

CITIZENS' STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT ENERGY SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

In the month of August 2019, ZERO Regional Environment Organization, the civil society coordinator of Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE), in collaboration with Hivos the finance and technical supporter held a citizen engagement meetings in Harare, Mutare and Bulawayo. The objective of the meetings were:

1. To share coping strategies we are currently practicing to meet our daily energy needs
2. To discuss who should do what to meet our energy requirements
3. To develop a statement for submission to the relevant authorities
4. To raise awareness of role renewable energy and energy efficiency amongst urban communities
5. To enhance networking amongst urban residents on Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) in Zimbabwe

WE, the citizens of Zimbabwe, who in the past years, have been experiencing power outages have come together to articulate a shared vision for the renewable energy sector in Zimbabwe we want, make the following observations and statement concerning the Zimbabwe's energy sector. With the current international drive on climate change, renewable energy presents a most viable and welcome opportunity to supply energy without harming the environment.

WE celebrate that Zimbabwe has a number of laws and legal frameworks that affect renewable energy development, some lying within the jurisdiction of the parent Ministry (MoEPD) and others in other ministries, especially the newly approved National Renewable energy policy and the Energy Policy of 2012 among others. We applaud the increased penetration of renewable energy technology in the energy space especially solar energy. **WHILE** welcoming the licensing of Independent Power Producers as well as removal of duty on renewable energy products especially solar products, we seek to call attention to the fact that:

- Access to electricity in the urban areas has been stagnant at around 85% since 1990 while that of the rural areas doubled from around 8% to 16%. This may be attributed to rural electrification Programme. However, the overall electricity access level is around 40% and

chances of Zimbabwe attain 100% in the next 12 years are very slim. The global access levels are 97% for urban, 76% for rural and 87% for the total population. Currently we are experiencing more than 18 hours without electricity.

- The access to sustainable cooking fuels for Zimbabwe is 30% (as of 2015) while the global average is 59%.

WE affirm and defend the citizens to have access to abundant, safe, clean and affordable energy. We stand guided by SDG number 7 and the targets on access to modern energy services, energy efficiency improvement and share of renewable energy in the energy mix we set for ourselves in the draft Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus document.

WE unequivocally ask for the **Government** to provide adequate and sustainable energy supply through formulating and implementing effective policies and regulatory frameworks. The government should provide a welcoming environment to investors who want to invest into energy through implementing what is in the **Action Agenda and Investment Prospect** document of 2016. The government should give subsidies on energy projects and also lower duties and tariffs on all energy related imports. **FURTHER, WE** call on the Government to replicate Projects started by NGOs at bigger scale. And we also call for the implementation of the National Renewable Energy policy for the betterment of our energy sector. Can you start working on the National Energy Efficiency policy, strategy of disposing Renewable Energy equipment.

Also important to mention are laws proposed by MEPD contained in the National Energy Policy Implementation Strategy (NEPIS) document but which have not yet been developed. These include the Energy Management Act which shall include legal provisions to empower the Minister of Energy to have oversight over all energy resources and energy related cross-cutting issues such as energy pricing, product and service quality, energy efficiency and demand side management (NEPIS Document p.39), and the Energy Research Act to provide for policy defining target budget and funding for energy related research and development.

WE also register our concerns on the SI 21 of 2017 (section 4(1)) which speaks about banning of importation, selling or manufacturing of inefficient lighting products. This SI is good but is lacking implementation because in some areas these inefficient bulbs are still in place at

affordable price as compared to the efficient lighting products. **AND** also in the market the appliances which use less energy efficient are expensive to acquire as compared to inefficient appliances.

We express deep concern over the presence of contrabands products in the market which is affecting our perception towards renewable energy products. With that we call upon Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) and Standard Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) to work together in making sure that the products on the market are genuine products. And the Government must implement policies on the quality of electrical appliances to be sold and/or imported

FURTHERMORE, we remind all energy stakeholders that **WE** lack capacity building on energy issues especially on installation and maintenance of energy products and how to properly and effectively practice energy efficiency at household level.

AND TO THE Private sector companies both suppliers and manufactures of energy products, CAN you introduce payment plans that we afford and also decentralize your outlets. We also call upon the manufactures to open plants for the production of renewable energy products so that we have our own products that suit our own environment. This will boost our local industries. **Lastly** furnish us with genuine products so that our perception towards renewable energy products can change for better.

To non-state actors, continue raise awareness on energy issues especially energy efficiency and renewable energy. We also lack technical expertise on solar installations because we fail to venture into solar because we are not really aware of what solar energy can really do to us.

GOING FORWARD, we the citizens, commit to practice energy efficiency so as to save our electricity. Some of the practices we are going to practice includes to switch off the lights during the day, switch off plugs that are not in use, Always keep the fridges closed among other energy efficiency practices and also buy energy efficient appliances among others.

Coping strategies, challenges, and solutions

Feedback

Coping strategies	Challenges	Solutions
LP gas/coking gel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expensive - Lack of information with regards to hazardousness - Accessibility (rural areas), transportation - Licensing - Standardization of gas tanks and various peripheral equipment - Access to finances, lack of investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness campaigns and education - Standardizing prices - Subsidizing projects - Harnessing Natural gas in Lupane - Proper legislative framework - Engage the ministry of finance
Solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expensive - Poor quality products, Counterfeit - Easily affected by lighting - Fraudulent providers - Human capital on solar engineering - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support of local solar production - Engage tertiary institutions to use modern energy services to generate their own electricity - Need to have quality control measures on the market. SAZ and Consumer council of Zimbabwe. - Participation of local people in solar businesses (decentralization) -
Firewood/sawdust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unclean source of energy - Its Labor intensive - These days its expensive and not easily accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of other sources of energy for cooking - Reforestation - Enforcement of laws

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illegal to use - Destruction of natural environment - Air pollution - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community involvement in tree nurseries and plantations - Grassroots level awareness raising - Use of efficient cooking energies e.g. tsotso stoves -
Paraffin and candles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire accidents if mishandled - The prices are going up - Need to have standards because quality is compromised - Not environmentally friendly - Expensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use other forms of lighting - Investment opportunity
Generator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fuel is now expensive and scarce - Pollution (noise and air) - Mobility – supplier and end user - Needs permission from the police for transportation - Generators interferes with radio and television waves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use silent and standardized generators
Bio gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of knowledge - Lack of biogas material/feed - Expensive to construct - Cost of setting up - Relevant authorities taking time to approve the projects - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness and education - Engage the city council for feed - REA ease pressure from the national grid through establishing biogas projects in rural areas

Cowdung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bad odour - Labour - Health wise - Accessibility 	-
Charcoal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suffocation threats - Land pollution - Scarcity of coal deposits - Non- renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Conventions to do away with non-renewable energy i.e. harmful to the environment -
Wind energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of adequate energy - Costly - Low wind power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proper studies on how wind energy can be harnessed effectively

Groups 2 and 4: Requirements from respective stakeholders

Groups 2 and 4: Requirements and Respective stakeholders

Feedback

Stakeholder	Requirements	Roles
Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop sense of responsibility - Pay bills - Reduce corrupt minds - Crowd funding - Use of other sources of energy - Proper sizing of solar panels - Saving energy when using on a daily basis - Educating each other on the proper way of using some of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring new technologies - Disaster Risk Reduction preparedness - Flood attenuation - give tenders to credible companies - Reduce bureaucracy - Give each other projects

	alternative energy technologies	
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research water hyacinth - Grassroots consultations - Be more vocal - Joint venture with construction companies - Reduce corruption - Proper background check - Decentralization of renewable energy equipment companies - 	
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for policies and Policy renewal - Liaison with private sector - Debt settlement plan - Crowd funding - Awareness raising - Accountability - Fair billing systems - Offer subsidies to those who want to venture into RE - Employment of qualified personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project facilitation - Promote transparency on public funds - Audit of accounts - Making sure there is a standard for prepaid meters - separation of duties - Monitor water levels - Corruption reduction

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affordable solar equipment - Effective implementation of the Renewable Energy policy - Monitoring and evaluation measures - Funding of Renewable Energy projects - Harnessing local resources for the benefit of the general populace - Disaster risk reduction (pro-active operation) e.g. Kariba scenario 	
CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and awareness 	

The final statement to the Ministry of energy from citizens were as follows

Harare

There is need to direct 10% of national budget towards retiring energy debt, financing innovation, new renewable energy technologies (tirium) and developing technical capacities in current organisations.

Use other sources of energy besides hydro and thermal and employ qualified personnel in the ministry while providing citizens and engage the young generation who have the drive to come up with new technologies that are affordable at the same time enhance effective bill payment systems to alleviate the national debt

Have an energy policy which encourages use of renewable energy that supports, protects and promotes investments in the energy sector that is beneficial, accountable, and transparent energy supply strategies.

Bulawayo statement

There is need of an investment Policy that attracts investors to invest in Renewable eg liberalisation of individual Power producers and net metering by citizens

The government must engage, invest and prioritise alternative renewable energy sources and privatise state owned enterprise as well as ensuring sound monitoring and evaluates energy systems.