



Call for papers:

Ways towards green and reliable power supply in South Africa

Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA) Policy Bulletins

Following the President's 2021 SoNA speech and recent debates on the strategic planning of power supply, ERSA invites you to submit short policy articles on, but not limited to, the following topics:

1. Renewable energy vs nuclear power plant

In his SoNA 2021 speech, the President did not mention the nuclear power plant. It is unclear to the public whether the government is still going ahead with the new nuclear power plant. Is it also part of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)? What are the costs and benefits of having a nuclear power plant in the long run?

2. Privatizing Eskom? If not, how can we improve the productivity and efficiency of Eskom?

During a mini-plenary session of the National Assembly on 11 March, the public enterprises minister Pravin Gordon said the government has no intention to privatize Eskom. If so, we certainly need to improve the productivity and efficiency of Eskom. We also need to explicitly consider the social cost-benefit of alternative forms of ownership of Eskom.

Using an example of rooftop solar power system, he further commented that private sector participation in the energy space is part of government's agenda. This brings us to the next topic.

3. Economic scales in renewable energy

While it is encouraging that the IRP signals a move towards renewable energy, such as solar and wind, and the easing of restrictions on own power generation, the economic scale of renewable energy generation is of concern.

Shall we encourage individual power generation, such as rooftop solar system, or large-scale ones such as the Kathu CSP plant and the Bokpoort CSP plant in the Northern Cape?

4. "Unbundling Eskom" into three different companies: generation, transmission and retail distribution?

Please submit your policy article to policy.bulletin@econrsa.org with the **subject of ESKOM**.

The ERSA policy bulletin is a vehicle for preliminary research, lightly reviewed, on current policy issues and debates. The series emphasizes brief, focused, and timely interventions. The desk review will evaluate ethical and professional standards, basic research design, and the interest of the topic. The manuscript should not be longer than seven pages, excluding tables, figures, and references.