

## **SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION COMPANY**

**I AM LYDIA PETERSEN, A FAITH LEADER FROM MITCHELL'S PLAIN**

**MY CONCERNS ARE THAT CONSUMERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE LIVING AN IMPOVERISHED LIFE WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF THIS. WHAT WE DO NEED, IS A STABLE ENERGY SUPPLY TO THOSE THAT ARE BASICALLY LIVING PROOF OF ENERGY POVERTY AS WELL AS AFFORDABLE ENERGY.**

**FOR YEARS THE CONSUMER ARE BATTERED AND BRUISED BY HIGH COST OF LIVING, HIGH FOOD PRICES AND EXHORBITANT ELECTRICITY PRICE INCREASES. WILL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW TRANSMISSION COMPANY MITIGATE THESE OR WILL IT SIMPLY INCREASE THE UNCERTAINTY OF COSTS AND ENERGY SUPPLY.?**

**I TOOK PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE CLIMATE FINANCE PLEDGED AT COP 26 IN GLASGOW, EARMARKED FOR A JUST TRANSITION IN THIS COUNTRY. WITH THE EMPHASIS ON JUST, MEANING INCLUSIVITY FOR ALL IN TERMS OF ENERGY JUSTICE. THIS FINANCE SHOULD BE WHOLLY FOR THAT INTENDED PURPOSE AND NOT BE TO FINANCE ANYTHING, INCLUDING A TRANSMISSION COMPANY, OR THE UNBUNDLING OF ESKOM. WHO WILL FUND THIS? HOW WILL FUTURE COST OF ELECTRICITY BE DETERMINED?**

**FURTHERMORE, IT IS OF IMPORTANCE THAT CONSUMERS NOT BE FURTHER BURDENED BY THE MAKINGS OF GOVERNMENT DECISIONS THAT ARE NOT OF BENEFIT TO THEM. THIS MOVE COULD BE SEEN AS A STEP TO PRIVATISATION OF THE STATE OWN ENTITY BY WAY OF UNBUNDLING ESKOM.**

**HOWEVER...**

**THE PROPOSED LICENCE COULD MEAN THAT RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES COULD BE FAST TRACKED AND OFFER THE CONSUMER THE BENEFIT OF LEAST COST PRICING FOR THEIR PURCHASES. THIS COULD ALSO MEAN THAT ENERGY POVERTY IN MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES WILL BE ERADICATED AND ENERGY SUPPLY ENSURED. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE THAT EVEN COMMUNITIES COULD BE POWER PRODUCERS, MAKING THEM PIONEER PARTICIPANTS OF A JUST TRANSITION.**

**HOWEVER GOOD THIS SOUNDS IN PRINCIPLE, THE CONCERNS REMAIN. HOW WILL THE PUBLIC KNOW HOW COSTS WILL BE INCORPORATED? WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING THE PUBLIC? SURELY NERSA COULD AND SHOULD STEP IN AND BE IN AN OVERSIGHT ROLE, AS PER THEIR MANDATE TO REGULATE PRICING. IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE PROPOSED LICENCE FOR THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION COMPANY FOLLOW TRANSPARENT PROCEDURAL STEPS TO INCLUDE COMMUNITIES THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ISSUING OF SUCH A LICENCE.**

**OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTIBILITY IS KEY IN MOVING FORWARD.**