

GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI



GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

ELECTRICITY TARIFF INCREASE

Government has noted public concerns regarding the tariff increase announced by the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA). Government also duly noted the rationale provided by both ESERA and Eswatini Electricity Company, necessitating the 13.61% increase.

First and foremost, we would like to appreciate His Majesty's foresight and wisdom expressed in His Speech from the Throne during the State Opening of the Third Session of the 12th Parliament. Following this call, Cabinet deliberated on this matter, carefully considering submissions made during the consultation process and resolved to intervene to ensure that the negative impact on households and businesses alike is mitigated without destabilising EEC.

In doing so, Government considered the cost structures within the energy sector and the long-term sustainability of reliable electricity supply in the beautiful Kingdom of Eswatini.

It is clear that the latest tariffs will have undesired impact on the citizens as

well as EEC. The increase in tariffs and corresponding impact is a result of historical decisions made to fully rely on imported power than on locally generated power. Although the citizens of Eswatini are experiencing the impact now, the opportunity to prevent this was missed many years ago.

Government therefore decided to intervene to bring relief to households and EEC in line with the Speech from the Throne. To enable the relief of emaSwati and businesses, Government approved special funding worth E100 million in 2026 and E100 million in 2027 to ESERA. The regulator working with EEC will decide the extent to which this funding will bring relief to the public and to mitigate future acute increases.

Additionally, the Kingdom of Eswatini will aggressively pursue energy self-sufficiency and ensure that it is attained by 2030 ensuring greater control over electricity pricing, and supply stability. Already, several key generation projects are in progress and at an advanced stage to deliver 188.6 MW by 2030 including:-

- 75MW Solar Project by Independent Power Producers (IPPs)
- 40MW by Illovo Biomass Project (IPP)
- 13.6 MW through the Lower Maguduza Hydro Project (13.6MW)
- 10MW through Maguga Hydropower Expansion (10MW) and
- 50 MW by RES Corporation Project

More generation licenses for an additional 1,400MW are being considered by Government putting the country on a good trajectory to eliminate reliance on imports and bring baseload for industrialisation in line with the Nkwe Programme of Action and the Grand Plan for National Transformation. Additionally, Eswatini Electricity Company will expedite necessary internal

reforms aimed at achieving sustainability and energy self-sufficiency.

On behalf of His Majesty's Government, I would like to thank the nation for understanding and continued cooperation during this period of transition.

RUSSELL MMISO DLAMINI

Prime Minister

11 March 2026