



mineral resources & energy

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All media
Date: 17 July 2023

CALL FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SOUTH AFRICA RENEWABLE ENERGY MASTERPLAN (SAREM)

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) is calling on stakeholders to review and provide comments on the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) published today, Monday 17 July 2023.

Over the past 18 months, the DMRE, working with industry stakeholders, experts, labour, and other government departments, produced the SAREM which articulates a vision, objectives, and an action plan for South Africa to tap into opportunities linked to the booming market for renewable energy and battery storage technologies, both domestically and globally.

SAREM aims to leverage the rising demand to unlock the industrial and inclusive development of associated renewable energy and battery storage value chains in South Africa.

The DMRE invites and encourages stakeholders to review and provide comments on the draft masterplan document to ensure that the contribution of the renewable energy and battery storage value chains is maximised in support of South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) objectives.

Stakeholders can access the draft version of the SAREM on the link: <https://bit.ly/3XWhPT5>

Written comments and inputs can be directed to Mthunzi.Mangqalaza@dmre.gov.za on or before Monday 31 July 2023.

In addition, the DMRE will host public consultation sessions on a date that will be confirmed later. To sign up to receive more information about these sessions, please send an email to: Lerato.April@dmre.gov.za

For technical inquiries on the masterplan, please contact the DMRE coordinator, Ms Noma Qase at: Noma.Qase@dmre.gov.za

For enquiries: mediadesk@dmre.gov.za
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Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

EDITOR'S NOTES:

About the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM)

The DMRE is responsible for leading the country's electricity generation blueprint, the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). This plan is located within the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP) which aims to eliminate poverty and reduce unemployment and inequality in South Africa. By 2030, the NDP targets for South Africa to have an energy sector that: provides reliable and efficient energy services at competitive rates; is socially equitable through expanded access to energy at affordable tariffs; and is environmentally sustainable through reduced emissions and pollution.

Over the years, the DMRE has spearheaded the procurement of a variety of energy sources towards the development of a diverse energy supply mix, including renewable energy and battery storage as envisioned in the IRP 2019. Consistent with its mandate of ensuring security of supply through a diverse energy mix, over the years, the DMRE has spearheaded the procurement of a variety of energy sources including renewable energy and battery storage as envisioned in the IRP 2019. To further advance the security of supply objectives, in 2021 government lifted the generation licensing requirements altogether and promoted the implementation of small-scale embedded generation frameworks which resulted in even more renewable energy and battery systems coming online, creating jobs and catalysing private sector investment.

Pursuant to the NDP objectives, government bears the responsibility to ensure that the rollout of new energy sources contributes positively towards meeting the needs of a developmental state. Accordingly, the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) process was initiated in 2020 to drive industrialization of the renewable energy value chain.

*National sector masterplans are part of the re-imagined industrial strategy initiated by **the dtic** in 2019. Sector masterplans are evidence-based and co-created by business, labour and government in an effort to drive industrial development and are supported by industry social compacts in which each partner is expected to contribute. Concrete, industry informed plans are put in place so as to unlock inclusive growth and jobs.*

Chaired by DMRE, the SAREM process has harnessed the leadership and contribution of government, labour unions, industry players, the Public Private Growth Initiative (PPGI) and community representatives to craft a plan aligned with the country's objectives and needs. The SAREM is designed to create a social compact that supports the industrial and inclusive development of renewable energy and battery storage value chains.

SAREM, while sector focused, supports and aligns with the Energy Action Plan announced by the President on 25 July 2022. It is anchored on four key areas:

- 1. Supporting the local demand for renewable energy and storage by unlocking market demand and system readiness, as a large-scale rollout of renewable energy systems is a critical pre-condition to achieve the core objectives of SAREM.*
- 2. Driving industrial development by building renewable energy and storage value chains, through evidence-based localisation drives on both the public and private sector markets and supportive trade and industrial policy.*
- 3. Fostering inclusive development of renewable energy and battery storage, by driving the transformation of the industry, supporting the development of emerging suppliers, and contributing to a just transition.*
- 4. Building local capabilities in terms of skills and technological innovation, to enable the rollout of renewable energy and storage technologies and associated industrial development.*

The appended draft is the product of an intensive process of consultations, expert working groups and inputs from all social compact partners and relevant government entities.