



## Comments on the Draft Energy (Electricity Supply) Regulations, 2021

### Introduction

The Draft Energy (Electricity Supply) Regulations, 2021, proposed by the EPRA will repeal the existing Electric Power (Electrical Installation Work) Rules, 2006. As an overall observation, these regulations seek to streamline operations within the electricity sub-sector and introduces a raft of measures that are aimed at ensuring that both consumers and producers are mutual beneficiaries. Moreover, it seeks to ensure adherence to strict measures that enhance consumer safety on the one hand, and adherence to rules and regulations by sector players on the other.

Specific comments on the draft are detailed in the matrix below:

Item No.	Draft Regulation Title	Section/ Page No	Issue/ Comment	Proposal
(i)	Replacement of Chairperson	14 Pg. 12	The Authority <b>may at any time replace</b> the Chairperson. <i>Security of Tenure not guaranteed – this is prone to abuse.</i>	Security of Tenure is important for stability and continuity and as such should be included within the regulations. Grounds for removal should also be clearly stated
(ii)	Duty to provide electricity in area of supply	16 (4) Pg. 12	Waiting time for a decision from the authority pegged at 60days	Time period for such an approval <b>should be shortened to 30 days</b> since at the time of application, the authority is already aware of the applicants' requirements.



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(iii)	Application for connection to an electric supply line	18 (2) & (3) Pg. 13	Application process has been eased especially for the requirements from potential applicants. Period also shortened to within fourteen days of receipt of the application.	This is commendable. There is need to <b>embrace the digital communication options</b> now available.
(iv)	Charges for Connection	20 (3) Pg. 13	There is not a mention of complaint procedure or time period for a solution when a complaint is lodged	Consider noting <b>'through the laid down complaint procedures'</b>
(v)	Processing of applications for connection	22 (2) (iv) Pg. 15	Agreements should have dedicated timelines as leaving them open is prone to abuse	Timeline of <b>90 days should suffice</b>
(vi)	Metering	25 (1) Pg. 15	Meter readings should be phased out with time	Considerations to begin and allow for <b>gradual installation of Prepaid (Token System) Meters</b>
(vii)	Earthing of concentric cables mains	31 (v) Pg. 18	Conduct of tests periodically is a welcome proposal	There is need to <b>specify the period</b> (a regular cycle – annually, bi-annually, etc) of these tests for planning and budgeting purposes
(viii)	Electrical Installation Work Licensing Committee	70 (1) Pg. 28	Establishment of the committee	The <b>regulations should be explicit as to the establishment</b> of this committee.



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(ix)	Termination of appointment of members of the Licensing Committee	73 (1) Pg. 28	Resignation of member by sending a notice to the Accounting Officer of the Authority <i>What is the rationale for this?</i>	Notice of resignation should be sent to the <b>Chairperson of the Committee or the Director General of the Authority</b>
(x)	Suspension or revocation of a certificate or license	77 (9)	Decisions passed by the authority can be appealed at the Tribunal.	The regulations should clearly state the tribunal being referred to as an arbiter

## Conclusions

Within the regulations, there is need to ensure the language within the regulations is gender neutral by revising clauses 9 (7) & 26 (3).

The Draft Energy (Electricity Supply) Regulations, 2021 bears good news for consumers in terms of their safety when dealing with electricity, as well as one stop-shop for requirements in order to get connected to the grid, and timeline for response to applicants' connection requests.

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