



**Submission to the**

**Department of Energy**

**on the**

**Draft Revised Integrated Energy Plan**

**31 March 2017**

## **1. Introduction**

The Parliamentary Liaison Office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Revised Integrated Energy Plan (IEP). We would like to see our country as a leader in sustainable development through systematic planning and the rolling out of fair, accessible, eco-friendly and diverse resources to fulfil the energy needs that exist in South Africa and beyond.

## **2. IEP from Catholic Social Teaching Viewpoint**

The Draft Revised IEP was considered in accordance with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching which include:

*Preferential Option for the Poor:* Caring for the poor is a collective responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God's eyes.

*Stewardship of Creation* is based on the notion that the earth and all life on it are part of God's creation. We are called to respect this gift. We are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources available in the South Africa.

*Dignity of the Human Person* is vital for every person, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability. No human being should have their dignity or freedom compromised. Energy-poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice make it impossible to live a life commensurate with this dignity.

*The Common Good* is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world. The rights of the individual to personal possessions and community resources must be balanced with the needs of the disadvantaged and dispossessed.

*Solidarity* is based on the consideration that everyone belongs to one human family, regardless of their national, religious, ethnic, economic, political and ideological differences. Everyone has an obligation to promote the rights and development of all peoples across communities, nations, and the world, irrespective of national boundaries.

The energy governance system we would like to see in South Africa in this regard ensures that:

- there is universal access to affordable energy services as a right;
- energy production is done in a low-carbon, sustainable, and water friendly manner;
- there is a just transition towards low-carbon electricity generation, with re-skilling and skills development for those currently working in the fossil fuel industry;
- energy sources are diverse and generated in a decentralised manner;
- South Africa honours its commitments to evolve towards a low carbon intensive energy system that optimises the use of renewable energies, with no new nuclear or coal power stations being built in the meantime;
- there is transparent and participatory energy planning;
- the country moves from an energy oligopoly to a more participatory energy system that allows for the self-generation of electricity, with a feed-in tariff system in place;
- the drive towards 100% local content of all energy system components for on-grid and off-grid energy systems is maintained, leading to job-creation in South Africa.

### **3. Conclusion**

We welcome the development of this Integrated Energy Plan and look forward to an optimal energy mix that achieve electricity cost competitiveness and affordability to enhance our communities. We wish the Department of Energy well in its deliberations.

For further information, please contact:

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