



energy
Department:
Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ACKNOWLEDGES RESULTS OF STATSSA ON ELECTRIFICATION

The Department of Energy acknowledges the results by Statistician-General of South Africa on electrification for the year ended June 2015. The percentage of South African households that were connected to electricity increased from 77,1% in 2002 to 85,5% in 2015. The largest increases were noted in the Eastern Cape, with +27%, followed by Limpopo with +20.4%, KwaZulu-Natal with +12,8% and Mpumalanga with +11,9%.

The percentage of households with access to electricity increased by less than two percent in the Western Cape over this time, while the percentage of households with access to electricity actually declined by 3,9 percent between 2002 and 2015 in Gauteng. The small increase in new connections in Western Cape is due to the high baseline of households electrified. The decline noted in Gauteng is linked to the high level of migration to the Province and the resultant creation of informal dwellings. The DoE will engage the Department of Human Settlements to come up with a plan on how to expedite the electrification of informal settlement growth in the Western Cape and Gauteng. According to the latest data households in Limpopo (92,9%) and Northern Cape (92,4%) were most likely to have access to electricity, while those in KwaZulu-Natal (81,7%) and the Eastern Cape (82,3%) were least likely to have access.

In order to save energy and money spent on heating, during the winter season, it is wise to dress in warm clothes, and avoid using heaters.

The percentage of households that used electricity for cooking increased from 58% in 2002 to 78,1% in June 2015. Concurrently, the use of paraffin and fire wood declined. The percentage of households that used paraffin declined from 16,2% in 2002 to 5,4% in 2015, while the percentage of households that used firewood decreased from 19,3% to 9,3%. The percentage of households that used gas increased from 2,2% in 2002 to 3,5% in 2015.

These data is extremely positive news for the country in terms of the prime focus of the increased access to electricity to ensure a positive socio-economic outcome by ensuring more opportunities in the economic sectors, at the same time decreasing the health risk by eliminating life threatening energy carriers such as paraffin and firewood. While 85.5 % of households have access to electricity, the Department of Energy remains committed in ensuring that universal access to electricity is achieved within the next 10 – 12 years.

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