gwanda courtesy of Practical Action.</p>

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	urban areas	devolution process.	
5	Awareness Raising on the recently approved Renewable Energy Policy and Bio fuels Policy	<p>Allocation of funds for communication, education and awareness on the recently approved Renewable Energy Policy and Bio fuels Policy.</p> <p>There is need to have a portal where energy information is shared</p>	<p>Increased awareness and uptake of the recently approved Renewable Energy Policy and Bio fuels Policy at community level. A widespread campaign will result in increased buy in from communities and industries. The resultant ownership over energy efficiency across sectors will thus tally with the two goals in the blue book:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. increasing power savings from 100MW to 300MW by 2020</li> <li>2. increase power generation capacity from 1250MW to 2950MW by 2020</li> </ol>
6	Lack of financing for innovation around Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	<p>Allocation of funds for community based innovative enterprises around RE and EE.</p> <p>Creation of financial incentives for energy efficiency stimulation at household and institutional levels.</p>	<p>Particular attention to vulnerable groups (women, people living with disabilities, youth and children)</p> <p>This will promote uptake of RE in communities.</p> <p>Promote energy efficiency as normal practice standard in all sectors of the economy.</p>
7	Uninspiring efforts at uptake of Renewable Energy e.g. biogas and solar energy systems for institutional level (schools, hospitals, clinics etc.)	<p>More allocation of financial resources targeted at promoting and installing RE technologies at institutional level and reviving RE technologies that have died a natural death and have become white elephants within communities</p>	<p>This will scale up RE for institutions across all sectors of development e.g. health, agriculture, education, mining etc.</p>

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8	Limited resources targeted towards innovation component in STEM programmes	Promote integration of STEM and RE in schools, universities and vocational training centers.  Promote implementation of innovations from schools	Schools are coming up with energy related innovations that are lacking implementation.
9	Lack of political will to strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation of current electricity usage in institutions to reduce electrical power leakages	Avail funding for further investment in automated system that improves usage monitoring, collection of payments and mode of debt repayment for all accounts owing to the national utility	Implementation of the new prepaid billing system in all institutions and households. This also eases monitoring unlike in multi-billing platforms systems. Most institutions are still using the old billing system hence the need to also embrace the prepaid meter system
10	Inadequate resources towards Research and Development	Allocate more resources towards Research and development for improvement of energy services and also demographics on energy poverty and bridging between energy access for the rural and urban communities.  Forging relations with other countries and taking advantage of RE technology transfers from those that have already advanced in such technologies	Detailed energy resource assessments need to be done to assess potential of some RE technologies e.g. geothermal energy and wind for them to be implementable. Research will help to come up with solution to address challenge of limited energy for tobacco farmers that is leading to increased deforestation and environmental degradation  Cuts back on costs of R & D as proven technologies are simplified and modified to fit the local environment, increasing rate of energy access across Zimbabwe.

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11	Political will backing not demonstrated in National budget monetary commitments against priorities set out by the MoEPD.	<p>The following priorities should be reflected in the blue book:</p> <p>Solar wind, geo-thermal power development</p> <p>-Roll out solar street lighting</p> <p>-Energy Efficiency policy development</p>	There should be a connection between the blue book and policy statement
12	Government highly subsidizing energy provision in the country leading to huge energy debt accumulating.	There is need for the government to do away with subsidizing energy provision and increase electricity tariffs such that we as a country reduce our electricity debt	Currently the electricity tariffs are being charged at a lower rate as compared to other regional countries because our government is highly subsidizing. We therefore recommend that government removes subsidies on non-renewable energy sources and rather only subsidize and offer initiatives on up taking renewable energy technologies

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