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An Analysis of Renewable Energy Policy and Law Promoting Socio-economic and Sustainable Development in Rural South Africa

Kola O. Odeku

School of Law, Faculty of Management and Law, University of Limpopo, South Africa

KEYWORDS Renewable Energy. Access to Modern Energy. Socio- economic and Sustainable Development. Poverty Alleviation. Rural South Africa

ABSTRACT Energy is essential to the existence of human beings because it plays a fundamental role in their economic and social activities. In South Africa, majority of the people in the rural remote areas have no access to energy. Against this backdrop, the government has put in place various policies and laws aimed at making available modern energy to rural dwellers. However, implementation is the major challenge because of the cost of energy and connection of the rural households to the grids. This article highlights the importance of other energy sources in order to meet energy needs of the rural dwellers. The article advocates for renewable energy sourced through natural means as an alternative to conventional fossil fuel energy. The overarching importance of renewable energy is that it is sustainable, accessible, affordable, clean, environmental friendly and does not necessarily need to be connected to the grid. The article examines and analyses various interventions by the government, stakeholders and role players that are now having positive impacts on the promotion and use of renewable energy.