



EMBASSY OF DENMARK
Pretoria, South Africa

ENERGY

Contributing to a Just Energy Transition in South Africa



WORKING TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY IN NOMZAMO AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE

The Danish Embassy in Pretoria has committed ZAR 6 million in funding to improve alternative basic service delivery in Mpumalanga, specifically targeted for the residents of Nomzamo Agricultural Village. In collaboration with the Green Cape, the project seeks to develop the necessary framework conditions for the creation of financially sustainable, technically sound and socially inclusive energy service models. The development of such a framework will contribute to a just transition by expanding municipal capacity to explore alternative service delivery models for off-grid communities. Further, by actually establishing an alternative service delivery mechanism in Nomzamo Agricultural Village, the project will positively affect direct employment opportunities, economic activities and access to energy in the village.

Together with a competitively tendered social service provider, the Alternative Service Delivery Unit (ASDU) have engaged the community in the planning process, providing local households and leaders with an opportunity to express the community's main project priorities. A mapping exercise was conducted with the participation of 681 households, and the training of 30 residents to do enumeration, to develop an intervention brief for the project. Further, the Integrated Development Plan and District Development Model meetings arranged by the Green Cape have been attended by a number of municipality representatives, with the purpose of sharing information on alternative service delivery options with local communities. As such, the project has seen great progress on stakeholder engagements during the first year of operation, engaging with local environmental organisations, a female owned local engineering company, development organisations, Danish industry agents, Eskom, etc.

The appointed technical service provider "Peco Power" has made a base case offering to the village, proposing a solution for affordable access to electricity for 300 households. With the funding from the Danish Embassy, Peco Power will be able to provide households with a 70W PowerBrick, a 50W panel, and a lighting kit with 2 internal lights and an external spotlight. During the first year of operation, households will be subject to a small cost of ZAR 99 per month. Following this initial installation period, the residents will own the system themselves, while maintaining access to maintenance support. At least 2 agents and 4 installers will be trained and recruited from the community to ensure installation in the 300 households. In addition to this, Peco Power will offer classroom based entrepreneurial skills development to the local community on a "free to attend" basis. The proposal also contains possibilities for add-ons such as community lightning and refrigeration solutions, which are to be discussed further prior to implementation.

In the longer term, the purpose of the project is to develop a clear ASDU approach that can be easily implemented across municipalities and regions in South Africa.

BACKGROUND

- Denmark's support to GreenCape is funded by the Danish Sustainable Goal Development (SDG) Grant Facility.
- This project aims to integrate SDG action with investment and job creation in Mpumalanga through a Just Transition.
- The United Nation's SDGs are the blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.
- The overall goal of the project is to have an impact on the following SDGs through targeted interventions in the Mpumalanga province: Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation, Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- The project agreement was initiated in September 2022 and is programmed to run for 2 years until completion in September 2024.

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