



University of Venda

**INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES FOR RURAL
COMMUNITIES IN MUTALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

By

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the institutional capacity of electricity supply services for rural communities in Mutale Local Municipality of Limpopo province. Most African including those in the Southern sub-region faces a major challenge in trying to achieve their development and social obligations because of serious lack of modern energy services. Electricity access clearly demonstrates this deficiency because it is only 17% for sub-Saharan Africa as a whole and less than 5% in rural areas. This situation needs major changes for not only because of development demands but for the region and its sub regions to be competitive with other developing regions of the world. The financial analysis is based on primary and secondary data collected from selected districts in Maharashtra and Haryana. One of the principles of Batho pele is equal access to all the public services to which they are entitled, even the poor people must also have access to services such as free Basic Electricity services that might be needed from Eskom.

The study used both quantitative and qualitative techniques for data collection and analysis. Quantitative techniques were mostly used in that they provided the researcher with an understanding of experiences and of institutional capacity of electricity supply services for rural communities in Mutale Local Municipality of Limpopo province. Purposive sampling was used for selection of sample for the study. Both primary and secondary data were used for analysis in this study. Secondary data were obtained from government publication, research publication, and report. Primary data were obtained through questionnaires and interview.

Major findings of the study are the following:

- The study has found that the level of education has an impact on the development of a particular area. Mostly an uneducated person tends to have less care on what is being done to develop the area. It was found that most of the electricity cables which have been destroyed, is due to carelessness particularly by people with limited education and inability to value the grid electricity supply.

- It was discovered that households have an income in the range of R100-R2000; this indicates a high degree of income inequity where few people have higher income while many receive low income. In most families, one person contributes towards the demands of the big family using a lower salary. Due to the lower salary, the family is encouraged to follow the proper in energy grid electricity supply practices.
- It is clearly indicated that to transform this community from candle usage is necessary. Candles are the most dominant energy source used for lighting, and these candles have some negative impacts on human lives. The increasing cost of paraffin has contribution in the manner in which the society chooses their energy source since they cannot afford to buy it on a daily basis.

Major recommendations were drawn from the study, these included:

- The Municipality must improve on the management and provision of electricity. The municipal officers must ensure that the electricity vending machines are at all times functional. The maintenance of the machines may be contracted to service providers whose service level agreement will determine their ability and continued contract.
- Since the community could not be completely separated from their traditional utilization of natural resources, renewal should be applied where applicable as an alternative to provide a chance for the biodiversity to regenerate and recover.
- The municipality, community members and headmen in the study site should consider participatory decision making on the management of woodlands and related activities. This would avoid conflict associated with harvesting of firewood and ownership.