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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
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26 March 2026

Mr Ofentse Jeremiah Mokaë, MP

Chairperson of the Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings

RE: EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKING BY THE MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY - NCOP ORAL QUESTIONS, 16 OCTOBER 2025

Dear Mr Ofentse Jeremiah Mokaë,

I write on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to bring to your attention executive undertakings made by the Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa, during oral questions in the National Council of Provinces on 16 October 2025.

Date of undertakings: Thursday, 16 October 2025 (<https://pmg.org.za/hansard/41792/>)

Question reference: Question 255 (CO1422E): *"Whether his department has any (a) strategies and (b) plans to consider electricity affordability, especially for the (i) poor and/or (ii) unemployed, given the general complaints regarding high electricity prices for the average household; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?"* - posed by Hon Mr M G Modise (ANC, Gauteng).

The undertakings by the Minister arose in three stages during the oral questions session:

1) Main response to Question 255

In his main response, the Minister stated that the department is reviewing the Energy Pricing Policy (EPP), which will align tariff setting, subsidy allocation, and municipal support structures to ensure sustainable cost recovery while safeguarding social equity, and that the EPP will guide NERSA and electricity distributors in assessing the socioeconomic impacts of tariff applications and in aligning tariff increases with inflation-adjusted affordability benchmarks.

2) Follow-up by Hon Mr M G Modise (ANC) (Follow-Up One under Question 255)

Hon Modise asked the Minister directly whether there is a timeframe for the EPP review. The Minister responded that the department has set itself a timeline of completing the revised policy position by the first quarter of 2026, noting that the process would involve broad stakeholder consultation across sectors of the South African economy.

3) Follow-up by Hon Mr D R Ryder (DA) (Follow-Up Two under Question 255)

In response to Hon Ryder's follow-up, the Minister made the following further commitments: that future electricity tariff increases will be benchmarked against inflation, and that the era of double-digit electricity price increases is over - a position the Minister stated he had already communicated directly to Eskom.

Summary of undertakings:

1. That the department is reviewing the Energy Pricing Policy (EPP) to align tariff setting, subsidy allocation and municipal support with affordability and social equity objectives.
2. That the EPP review will be completed by the first quarter of 2026.
3. That future electricity tariff increases will be benchmarked against inflation.
4. That the era of double-digit electricity price increases is over.

The Democratic Alliance respectfully requests that the Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings consider this matter in accordance with its mandate, with a view to calling on the Minister to account for progress on the implementation of these undertakings.

We note that the Q1 2026 deadline committed to by the Minister is due to lapse on 31 March 2026, within days of this letter. We further note that on 24 March 2026, the Minister made a statement to the National Assembly indicating that the revised Energy Pricing Policy will be released for public consultation within 21 days. While the DA welcomes any movement on this matter, we submit that this announcement does not diminish the need for the Committee's oversight. The original undertaking was made on the floor of the NCOP on 16 October 2025, and it is appropriate that the NCOP (through this Committee) receives a full account from the Minister on the progress and content of the revised EPP, including why the committed Q1 2026 timeline was not met and what the revised policy will contain.

We look forward to your guidance on any further procedural steps required.

Yours sincerely,

Nicolaas Hendrik Pienaar, MP (DA)
Member of the National Council of Provinces
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa