**Press Release**

**Launch of the Resource Mobilisation Fund established in support of the President’s Energy Action Plan**

**Thursday 9 March 2023, Johannesburg:** [**The Resource Mobilisation Fund (RMF**](https://www.businessforsa.org/the-rmf/)) was launched today in response to a request from the President for the business sector to help capacitate the National Energy Crisis Committee (NECOM). NECOM aims to reduce the severity and frequency of load shedding in the short term and achieve a secure and sustainable supply of energy for South Africa in the long term.

**Martin Kingston, Chairperson of the RMF and Business for South Africa (B4SA)** said: “Following the announcement of the President’s Energy Action Plan in July 2022, various individuals and private sector organisations came together to establish the RMF as a mechanism for business in South Africa to support the implementation of the President’s Energy Action Plan. The RMF was set up to source private sector funding to procure and donate expertise to the government, and specifically NECOM, on an expedited basis. It is envisaged that this will happen over a period of one to two years depending on the pace of progress that NECOM makes in its mission.”

The RMF performs its functions independently of government, including NECOM, and business advocacy structures. Donors include South African corporates as well as philanthropic donors. The RMF receives written requests for experts from NECOM in terms of an agreement with the Presidency*,* and then facilitates an independent procurement process to source the required expertise.

**Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, Minister in the Presidency for Electricity** said: “The Presidency is very supportive of the establishment of the RMF, which we believe will help accelerate the achievement of the goals of the President’s Energy Action Plan by providing expertise and relevant capacity. Through the efforts of collaborative partnerships between businesses in South Africa and government, we know that together we can make a meaningful difference in resolving the energy crisis and many other macro-economic challenges that face us as a country.”

The RMF is a Public Benefit Organisation and autonomous legal entity formed to support NECOM. The RMF will be accountable to its donors, the business community, and the public at large, and will administer and disburse the funds raised by providing donations in kind to capacitate the government’s efforts in relation to NECOM.

Expertise to be donated to NECOM include a Project Management Office, together with specialist legal, energy modelling, and engineering expertise over a one-to-two-year period.

In line with its constitution, the RMF Board will execute its objectives in a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective manner, ensuring that integrity is always maintained and that the activities of the RMF are conducted with the highest standards of corporate governance and ethics.

*“*The RMF board is responsible for all final procurement decisions, and is advised by a procurement advisory panel, made up of both public and private sector procurement experts.Having selected the appropriate expertise, service providers are contracted by the RMF, and then donated to NECOM as experts.Certain operational functions of the RMF, including day-to-day procurement and reporting functions, have been outsourced to external service providers, although only the RMF Board has the authority to make procurement and deployment decisions. In particular, the RMF has contracted the National Business Initiative (NBI) to provide procurement, monitoring and evaluation and reporting functions to the RMF. The NBI has experience with the deployment of capacity and expertise into Government. The RMF exists only to receive and raise donations, procure capacity and skillsets, donate these to NECOM and then report back appropriately. Unlike the Energy Council and other bodies, the RMF does not undertake any policy advocacy and, other than its sole focus of capacitating government, is not involved in addressing the energy crisis.” concluded Kingston.

For more information on the RMF go to <https://www.businessforsa.org/the-rmf/>

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For queries around RFPs please visit: <https://www.nbi.org.za>