



EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS PANEL

Role of National Academies and
Universities in Promoting
Human Rights and
Enhancing Equality.

Date: Tuesday, 6 June 2023
Venue: Pretoria, South Africa

**THE EFFECTS OF THE
ELECTRICITY CRISIS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS IN SA**

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BACKGROUND

- Human rights are fundamental rights that must be enjoyed by all of us simply because we are human, no one has the right to take them away
- “Human rights are inherent to the dignity of all human beings regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status” (United Nations)
- Human rights are interrelated (indivisible)

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights (Constitution of the RSA):

Life
Education
Freedom of movement and residence
Human dignity
Freedom and security of the person
Privacy
Freedom of association
Environment
Equality and **more**

Human Rights (United Nations):

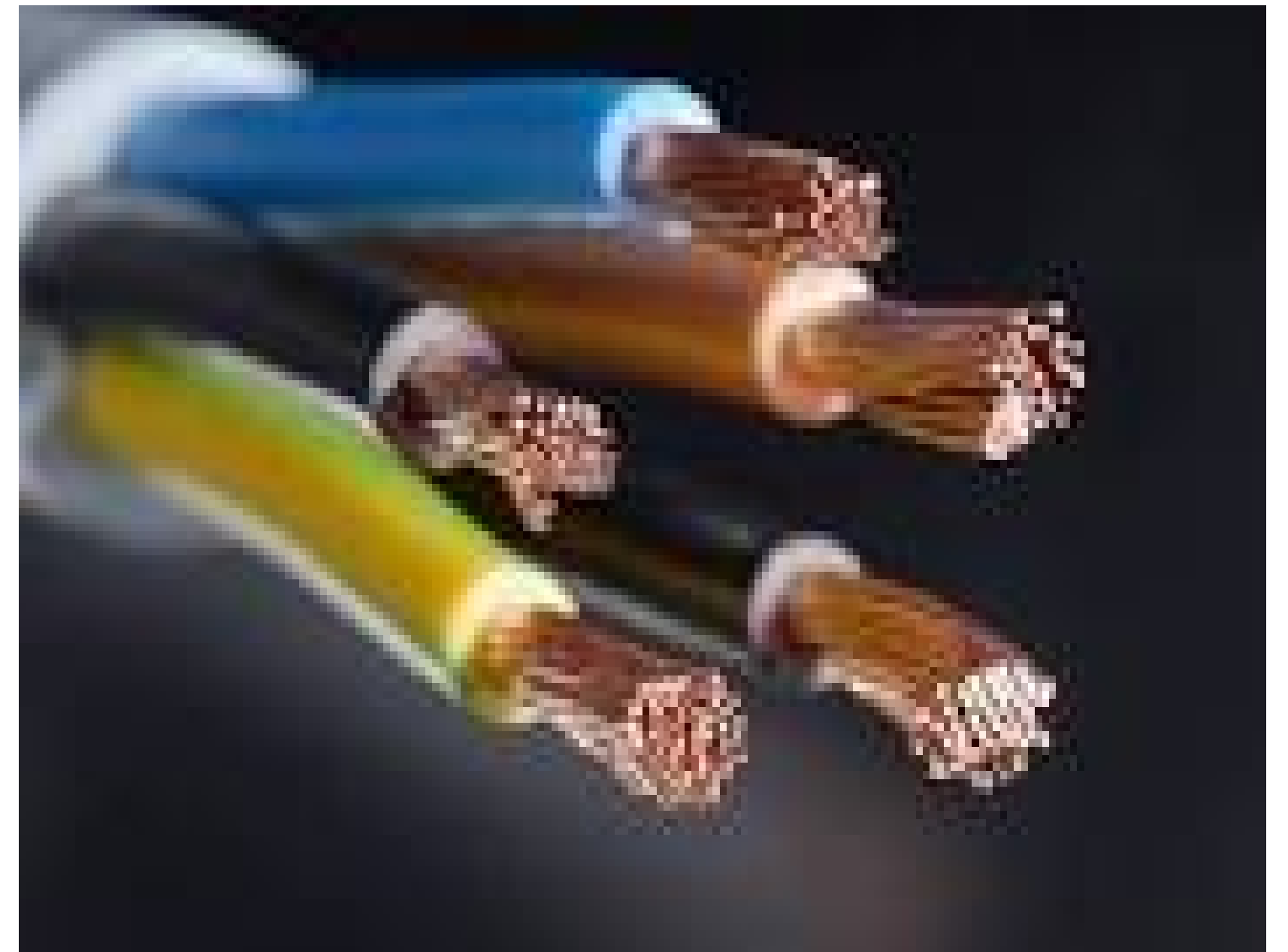
Education
Right to life and liberty
Freedom from slavery and torture
Freedom of opinion and expression
The right to work and education

IS ACCESS TO ENERGY (ELECTRICITY) A HUMAN RIGHT?



DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

“...International law and domestic legal system do not specifically prescribe a right to electricity, in International law, the implied right to electricity is viewed as an add-on to the right to development, which encompasses **access to clean and efficient energy.**” (Dube & Moyo, 2022 – The right to electricity in South Africa)



THE EFFECTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SA

The energy (electricity) crisis in South Africa is the **mother** of most human rights related problems experienced by citizens at this juncture. This has adverse effects on the **economy, life, schools and education, inflation, freedom of movement, environment, unemployment, food, water, health, traffic congestion, crime, network coverage, and more**



PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Provide solutions to Eskom through the Minister of Electricity**
- National academies can play a crucial role only if they can function independently from state in promoting human rights
- Provide assistance to colleagues who may be facing human rights challenges
- Research



ENHANCING EQUALITY 1/3

Sec 9(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, states

that:

“Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law”.

Sec 9(2) – *“Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms”.*

ENHANCING EQUALITY 1/3

- Educating people so that they know and understand the importance of equality
- Ensure that all people are being treated as equals and they are all offered the similar opportunities regardless of their background or lifestyle
- Ensure that their dignity is not violated, that they get the respect that they deserve as human beings

ENHANCING EQUALITY 1/3

- Engage into public debate
- Ensure that the justice system work for everyone
- Denounce discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability and age
- Organisations must be encouraged to have a Code of Conduct or Constitution
- Ensure that the organisation/association is equipped to handle equality

CONCLUSION

We all have a crucial role to play, whether as part of National Academies or Universities (both public and private) in promoting human rights and also in enhancing equality



QUESTIONS / COMMENTS



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