

Kinshasa, Monday 01 July 2024

2024 is the 64th year after independence and the 10th anniversary of Law 14/011 of 17 June 2014 on the electricity sector in the RDC

30 June 1960 - 30 June 2024, 64 years to the day since the Democratic Republic of Congo gained its independence. If the country were in a happy situation, we would have celebrated this anniversary. However, this commemoration has come at a time when part of the country is in the grip of rebel movements, notably the M23. The occasion of 64 years is rather a moment to reflect on the memory of Congolese men and women who have died unjustly because of Rwanda's covetousness of the DRC's mineral resources.

Fortunately, the new government has just taken office and has committed itself, in the second pillar of its action programme, to protecting the national territory and securing people and their property. We congratulate the Prime Minister on her commitment to provide the DRC Armed Forces with all the resources they need to accomplish this task. In the fourth pillar of its programme, the Government is committed to guaranteeing access to basic social services. And of all these basic social services, there is one that boosts the others but still poses problems: access to electricity.

The country may be 64 years old, but from 17 June 2014 to 17 June 2024, it will have been 10 years since the law on the electricity sector was promulgated. One of its aims was to solve the problem of access to electricity for all Congolese. 10 years on, where do we stand?

CORAP believes that 10 years after the promulgation of the law on the electricity sector, the country needs to reach greater maturity, be pragmatic and act with great responsibility in the face of the various energy problems, which are summarised here as follows :

- Low production of electrical energy to meet the growing need for development from the base and household energy. As a result, the amount of energy produced throughout the country is far less than the power demanded by industry and households;
- The non-existence of a National Energy Policy, which sets out a clear vision for the development of the sector over the long, medium and short term;
- The absence of electrification planning at national and provincial level for the short, medium and long term;
- A lack of capacity among the players involved in the sector at national, provincial and ETD level, given that energy is a highly dynamic field;
- The existence of a legal framework that does not clearly incorporate the need to develop all forms of renewable energy;
- The existence of an institutional framework that is not adapted to contextual developments, thus creating considerable confusion about the role of each player.

This is also at the root of the blockage that is holding back the development of the sector;

- A lack of strategies for the development of appropriate (affordable, sustainable and accessible) clean cooking technologies, in order to strengthen the protection of the Congo Basin forests;
- Low investment in renewable energy production projects to cover the current energy gap;
- An unsuitable business climate to encourage investors to make substantial investments in energy projects, as catalysts for the development of key sectors;

In light of the above, CORAP and its various partners are planning to organise the second National Civil Society Forum on Energy (2nd FNSCE), which will be held from 21 to 24 August 2024 in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The 2nd edition of the FNSCE will be a space where stakeholders will come together to reflect on problems and propose solutions, seizing the opportunity of the 10th anniversary of Law 14/011 OF 17 June 2014 on the electricity sector. The following objectives will be pursued :

- Reflect on the challenges of energy transition in the DRC;
- Assess the 10 years of implementation of Law 14/011 OF 17 June 2014 on the electricity sector in the DRC;
- Facilitate exchanges between the authorities in charge of the energy sector (at national, provincial and ETDs level) and the Congolese population. More specifically local communities;
- Formulate proposals on the provisions of the law to be revised and strengthen advocacy for access to energy for all in the DRC;
- Promote practical examples of energy production to reduce the country's energy GAP.

te the situation that the country is currently experiencing, CORAP and the people have not lost hope. They continue to believe that things will change, provided that the real problems are effectively taken into consideration by the authorities at all levels of responsibility recognised by the legal arsenal (national, provincial and ETD).

Happy Independence Day to all Congolese!

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