



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# South African Energy Security

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**PARLIAMENTARY  
RESEARCH UNIT (PRU)**

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# SOUTH AFRICAN ENERGY SECURITY

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) will host a debate on South Africa's Energy Security: Taking Decisive Measures to Permanently End Load Shedding and Strengthen Eskom's Operational Resilience scheduled for the 02 April 2025. South Africa is facing a challenge with regards to its energy security, with high levels of load shedding in the period from 2022 to the early part of 2024. This was due to the poor performance of the country's electricity utility, Eskom's generation fleet. To address the high levels of load shedding, the government has put in place several initiatives to overcome this challenge.

In aid of this debate, this paper will provide an overview of South Africa's energy security initiatives which has been put in place to address the country's load shedding.

## 2. ENERGY SECURITY

The International Energy Agency (IEA) defines energy security as the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price.<sup>1</sup>

There are two key aspects of energy security:<sup>2</sup>

- Short-term energy security which is the ability of the energy system to react promptly to sudden changes in the supply-demand balance (operational requirement).
- Long-term energy security which is mainly about timely investments to supply energy in line with economic developments and environmental needs.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (2022)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

### 3. ENERGY SECURITY INITIATIVES

South Africa is currently facing a lack of energy security, specifically electricity, due to challenges with Eskom's plant performance. However, government has several initiatives to deal with the long and short-term energy security challenges. These include:<sup>3</sup>

- Procurement of available energy from existing Renewable Energy – The former Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) through the Independent Power Procurement Office (IPPO) issued an expression of interest to IPPs, with 34 IPPs responding with total capacity of about 162 MW;
- Enabling generation of power outside of Eskom:<sup>4</sup>
  - Municipal power generation – amended Electricity Regulations of New Generation Capacity and put a process in place to be followed internally to ensure requests by municipalities are attended to speedily.
  - Generation for own use – amended Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act and exempted facilities of up to 100 MW from the requirement to hold a license.
- The Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer (IPP) Procurement Programme – to procure dispatchable generation capacity (energy, capacity and ancillary services) that can be brought online within 12 to 18 months after contracting. The Risk Mitigation bid window has seen 3 projects in operation of 150 MW with 3 projects in construction of 278 MW.<sup>5</sup>
- Implementation of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2019 – Section 34 Ministerial Determinations to procure power from a range of technologies (wind, solar PV, gas, coal, batter storage). As of 31 October 2024, 7 361 MW is in operation from 95 projects has been completed and added to the grid since the IPP programme inception, with 2 077 MW in construction from 19 projects.<sup>6</sup>
- Review of electricity affordability – the Department of Electricity and Energy is currently reviewing the Electricity Pricing Policy to address the affordability of electricity in the country, together with the Free Basic Electricity programme to accommodate the indigent population of the country.

### 4. CONCLUSION

South Africa is challenged with energy security, that is the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price. South Africa has suffered from high levels of load shedding due to poor performance of the country's energy utility, Eskom's, generation fleet. To overcome this, the government has implemented the procurement of available energy from existing renewable energy; enabling generation of power outside of Eskom; the risk mitigation IPP procurement programme; the implementation of the IRP 2019; and the reviewal of the Electricity Pricing Policy and the Free Basic Electricity programme to address affordability.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (2024)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

## 5. REFERENCES

- Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (2022) *Energy Security* (25 January 2022) Available from: [https://www.dmre.gov.za/Portals/0/Energy\\_Website/files/Mining/MiningInvestmentConference/Energy-Security.pdf](https://www.dmre.gov.za/Portals/0/Energy_Website/files/Mining/MiningInvestmentConference/Energy-Security.pdf) (Accessed on 28 March 2025)
- Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (2024) *Independent Power Producer Procurement Office (IPP Office) PCE Meeting IPP Programmes Update: REIPPPP and RMIPPPP* (13 November 2024) Presentation made to the Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy. Cape Town, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.

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