

Gender and Energy Network of South Africa (GENSA)  
GenderCCSA-Women for Climate Justice (GenderCC)  
Commission on Gender Equality (CGE)

Joint Presentation for IRP 2010  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010

# Nothing For Us without Us!

**“As women, we commit to genuinely consultative processes and reject any participation that only serves to legitimate an inherently unfair system that privileges dominant interests. We need to participate in the consultation and policy development process around energy to ensure that a feminist, sustainable and pro-poor perspective is represented”** Women at a Conference on Women in Energy and Climate Change, hosted by Earthlife Africa JHB on 5 Aug, 2010

# IRP2010 Fails to acknowledge impact on women and poverty

- ✓ There is no mention of women nor gender in the entire IRP2010 document even though approximately 41% of the households in SA are female-headed households which are extremely poor and affected by energy poverty and often rely heavily on biomass.
- ✓ Women and children, particularly girl children, continue to bear the burden of collecting firewood, cooking with dirty fuels and living with poor quality lighting.
- ✓ Energy Interventions often focuses on tariffs and guaranteeing supply and thus ignores the non-connectedness of the many poor people in SA. The poor including women, often pay more for their energy through paraffin, candles or batteries, or through the use of their time fetching wood.
- ✓ Women need energy for productive purposes, and it is hard to produce a surplus in a society where cheap energy in the form of fossil fuels (coal and nuclear) has been available to others in a disproportionate way.

# IRP2010 Does Not Use A Holistic Approach to Energy Planning

- ✓ The IRP2010 perceives energy access as simply a technical problem. This has limited the success rate of past initiatives in expanding energy access.
- ✓ It focuses its attention on energy security for the mainstream, industrially-based economy and does not “adopt measures to provide for universal access to appropriate and clean forms of energy to households”.
- ✓ Energy supply is seen in the context of ensuring that those who already have energy (largely corporate) continue to receive it without interruption and lacks recognition that energy plays a vital role in the local small scale economy - that it may be used to operate a single sewing machine for making clothes or a hand-held carpentry tool for making furniture.
- ✓ No recognition that some types of energy production would create a lot of jobs, as per Earthlife Africa JHB study that indicated huge difference between the number of jobs created from biomass, wind, or solar, as compared to coal, gas and nuclear.
- ✓ The IRP2010 continues on a **business-as-usual** despite the LTMS and ignores the challenges of climate change by increasing coal powered electricity and nuclear while giving minimal support to renewable alternatives that will reduce SA’s carbon emissions.

# IRP2010 Process Flawed

- ✓ IRP2010 consultation process works on an assumption that people can read and write, thus exclude 24 % of adult South Africans who cannot read and write, yet who are profoundly affected by energy poverty.
- ✓ Using the internet and newspapers like “Business Day” to approach the public to be involved in the IRP2010 process is utterly unacceptable as the poor don’t have access to these.
- ✓ Consultation with few organizations is in no way a substitute for full consultation with women in SA generally and broadly who continue to bear the brand of energy poverty. This gives rise to a system where certain people become professional consultees, who spend almost all their time being engaged in various consultation processes which are closed to the general public.
- ✓ Who are the people involved in putting together the IRP2010 for South Africa????????? We recommend that DoE should acquire capacity to ensure that a feminist, sustainable and pro-poor IRP2010 is produced .....a critical step to a just, equitable and sustainable energy future for the South Africa.

# IRP2 not aligned with IEP, CSIR, LTMS & National Energy Strategy

- ✓ Scenarios used in IEP and IRP do not use same parameters, nor do they use the same data (ie GDP)
- ✓ IRP2 does not follow the LTMS approach in terms of the Constitution and DoE's policy
- ✓ IRP2 makes assumptions of a booming economy over 25 years and a stable exchange rate but does not provide best / worst case scenario data
- ✓ Huge discrepancy on CSIR vs. System Operator figures in terms of GDP and demand
- ✓ IRP2 neglects flexibility, price elasticity, distribution and transmission figures are not reflected

# IRP2010 Scenarios Not Valid

- ✓ Scenarios do not incorporate risk
- ✓ Scenarios do not incorporate pertinent externalities
- ✓ Scenarios unevenly favor Nuclear energy over other alternative technologies
- ✓ Scenarios do not consider maintenance cost, types of nuclear plants, carbon emission, decommissioning cost, liability cost

# We require Broad-Based Participatory Public Consultation Workshops on the IRP2010

- ✓ Workshops are required to fully explain the IRP2010 to ALL stakeholders in both urban and rural areas using uncomplicated and non-technical language to ensure understanding and facilitate meaningful participation for ALL.
- ✓ Consultation workshops must also be used to scrutinize energy policies in an environment that fosters open, honest feedback, and accepts constructive criticism with the intention of helping us move towards a new energy system that is not based on minerals (coal and uranium).
- ✓ We need full transparency on research conducted to inform the IRP2010 and data collected, as well as full disclosure on how the Technical Committee was formed and how its members were nominated.
- ✓ Resources have to be made available to enable meaningful participation of the poor, particularly women and to increase their understanding of the current energy planning processes.
- ✓ Establish a gender technical committee and a stakeholders forum
- ✓ We need an energy plan that will prioritise decentralised renewable energy projects that will empower the poor to become independent power producers, particularly women, to ensure that they become self-reliant in their energy supply.

# In Conclusion..... We Need

✓ **DoE to apply a gender lens to the energy planning processes, policies and programmes**

Women and men are effected differently by energy policies and programmes. Women make up the majority of the single headed households and thus serious attempts must be made to incorporate those differences and develop appropriate gender friendly policies and programmes.

✓ **DoE to identify key renewable energy sources and technologies that are suitable for use in rural and urban poor communities , include them in the IRP2010.** The technologies that are most suitable for the poor should not be excluded from government programmes like the feed-in-tariff. Biomass, run of river and biogas are technologies that are suitable for expansion in rural areas, and in the case of biomass can be carried out by the rural people themselves in a decentralised way. In this way it is possible to provide modern energy but also in a way that makes the communities self reliant in their energy supply.

✓ **DoE to allocate more resources to the provision of energy for the poor and to guarantee the access** . The allocations for rural energy provision are not adequate to deal with the needs of this sector. This must be increased urgently and provision for productive energy, not merely energy for households must be included in the total package offered to poor households both rural and urban areas.



**WE REJECT the current IRP2010 Process!**

**Our Planet is in crisis.... We cannot afford anymore Carbon Emissions into our Atmosphere.**

**Energy planning is not the responsibility of one Ministry and must be done in an integrated and coordinated approach and not contradict SA's efforts to reduce Carbon emissions.**

**It is Women's Right to participate in any process that will decide on energy choices that will affect them.**

**It is Women's Right to be consulted and included in all current energy planning processes**

**WA THINTA BAFAZI, WA THINTHA MBOKODO!**