

# GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI



## MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

### PRESS STATEMENT

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACCESS FUND.

1. The Government is implementing a Rural Electrification Program of ensuring that all Eswatini have access to affordable and modern energy by the year 2030, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No.7 and the National Energy Policy, 2018. The main objective of the Program is to improve the livelihoods of all citizens of the country especially in the rural areas.
2. It is against this background that Government has established the Rural Electrification Access Fund in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 2017 read in conjunction with the Electricity Act, 2007 which is currently funded through a levy of E0.0129 per kWh on each unit of electricity sold.
3. The major objective of the Fund is to support the Rural Electrification Program. Whilst a remarkable national access rate of 82% has been achieved in Eswatini, Government remains committed to assisting the remaining households to also have access to electricity. The fund will electrify rural electricity Group Schemes, install off grid systems like solar home systems for households that are inaccessible, install solar water pumping systems for rural community boreholes and ready boards for needy households failing to electrically wire their houses amongst other objectives.

4. The Rural Electrification Access Fund Regulations 2021, gazetted on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 operationalizes the fund and puts the levy at 2.5% of the prevailing electricity tariff.
5. Balancing the challenging financial climate with the positive and economic benefits of the Fund, the Ministry will implement the levy in a staggered approach as follows:
  - a) the levy will be 1.6% of the energy (kWh) charge effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2021 and
  - b) the levy will increase to 2.5% of the energy (kWh) charge effective 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

*The new tariff structure effective 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021, will be as follows: -*

Type	NON-TOU TARIFFS	Facility Charge E/Month	Current Energy Charge E/kWh	After Levy increase Energy Charge E/kWh
S10	Lifeline (0-75 kWh)		1.0864	1.0907
	Lifeline (76-100 kWh)		1.8021	1.8179
	Lifeline (>100kWh)		3.9492	3.9993
S1	Domestic		1.8021	1.8179
S2	General Purpose	207.43	2.3009	2.3246
S3	Small Commercial – prepayment	207.43	2.3009	2.3246
S3	Small Commercial - credit meter	414.85	2.3009	2.3246

<b>TOU TARIFFS</b>	<b>T1</b>	<b>T2</b>	<b>T3</b>	<b>T4</b>
	<b>TOU at MV at HV network</b>	<b>TOU at MV</b>	<b>TOU at LV</b>	<b>TOU small irrigation &lt; 100 kVA</b>
Facility Charge E/month	5,015.72	2,413.97	1,815.90	1,543.52
Demand Charge E/kVA	155.86	163.28	171.44	145.73
Access Charge E/kVA	58.06	60.83	58.31	54.29
Energy – Low Demand - Peak E/kWh	1.6194	1.6635	1.6930	1.4617
Energy – Low Demand - Standard E/kWh	1.1516	1.1816	1.2017	1.0442
Energy – Low Demand - Off-Peak E/kWh	0.9286	0.9518	0.9675	0.8449
<b>Energy – High Demand - Peak E/kWh</b>	4.6092	4.7475	4.8395	4.1138
<b>Energy – High Demand - Standard E/kWh</b>	1.4124	1.4549	1.4830	1.2606
<b>Energy – High Demand - Off-Peak E/kWh</b>	0.9286	0.9518	0.9675	0.8449

6. A Select Committee on Rural Electrification (SCORE) has been established in line with the Regulations to provide oversight on the operations of the Fund.

**DORCAS N. DLAMINI (MRS).**

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

**15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**