

28 November 2025

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### NERSA APPROVES MARKET OPERATOR LICENCE FOR NTCSA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRICITY MARKET ADVISORY FORUM

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) has reached a historic milestone following a series of landmark decisions by the Energy Regulator on 27 November 2025. The decisions, which pertain to the Market Operator licence application by the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA), Grid Capacity Allocation Rules and the establishment of the Electricity Market Advisory Forum (EMAF), pave the way for a competitive electricity market.

The decisions acknowledge the significant changes expected within the electricity sector and the critical role of the Energy Regulator, heralded by the amended Electricity Regulation Act of 2006, which includes the establishment of a competitive electricity market over the next five years. A notable achievement is the approval of the Market Operator licence for the NTCSA, which is essential for formally establishing the entity responsible for operating the future competitive electricity market. This licensing is a key activity for the NTCSA and is integral to the implementation of the forthcoming Market Rule and Market Code.

**According to the amended Electricity Regulation Act, section 34B (3), the licensed Market Operator is required to submit the Trading Platform and Market Rules and the Market Code for approval by the Energy Regulator. The Electricity Market Advisory Forum (EMAF), approved on 29 April 2025, will play a vital role in advising the Energy Regulator on the finalisation and implementation of these regulatory instruments, as well as providing guidance on key enablers required to establish a competitive electricity market.**

**The EMAF will also support regulatory oversight of market operations, ensuring readiness and inclusivity among stakeholders as the electricity market evolves. NERSA will communicate the potential launch date of the EMAF in due course, once all 14 nominated members approved by the Energy Regulator on 27 November 2025, have been informed.**

**The EMAF is a proactive move to involve stakeholders in supporting NERSA in establishing a robust and inclusive regulatory environment to oversee and facilitate the nascent electricity market. This includes licensing the Market Operator as the NTCSA's licensed activity and**

#### Regulator Members:

Mr T Bukula (Chairperson) Ms Z Mpungose (Deputy Chairperson) \*Adv NP Sithole (Chief Executive Officer)  
\*Ms N Maseti \*Mr MW Mkhize Ms T Semane Mr FK Sibanda Ms PN Sibiya  
\*Full-Time Regulator Members

**approving the draft Market Rules and Market Code, as the operational and governance framework for the electricity market.**

On 12 November 2025, the Energy Regulator approved the Grid Capacity Allocation Rules to ensure fair, transparent and non-discriminatory access to limited grid capacity.

Key objectives of these rules are as follows:

- Ensure fair and transparent grid access.
- Improve planning certainty for investors and developers.
- Prevent inactive projects from reserving capacity.
- Promote optimal use of existing infrastructure and guide future development.

The benefits will include accelerated access for bankable projects, reduced backlogs, improved queue management and enhanced investor confidence.

**End.**

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