

Stalemate or Priority: An Examination into the Energy Question in Zimbabwe

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Abstract

Zimbabwe currently faces an amalgamation of energy access and availability challenges across all sectors of the economy. The paper seeks to advance the debate that Zimbabwe could do well in the energy sector should it rethink its economy, technology, policy and scale of operation and influence. This comes as a result of paucity of a scholarly debate and practical implementation on the situation and prospects on the multiple alternatives available for the energy sector. It is not clear, in practical terms, whether this issue is a matter of politicization, neglect or indecision on the part of the state not to utilize the many resources that the energy sector has – natural gas, geothermal power, coal, nuclear, hydro-power, solar, to mention these few. By way of documentary analysis including official, scholarly articles and media reports, the paper observes that with informed decision making, systems thinking and prioritization, the energy sector is poised to make the country a useful hub and user of the multi-packaged energy resource. The paper furthermore highlights the opportunities that Zimbabwe can harness to further advance the adoption of renewable energy both at household and National Level. It recommends that developing this sector requires a multi-stakeholder approach which also helps in ensuring advancement in multi-dimensionality to the whole debate including pro-poor strategies and targeting, climate change, economic performance and essential infrastructure development and maintenance.

Key words: Energy Question; Priority; Stalemate; Economy; Policy

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