



energy

Department:  
Energy  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**MEDIA RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

**ENERGY DEPARTMENT COMMENCES WITH PROCESS TO EXTEND PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR IRP2010**

**Pretoria, 18 October 2010** - Due to the complexity of the process of drafting the IRP (IRP2010) and the need to ensure that the process is as inclusive as possible, the Department of Energy has taken note of the expectations of our country's Deputy President, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, that the IRP should be finalised before the end of the year. The Deputy President's sentiments were expressed last week during the meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on Electricity.

In giving due credence to the processes of finding the correct balance between the urgent need to finalise the IRP and the thorough engagement of civil society, we wish to advise members of the public that we are commencing with the process of consulting all relevant NEDLAC constituencies to determine the appropriate period for consultation. We intend to consult these stakeholders about our intention to extend the consultation period beyond the original 30 days.

Accordingly, the date for public hearings scheduled for later this month with the regulator (NERSA) will be reviewed so that they happen beyond the original two days. This is being done to ensure that all stakeholders are able freely to make their inputs.

Meanwhile we will ensure that representations from all our provinces are specifically considered. In this regard we will be taking the IRP roadshows to the provinces. This is being done in a bid to ensure that we emerge with the IRP that reflects the mosaic of our citizens beyond those of the usual suspects who originate from the hurly-burly world of metropolitan South Africa.

(END)

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