

Energy storage regulations windhoek

CONTEMPORARY electricity storage would enhance Namibia's intermittent renewable power-generation capacity, although the country has no regulatory framework to guide the sector.

The country has imported more than 200 000 MWh since last year June due to seasonal production.

Periodic power can be economically unreliable given the fact that it is generated at irregular intervals, which poses a challenge to off-grid producers regarding planning and meeting demand.

All current independent power producers, whether connected to the main grid or not, invest in solar power mostly, with only one in wind power.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency's sectoral report for February 2021, local production of electricity stood at 66 648 MWh in February this year, compared to 98 191 MWh produced in the previous month.

This decline is attributable to two events: cloudy conditions, which caused a reduction in independent power producers' production, and low water levels, which reduced power production at the Ruacana Power Station.

According to Foibe Namene, the chief executive officer of the Electricity Control Board (ECB), the board expects to conclude energy storage regulations before the end of the year.

"We do not foresee any energy storage capacity before the finalisation of the energy storage regulations, as the current National Integrated Resources Plan is under review, and the implementation of the modified single buyer rules are underway," she says.

Namene says they have shared the first draft with the public, and are currently awaiting public input to consolidate and provide the second draft for review before it can be forwarded to the minister for approval.

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