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**Civil Society Submission to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy and Power Development for the 2019 National Budget**

Access to energy is fundamental to improving the quality of life and is a key imperative for attaining an upper middle income economy by the year 2030. Lack of access to energy services dramatically undermines all productive sector of the economy. Energy is not a need but it is an enabler of all sectors of development. Having modern energy unlocks access to improved healthcare, improved education, and improved economic opportunities and, even a longer life, while to those that do not have energy, it is a major constraint on their social and economic development. According to World Bank 2017, Zimbabwe’s solar PV has a technical potential of over 300 MW which is yet to be exploited. The gross theoretical hydropower potential for Zimbabwe is 18,500 GWh/year. The technically feasible potential is 17,500 GWh/year for hydro, of which 19% has been exploited. Full exploitation of vast renewable energy resources we have in Zimbabwe like solar, wind, hydro and biomass, can sustainably develop our country.

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 (INDCs), Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA), Climate Change Policy and others. Nevertheless, access to electricity in the urban areas of Zimbabwe has been stagnant at around 85% since 1990 while in rural areas it doubled from around 8% to 16%. This is be attributed to the rural electrification programme.

**We are aware that our government** is in the process of developing the 2019 National Budget which will support the upcoming Renewable Energy Policy. As civil society organisations we specifically call upon the National budget for 2019 to address the following for sustainable development of our nation:

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|  | CHALLENGE | RECOMMENDATION  | COMMENT (2020 goals) |
| 1 | Inadequate funding to the Ministry of Energy and Power Development | Increased allocation to the Ministry* Increase allocation from the usual 0.2% of the total budget allocated to the sector since 2016.
 | 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 sourcesThis tallies with the goal in the 2017 blue book of:1. increase power generation capacity from 1250MW to 2950MW by 2020

Rural Electrification agency is extending the national grid but the source of energy to supply it is yet to reach a resounding stage.  |
| 2 | Inadequate allocation of resources to hydro and thermal power projects |  Allocate resources towards hydro and clean coal technologyThere is need to upgrade large hydro-systems to increase efficiency.  | It will help to achieve Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target of 33% emissions 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. This also tallies with two goals in the 2017 Blue book: 1. Extending the national grid (transmission and distribution) by 21 000km by 2020.
2. Reduce the percentage population dependence on traditional forms of energy from 67% to 47% by 2020
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| 3 | There is no Renewable Energy (RE) policy in place | Prioritize the finalization of the Renewable Energy Policy in 2019 | 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 renewable energy technologies | Budget allocation should consider decentralised RE (DRE) technologies for example more than 10 000 people are benefitting from $202 million solar project in Gwanda. DRE technologies is the fastest way of reaching the communities that are far from the main grid. These DREs can be used to support health centres, agriculture, mining and schools that are far from the main grid.  |
| 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:1. increasing power savings from 100MW to 300MW by 2020
2. increase power generation capacity from 1250MW t 2950MW by 2020
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| 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 institutions (schools, hospitals etc.) | More allocation to RE for institutions | RE enhances all sectors of development e.g. health, agriculture, education, mining 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, geo-thermal power development-Roll out solar street lighting-Energy Efficiency policy development | There should be a connection between the blue book and policy statement.The rolling out of solar thermal in Zimbabwe has a potential of saving 300MW of electricity. Research shows that Zimbabwe can save 20% of its consumption by practicing energy efficiency. To support energy efficiency practices, there is need to have an energy efficiency policy in place.  |
|  | Inadequate funding towards Prepaid meters and smart metering  | Allocate resources to Zesa Holdings towards purchase of outstanding pre-paid meters which are critical in recouping the debt owing to ZETDC and plug revenue leakages associated with postpaid metering system. | Prepaid meters curtail wastage of electricity.  |
|  | ZESA connection fees are too high | Allocate resources to ZESA so that they subsidize connection fees | Most rural communities still do not have access to electricity even after they have paid the connection fees. Most mining operations have no electricity, because it is expensive to pay for the installation of transformers near the mining operations |
| 12.  | Lack of tax incentives for RE models | -Offer tax incentives for innovative business models that offer off-grid RE Solutions-On the other hand large companies should be compelled to come up with RE solutions that will  | -This will promote RE Innovation as well as facilitate the growth of business in the country-This will reduce the amount of money spent on importing large quantities of electricity |
| 13. | Energy Policies and Energy Solutions not gender responsive | Allocations towards energy programmes should be gender sensitive and gender responsive. Energy policies should respond to the needs of women. . | This will foster equity and equality in the renewable energy sector |

**Participants that contributed to the position are:**

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