



Them bani Bukula

Regulator Member-Electricity Regulation NERSA

Title – Balancing Stakeholders’ interests

Large portions of the energy infrastructure in the Southern African region are owned by governments. Policies of energy regulation are thus biased towards these state owned entities and the shareholder still plays a significant role in the strategic and operational management of these entities. Further low income consumers make up than 50% of the population, thus necessitating tariff and pricing structures that are inclining in line with the consumption levels. Regulators need to make across-decisions that balance the sometimes conflicting requirements of stakeholders in a manner that is equitable and just over a given period. Due consideration has to be given to the significant gap between the high and low income consumers and appropriate prices and tariffs escalation methods that “cushion” low income consumers from steep price increases need to be established.