

27 July 2020

First founding meeting of the Ministerial Renewable Energy Sector Engagement Forum**Report back and recommendations***Prepared by Chris Yelland, EE Business Intelligence***1. Introduction**

In early July 2020, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Hon. Gwede Mantashe instructed Chris Yelland of EE Business Intelligence to facilitate the founding meeting for a Ministerial Renewable Energy (RE) Sector Engagement Forum on Thursday 16 July 2020.

2. Outcomes sought

The outcomes sought from the founding meeting of the Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum were very limited as follows:

- To build trust and prepare the right posture, form and processes necessary for the RE sector to engage constructively with the Minister to assist in unlocking delivery of RE in terms of existing government policy, commitments and planning processes;
- To ensure sufficient consensus to move forward to establish a smaller, legitimate ongoing Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum, broadly structured to represent the RE sector in ongoing substantive engagements with the Minister to address RE delivery bottlenecks; and
- To ensure sufficient consensus to move forward to establish a small working group, free of commercial vested interests, to draft a discussion paper and agenda to address substantive matters for the next and further ongoing meetings of the proposed Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum.

3. Invitations

Care was taken by EE Business intelligence to ensure that a broad cross-section of relevant RE sector stakeholders were invited to attend the founding meeting. It was intended to have about 150 persons attend a virtual meeting conducted on Zoom. Stakeholders invited included:

Government: DMRE, NT, DPE, DTIC, DEFF

Government agencies: SALGA, NERSA, CEF, SANEDI, IPP Office

Customer associations: MCSA, EIUG, Eskom, AMEU

RE sector associations: SAREC, SAWEA, SAPVIA, STASA, SESSA, SAESA, AREP, SAIPPA

Business associations: BUSA/BLSA, BBC, BASA

Professional associations: BEPA, SAIEE

Organised labour: COSATU, SAFTU

Commercial banks

Development finance associations

RE developers

RE technology providers and original equipment manufacturers
Local SA manufacturers
SA black industrialists
Academics and researchers
Economists and consultants
Observers from diplomatic missions and agencies

4. Attendance

210 persons registered to attend the founding meeting of the Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum on Thursday 16 July 2020. [Please see the registration report here.](#)

5. Programme and agenda

[Please see the programme, agenda and notes here](#) for the founding meeting Ministerial RE sector Engagement Forum on Thursday 16 July 2020.

6. Proceedings

[Please see a video recording here](#) of the full proceedings of the founding meeting Ministerial RE sector Engagement Forum on Thursday 16 July 2020.

7. Presentations

[Please see here for a listing of the all the presenters and titles of their presentations](#) given at the founding meeting Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum on Thursday 16 July 2020 is given here.

Please see below for the PDF files of the various presentations made available to EE Business Intelligence after the meeting:

[Acknowledgements](#)

[AMEU](#)

[BBC](#)

[CSIR](#)

[SAIEE](#)

[SAIPPA](#)

[SAREC](#)

[SAREM](#)

[SAWEA](#)

8. Feedback questionnaire on bottlenecks and solutions

After the meeting, [the feedback questionnaire here](#) was provided for organisations to indicate the three top bottlenecks and three top solutions identified to unlock rollout of renewable energy in South Africa.

Please see below for the PDF files of the various responses to the above questionnaire received by EE Business Intelligence after the meeting:

[AMEU](#)

[AREP](#)

[BASA](#)

[BBC](#)

[BUSAS](#)

[COSATU](#)

[EIUG](#)

[Eskom](#)

[European Delegation to SA](#)

[MCSA](#)

[SAESA](#)

[SAIEE](#)

[SAIPPA](#)

[SAPVIA](#)

[SAREC](#)

[SAWEA](#)

[SEIFSA](#)

[SESSA](#)

9. Polls taken

Two polls were taken after all presentations and discussion to obtain the views of attendees on the way forward in respect of:

- Establishing a smaller, legitimate ongoing Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum, broadly structured to represent the RE sector in ongoing substantive engagements with the Minister to address RE delivery bottlenecks; and
- Establishing a small working group, free of commercial vested interests, to draft a discussion paper and agenda to address substantive matters for the next and further ongoing meetings of the proposed Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum.

[Please see the questions asked in each of the above to polls, and the results of the voting here.](#)

10. Outcomes

The outcomes of the polls taken after all presentations and full discussion were as follows:

- There was overwhelming support (100%) for establishing a smaller, legitimate ongoing Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum, broadly structured to represent the RE sector in ongoing substantive engagements with the Minister to address RE delivery bottlenecks. The majority of attendees (74%) indicated that 25 seats proposed for the forum was about right. The majority of attendees (56%) indicated the balance of representation proposed was about right. An overwhelming majority (92%) of attendees gave the green light to proceed on this basis.
- There was overwhelming support (86%) for establishing a small Working Group, comprising subject specialists free of commercial vested interests, to draft a discussion paper and agenda to address substantive matters for the next and further ongoing meetings of the proposed Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum. The majority of attendees (62%) indicated that about 5 seats proposed for Working Group was about right. An overwhelming majority (88%) of attendees gave the green light to proceed on this basis.

11. Recommendations

Following the founding meeting for a Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum on Thursday 16 July 2020, it is recommended that:

- The Minister and the RE sector of South Africa proceed to establish a legitimate ongoing Ministerial RE Sector Engagement Forum, broadly structured [as detailed here](#) to broadly represent the RE Sector in ongoing substantive engagements with the Minister to address RE delivery bottlenecks.

- The Minister and the RE sector of South Africa, proceed to establish a small working group, comprising five subject specialists free of commercial vested interests to draft a discussion paper and agenda to address substantive matters for the next and further ongoing meetings of the proposed RE Sector Engagement Forum.
- The Minister and the RE sector of South Africa appoint a facilitator free of commercial vested interests mandated to proceed with the above going forward, and that funding be provided for this purpose.

Prepared by:



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Date: 26 July 2020