



Millions still without electricity in SA

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA Mar 04 2009 12:48

0 comment(s) | Post your comment

About R2,5-million households in South Africa do not have electricity, according to the results of a study released on Wednesday.

"Over four million households do not cook with electricity and two million households rely on candles for lighting," according to the study by Citizens United for Renewable Energies and Sustainability (Cures).

"This is in a country that has over 36 000MW of installed power generation capacity, its own nuclear power plant and one of the largest electricity utilities in the world," the study says.

About 70% of rural households rely on wood fuel and paraffin even though some of them having electricity, the study shows.

It also reveals that South Africa's Integrated National Electrification Programme has raised the level of electrification from 36% in 1993 to 80% by 2007.

"What this impressive rate of electrification hides is the bias towards urban electrification and the fact that it is the rural poor who largely comprise the millions of households lacking access to the grid," the study says.

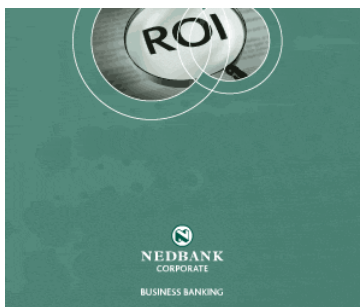
"Rural electrification rates are still between 50% and 60% leaving well over two million households without access to the grid. Such disparities will not be easily remedied as rural electrification is far more costly than urban and the electrification budget has been steadily decreasing over the years.

"In addition, rural areas are less frequently targeted as investors fear lower returns than the more dense and lucrative urban markets."

Annie Sugrue, coordinator for Cures Southern Africa, said the poor are largely excluded from benefiting from the cheap energy that modern society gets from fossil fuels.

"The roll-out of government programmes is sorely lacking in dealing with the millions who have no access to modern energy services."

CONTINUES BELOW



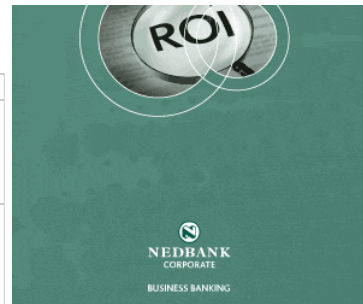
ARTICLE TOOLS

- Add to Clippings
- Email to friend
- Print

MORE TOOLS

- Add to Facebook
- Add to Muli
- Add to delicious
- Blog Reactions
- Digg this story

MAP



LATEST ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION

- Pakistan identifies Sri Lankan cricket attackers
- Zim cholera figures 'most likely a dramatic underestimate'
- DA hunts information on Shaik's condition
- Sudan expels NGOs, defies Hague court
- Minister: Shaik's parole not unique

POPULAR ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION

- 24 Hours
- 1 Week
- 1 Month

- Dandala: There's no leadership struggle in Cope
- ANC denies distributing false DA pamphlet
- ANC: Eastern Cape is not a Cope stronghold
- US prolongs sanctions on Zimbabwe
- Minister: Shaik's parole not unique
- ANC's dirty war on Cope
- Zille: Malema will fall hard
- Balfour: Shaik's condition terminal
- Phumzile, Mcozoma defect to Cope
- Regional ministers seek donor help for Zimbabwe
- Tearful Niehaus admits fraud
- Zille urges Zuma to step down
- ANC's dirty war on Cope
- Niehaus blames prison, apartheid for woes
- Why did Zuma want Niehaus?

YOUR M&G ONLINE

- SUBSCRIBE TO M&G
- ON YOUR WEBSITE
- ON YOUR PHONE
- VIA RSS FEED
- ON YOUR DESKTOP
- IN DIGITAL PDF
- VIA PODCAST
- PLACE AN AD

READ OF THE WEEK



- More on this book
- More M&G books
- Previous books
- Go to Exclusive
- Win books

EXCLUSIVE BOOKS

THIS WEEK'S PAPER



- Subscribe
- Subs promotions
- Get digital edition

She recommends renewable energy as a viable alternative for rural areas.

"Renewable energy provides an excellent opportunity to provide modern energy services to those lacking it, even in far flung rural areas," she said.

ADVERTISEMENTS

She added that renewable energy could be delivered in a decentralised way, taking advantage of the excellent solar and biomass potential in South Africa.

"Renewable energy production furthermore has the potential to create hundreds of thousands of jobs, many of which do not require the same skills level of other energy sources like nuclear energy," said Sugrue.

The study also acknowledges a project funded by Eskom and government where compact fluorescent lamps were distributed free of charge in exchange for incandescent light bulbs among urban households.

"This reduced household electricity consumption benefiting both households in terms of lower electricity bills as well as reducing demand-side pressure on the national utility.

"In a similar swap initiative, the government launched LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] stoves.

"With the appropriate scale such initiatives may reduce peak time demand for electricity but the question remains whether longer term reliance on LPG will not increase energy costs for the poor, as LPG is expensive," the study said. -- Sapa

TOPICS IN THIS ARTICLE

RELATED ARTICLES

- Minister: Speed up electricity restructuring
- Google plans smart-grid electricity software

TAGS

- electricity

Current Automation

DC or AC backup UPS systems with solar solutions



Reduce Energy Costs

Cost effective, easy to install solar geyser. Call Easy Energy Now!



ARTICLE COMMENTS

You must be logged in to comment. log in or sign up to comment

[click here to log in](#)

ADVERTISING LINKS

- Life insurance made simple No medical examinations. No HIV test. No application forms. Quote me now!
- Looking for a reliable IT supplier? Shop at PCMall.co.za for the best prices on all PC and technology equipment, notebooks, etc
- Private Property listings List your property with us or search for a property. No estate agent's commission
- Free calling card Call the world for less! Sign up for Pingo pre-paid calling and receive 50% on your calls to South Africa.



See more ads



See more ads



See more ads



See more ads

ADVERTISING LINKS

- FREE CALLING CARD
- BUY TECHNOLOGY
- FIRST FOR WOMEN
- MAP SEARCH
- ONLINE CASINO
- HOLIDAY FINDER
- LIFE INSURANCE
- INSURANCE
- INTERNET SOLUTIONS
- BID OR BUY

Make us your home page | Add our headlines to your site | Desktop news with NewsFlash

Contact us | About us | Story tip-offs | Online advertising | Print advertising | Subscriptions | Topics A-Z | Corrections | Mobile sites

All material © Mail & Guardian Online. Material may not be published or reproduced in any form without prior written permission.

Read the site privacy policy and Ispa code of conduct relating to our blog hosting. RSS feed

This site is proudly hosted by Internet Solutions. We are a member of the Online Publishers Association.

