



**Civil Society Submission to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Energy**

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 unsustainable fuels. 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 realised.

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), Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), 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.

**We are aware that our government of Zimbabwe** is in the process of developing the 2018 National Budget which will support the upcoming Renewable Energy Policy and as civil society organisations we specifically call upon the National budget for 2018 to address the following for the development of our nation:

	CHALLENGE	RECOMMENDATION	COMMENT (2020 goals)
1	Inadequate funding from the treasury to the Ministry of Energy and Power Development	Increased allocation to the Ministry - Increase allocation from the usual 0.2% of 2016 and 2017 of the total budget	This will enable to meet the supply deficit in the country as well as to meet the emissions objective as per the INDC report. It will support the goal of RE policy of generate 1,000 MW by 2025 from renewable energy sources This tallies with the goal in the 2017 blue book of: 1. increase power generation capacity from 1250MW t 2950MW by 2020
2	Inadequate	There is need to	It will help to achieve INDC target of 33% emissions

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	allocation of resources to hydro and thermal power projects	allocate resources towards hydro and clean coal technology There is need to upgrade large hydro-systems to increase efficiency.	reduction below the projected business as usual level. 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.  The challenge tallies with two goals in the 2017 Blue book: <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	There is no Renewable Energy (RE) policy in place	Prioritize the finalization of the RE policy in 2018	The policy will help to promote and drive investment into the energy sector by overcoming barriers. This tallies with the goal of developing 6 energy policies and 11 legal frameworks by December 2018.
4	Non-prioritization of resourcing for decentralized RE technologies in both rural and urban areas	Increased allocation for decentralized RE technologies	Budget allocation should consider decentralized RE technologies for example more than 10 000 people are benefitting from \$202 million solar project in Gwanda.
5	There are no funds allocated towards Awareness Raising on RE and Energy Efficiency (EE)	Allocation of funds for communication, education and awareness on RE technologies. There is need to have a portal where energy information is shared	Increased awareness and uptake of RE and EE at community level. There is limited access to energy information. This tallies with the two goals in the blue book: <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 RE and EE	Allocation of funds for community based innovative enterprises around RE and EE	Particular attention to vulnerable groups (women, people living with disabilities, youth and children) This will promote uptake of RE in communities.
7	Scale up on Renewable energy for	More allocation to RE for institutions	RE enhances all sectors of development e.g. health, agriculture, education, mining etc.

	institutions (schools, hospitals etc.)		
8	Limited resources targeted towards innovation component in STEM programmes	Promote integration of STEM and RE in schools, universities and vocational training centres. 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	Improving the system and model of debt repayment e.g. introduction of prepaid billing to institutions.	Most institutions are still using the old billing system hence the need to also embrace the prepaid meter system
10	Limited resources towards Research and Development	Allocate resources towards Research and development. Forging relations with other countries that have already established the RE 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
11	Priorities set out by the MoEPD are not reflected in monetary commitments in the budget	The following priorities should be reflected in terms of actual allocations in the blue book: Solar wind, geothermal power development -Roll out solar street lighting -Energy Efficiency policy development	There should be a connection between the blue book and policy statement

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