



South African Photovoltaic Industry Association

**SAPVIA – Residential PV Working Group**

**Date: 20 February 2025**

**Time: 11:30 – 12:30**

**Chairperson: De Wet Taljaard**

### **Declaration of Interest and Prevention of Anti-Competitive Behaviour**

Participants of all SAPVIA meetings agree not to engage in or discuss the following topics:

- **Price-Fixing** - current or future prices, pricing strategies, or price changes.
- **Market Division** - allocation of customers, suppliers, territories, or market shares. dividing markets by geographic areas or product lines.
- **Collusive Tendering** - bid-rigging, including agreements on who will submit bids or the terms of bids, information about tender processes or strategies.
- **Production and Supply Control** - agreements to limit or control production, supply, or distribution of products or services, capacity, production quotas, or inventory levels.
- **Boycotts** - agreements to boycott or refuse to deal with specific customers, suppliers, or competitors, collective actions against any market participant.
- **Information Sharing** - competitively sensitive information, including sales volumes, market shares, costs, marketing strategies, future business plans, research and development projects, or investment strategies.
- **Exclusionary Practices** - strategies to exclude competitors from the market or to create barriers to entry, exclusive dealing, tying arrangements, or predatory pricing.
- **Anti-Competitive Agreements** - discussions that could lead to anti-competitive agreements, whether formal or informal, conversations that could be interpreted as attempts to coordinate competitive behaviour.

<b>Facilitator</b>	De Wet Taljaard (DT)	<b>Attendees:</b>
<b>Note taker</b>	Thabang Molai (TM)	Patrick Narbel (PN)
		Vincent Maposa (VM)
		Agreepa Neduvhuledza (AN)
		Tanya Jooste (TJ)
		Magda Hamman (MH)
		Claude Peters (CP)
		Zimkita Bilibana (ZB)
		Dr Rethabile Melamu (RM)
		Pamela Gama (PG)
		Sinethemba Mnguni (SM)

### Minutes

1.	Opening	Chairperson
	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b> DT welcomed all participants and thanked them for joining the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Lizette Schoombie</p> <p><b>Agenda</b> The agenda was adopted with no amendments.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ZB:</li> <li>• Highlighted that the nominations had been sent to the members and subsequently explained the voting process.</li> <li>• Opened the floor, providing an opportunity for the nominees to motivate their nominations.</li> <li>• The results of the vote were:</li> <li>• Patrick Narbel: Chairperson (3 votes)</li> <li>• Vincent Masopa: Co-Chair (2 votes)</li> <li>• Agrippa Neduvhuledza: Deputy Chair (1 vote)</li> <li>• The newly elected leaders were congratulated, and ZB announced that an onboarding meeting would be set up to outline their roles and responsibilities.</li> </ul>	Zimkita B

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RM:</li> <li>• Congratulated the three newly appointed gentlemen and expressed gratitude for their willingness to volunteer their time.</li> <li>• Acknowledged their busy schedules and appreciated their contribution to SAPVIA.</li> <li>• Emphasized that the secretariat is available to support the new members and encouraged them not to hesitate in seeking assistance.</li> <li>• Assured them that the secretariat will provide the necessary support to ensure their success in their roles.</li> <li>• Highlighting the importance of spreading the word about the working group to colleagues and the broader industry and emphasizing having a critical mass of participants is crucial for the group to be effective and heard.</li> <li>• VM thanked everyone for their kind words regarding the nominations and appointments.</li> <li>• AN also expressed gratitude for the warm welcome.</li> <li>• PN expressed his excitement to get started with the group, emphasizing its importance. He looked forward to connecting with each member to ensure that every priority is addressed.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Workstreams</b>	
	<b>3.1 Tariffs Structure Review and Participation in Public Consultation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PN:</li> <li>• Eskom submitted a request to change its tariff structure to NERSA, prompting a public comment process.</li> <li>• The industry collaborated to submit a comprehensive response to Eskom's proposal.</li> <li>• Eskom's request was largely approved, with a focus on increasing fixed fees, reducing time-of-use tariffs, and consolidating tariff groups over three years.</li> <li>• Feed-in tariff regulations were updated, including:</li> <li>• Immediate prohibition of cash payments for feed-in tariffs.</li> <li>• Feed-in tariffs to be based on time-of-use rather than a fixed rate per kilowatt-hour.</li> <li>• Municipalities are required to offer feed-in tariffs, though no specific timeline was provided.</li> <li>• Suggested the following outputs for the work stream:</li> </ul>	<b>Patrick N - Lead</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condense complex tariff information into easily understandable formats for the group.</li> <li>• Monitor NERSA's activities and submit well-structured responses during public comment periods.</li> <li>• Engage with public media to advocate for the industry's position.</li> <li>• DT:</li> <li>• Reflected on the effectiveness of SAPVIA's engagement in the regulatory process.</li> <li>• Despite significant effort in preparing and submitting a detailed response to Eskom's retail tariff plan, none of SAPVIA's recommendations were adopted by NERSA.</li> <li>• Emphasized the importance of reviewing SAPVIA's role and impact in regulatory processes, suggesting a need for additional advocacy avenues beyond formal submissions.</li> <li>• SAPVIA's participation in public hearings and written submissions remains essential to protect members' interests.</li> <li>• A realistic review of the effectiveness of these efforts is needed once NERSA releases its detailed reasons for decision document (expected by the end of March).</li> <li>• Exploring alternative advocacy strategies could enhance the industry's influence on regulatory decisions.</li> <li>• RM:</li> <li>• Highlighted the importance of partnering with like-minded organizations, such as BUSA (Business Unity South Africa) and the Energy Intensive User Group (EIUG), to strengthen advocacy efforts.</li> <li>• BUSA and EIUG expressed dissatisfaction with the outcome of Eskom's RTP application.</li> <li>• BUSA and EIUG are awaiting NERSA's detailed feedback (reasons for decision document) before deciding on the next steps.</li> <li>• Highlighted capacity constraints within NERSA as a significant barrier to effective engagement.</li> <li>• Industry associations, including BUSA, have struggled to secure bilateral engagements with NERSA in recent years.</li> <li>• While some associations have individual relationships with NERSA commissioners, there is no structured or direct engagement process.</li> <li>• The issue of NERSA's capacity constraints was raised with the new Minister of Electricity and Energy during a recent meeting.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minister is addressing capacity challenges, which may improve future engagement opportunities.</li> <li>• Stressed the importance of building stronger relationships with NERSA officials to ensure commissioners are well-informed about the implications of their decisions.</li> <li>• Suggested that partnering with other industry bodies (e.g., BUSA, EIUG) may be the most effective approach to advocate for industry interests in the current regulatory environment.</li> <li>• SAPVIA will continue to monitor developments and explore collaborative opportunities to strengthen its advocacy efforts.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>3.3 Installation Quality and Compliance.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DT:</li> <li>• Emphasized the need for the work stream to complement existing initiatives by SAPVIA members and the secretariat.</li> <li>• The first initiative is Regulatory and Compliance Workshops conducted with commercial banking members to discuss regulatory compliance, risks, and mitigation measures. Aimed at ensuring alignment with industry standards and best practices.</li> <li>• The second initiative is PV Professionalization Steering Committee in collaboration with GreenCape, focusing on electrical compliance, municipal compliance (e.g., fire, structural), and involving the Insurance Industry Association of South Africa and the Fire Protection Association, and participation from a commercial banking member.</li> <li>• PN inquired about the status of the new draft SANS regulation, initially expected in January.</li> <li>• DT:</li> <li>• The earliest release of solar PV-relevant information will be in June or July 2024.</li> <li>• This information will be included as an appendix to SANS 10142-1, broadening the scope of the underlying installation standard.</li> <li>• No changes to the wording of Certificates of Compliance (CoCs) or their practical application are expected.</li> <li>• Suggested that the work stream focus on direct engagement with the SANS working groups and the SANS 10142-1 committee to ensure alignment with industry standards.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Patrick N</b>  <b>Peter M</b>  <b>Tanya J</b>  <b>Agreepa M –</b>  <b>Lead</b>  <b>Magda H</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlighted the GreenCape Steering Committee's communication campaign which aims to clarify national standards, national compliance vs municipal compliance, and target industry stakeholders as well as external parties, including homeowners and estate agents.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Confirmation of Workstream Leads and Member Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ZB suggested confirming with members if there are no issues with the proposed workstream leads and emphasized the importance of having a clear lead for each workstream and noted that members are not limited to participating in only one workstream.</li> <li>Patrick Narbel (PN) confirmed his willingness to lead Workstream 3.1. <b>Tariffs Structure Review and Participation in Public Consultation</b></li> <li>Chris from Utility (accepted on his behalf by Vincent) to lead workstream 3.2 <b>Residential Solar PV and BESS Technology Advancements</b></li> <li>Agreepa Neduvhuledza (AN) confirmed his comfort with leading Workstream 3.3. <b>Installation Quality and Compliance.</b></li> <li>Tanya Jooste (TJ) and Magda Hamman (MH) expressed interest in joining workstream 3.3.</li> <li>ZB will reach out to members to set up an initial kick-off meeting for each work stream. Work stream leads, with secretariat support, will determine meeting frequency, outputs, and feedback mechanisms.</li> <li>Workstream leaders will report back to the bi-monthly working group meetings to provide updates on progress and identify areas where support or external expertise is needed.</li> </ul>	All
5.	<p><b>Closure</b></p> <p>With a vote of thanks DT adjourned the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Next meeting: 17 April 2025</i></p>	Chairperson

**Action Items**

<b>No:</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
<b>1.</b>	Circulate the Terms of Reference to all the working group members for review and inputs.	<b>TM</b>
<b>2.</b>	Coordinate with members and set up kickoff meetings for each workstream.	<b>ZB</b>