



**MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE
& TRANSPORT**



FIJI RURAL ELECTRIFICATION POLICY

2016

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Minister's Foreword



Government, as part of its sustainable development mandate is keen to enhance the living standards of our rural people through promoting economic activities and safeguarding the livelihood of our people. The provision of electricity is considered as the potent force that has the capability of elevating and providing the much needed dynamism into the rural economy.

A Rural Electrification Policy (REP) will provide a systematic mechanism that would allow harnessing of synergies inherent in having a holistic approach to providing electricity to the rural populace.

To this effect, the first REP was formulated and endorsed by cabinet in 1976. Since 1976, the Policy has been revised and amended to continue to achieve its target of electrifying a wide coverage of rural communities in a sustainable and affordable manner. In 2008, this Policy was amended whereby the community contribution for all rural electricity schemes was reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent. Nonetheless, the policy was silent with respect to changing supply between diesel and solar schemes or incorporating either system to one another to improve overall reliability of supply for example in the cases of hybrid systems.

The revised REP of 2016 constitutes a number of important changes that harmonizes with the Green Growth development model pursued by the Nation in line with the vision of the UN framework of "Energy for All"; that electricity is now a basic necessity for life and sustainable development. These vital changes include:

- Waiver of community contribution to reciprocate community contribution in kind;
- Removal of finite assistance for diesel schemes recipients making them eligible for electrification via renewable based technologies like solar home systems;
- Increase in the Fiji Electricity Authority's annual Rural Electrification fund (NCO);
- Increase in validity of FEA Rural Electrification scheme quotations; and
- The handover of Solar Home Systems ownership and maintenance to community's and recipients.

The revision of this important Policy has seen active involvement of key stakeholders in an open and transparent manner. Therefore, I wish to extend my appreciation to all the stakeholders for their valuable inputs to this important revision work and allowing this Policy to be relevant within Fijis dynamic and vibrant energy sector.

I trust and commend to all that the 2016 Rural Electrification Policy will be an important catalyst in our efforts to provide affordable, accessible and clean energy for all Fijians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PK' with a large flourish underneath.

Hon. Parveen Kumar Bala
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

PART A - POLICY DOCUMENT – INTRODUCTION

1.0 THE OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 The objective of the Rural Electrification Policy is to guide all users to the provision of continuous electricity to all potential consumers in Fiji. The Department of Energy in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport is the organization created to implement the policy.
- 1.2 The detailed objectives of the Rural Electrification Policy are:
 - 1.2.1 Address the electricity requirements of consumers in the rural areas primarily for social development but economic development will also be taken into consideration;
 - 1.2.1.1 A rural area is defined as any area outside of gazetted towns and cities in Fiji.
 - 1.2.1.2 A consumer is any premises in Fiji villages and settlements as well as isolated households, schools, farms and small commercial premises.
 - 1.2.1.3 Ensure the provision of social benefit electricity to rural consumers while clearly defining and limiting the overall level of Government subsidy;
 - 1.2.1.4 Incorporate the Government stations within the rural electrification network and rationalize Government expenditure within the Government stations;
 - 1.2.1.5 The policy will be consistent with other Government policies.

2.0 THE POLICY DOCUMENT

- 2.1 This document is provided for the guidance and instruction of the interested persons in the facilitation and implementation of the Rural Electrification (Amended) Policy (2015). Cabinet in its decision number 121 dated 23rd March 1993 agreed to the specifics of the Rural Electrification Policy (1993). This cabinet decision directed the creation of a rural electrification unit in the then Ministry of Energy and an annual funding provision to administer and control the utilization of funds in the rural electrification programme. The 1993 Policy had been particularly made in detail with the view of being able to provide information on as many aspects of the policy as possible.

Part A of the Policy Document informs you about the general aspects of the policy.

Part B informs you about procedures designed to implement the policy.

- 2.2 The document must be regularly reviewed to ensure the activities of the Department of Energy are complying with its contents. There may be problems with that compliance such that either the document or the procedures need to be reviewed and changed. Whatever results from that review, a change must be made for the sake of conformity.

- 2.3 Furthermore Cabinet decision 87/2014, called for a suspension of the current directive of Government assistance to Rural Electrification Schemes to be **“finite”** under the principle of “User Pays” within the REP (1993) and to apply only to rural communities that have been provided with diesel generator schemes in the past.
- 2.4 This being the removal of diesel schemes as a system on its own, as an option for rural electrification under the REP (1993) and that due consideration be given to all communities with diesel schemes from 1973-2008 under the REP (1993), and have shown promise in terms of sustaining their schemes be provided with hybrid power installation.
- 2.5 However, this will depend on the technical and economic viability of the project and should the communities not qualify, they will be provided with Solar Home Systems.

3.0 PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

3.1 To achieve the objectives of the Rural Electrification Policy, the policy must adhere to the following principles:

3.1.1 Consistency

Consumers will be given the same choices. Any benefits will be shared on an equal basis. One of the implications of this principle is that all aid will be incorporated into the resources for capital works controlled by the agency. The agency would utilise such resources consistent with all the principles of the policy.

3.1.2 Choice

A range of electricity schemes is available, each with its own features for lighting and power. The capital and maintenance costs vary according to the features offered. Consumers must be fully informed of these features as well as the respective costs of each type of electricity scheme so that the most appropriate selection may be made by the consumer.

3.1.3 Sustainability

Electricity supply will be permanent not temporary. It is envisaged that all schemes will evolve into 24 hours continuous supplies.

3.1.4 Minimize Costs to Consumer

In order to minimize the costs of the schemes to consumers, it is intended to train consumers to undertake simple routine tasks associated with the scheme. This will minimize what consumers pay others to do such tasks for them. It is hoped any payment that has to be made will be made to train rural dwellers rather than to centralized agency services.

3.1.5 Accountability

The accountability would be manifested in the form of rigorous reporting procedures such as annual, accounting, audit and performance assessment reports, all to be submitted to Government for approval. It necessarily follows that the agency must comply with the directions of Government. It will also be responsible for reacting positively to requests,

comments and criticisms from consumers concerning rural electrification.

3.1.6 Maximizing Coverage

It is the intention of Government that social benefit of electricity is made available to all rural areas in the shortest time possible.

This means that social benefit of electricity is provided to as many Fiji villages and settlements as possible within the bounds of funds allocated annually by Government and/or aid.

Additionally part of the funds will be applied to infrastructure development projects as directed by Government.

This implies that a given level of funds will be allocated to benefit schemes which maximize the number of new consumers receiving electricity.

3.1.8. Transition Policy

Some of the principles of the Rural Electrification Policy (1993) differ from those implied in the original policy. It is a principle of the 1993 and also the 2015 transition policy that consumers who are or have been receiving benefits in terms of the original policy will have those benefits adjusted so that they conform to the new policy. This adjustment will be implemented over an appropriate period of time to minimize any hardship that may result.

4.0 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 To achieve the objectives of the Rural Electrification Policy (1993) and to comply with the principles of the Rural Electrification Policy (Amended) 2015, the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Energy must include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. To implement the Rural Electrification policy in line with the recommendations of the National Energy Policy and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.
- b. To administer the funds for rural electrification as allocated by the annual budget of the Government;
- c. To fully inform prospective rural consumers of the opportunities for rural electrification which must include all costs and all benefits of each option?
- d. To receive and record applications by the rural consumers for their choice of rural electrification scheme;
- e. To design, estimate, document and construct the electrification schemes as

selected by rural consumers (refer [s] below);

- f. To provide training for rural consumers to enable them to maintain and repair at the lowest possible cost rural electrification schemes;
- g. To set up a maintenance and repair network throughout rural areas in Fiji;
- h. To arrange for replacements of rural electrification schemes;
- i. To assess the resources and potential for certain types of rural electrification schemes (e.g. hydro, solar) in given areas of Fiji.
- j. To design, construct, operate, maintain and repair without subsidy, electricity supply schemes including Government stations which are outside the areas of supply by the Fiji Electricity Authority;
- k. To design and apply appropriate cost covering electricity tariffs at Government stations/load growth centers including the collection of monies received for the sale of electricity to consumers connected to schemes referred to in [m] above;
- l. To develop and expand Government station electricity supply systems into load growth centers;
- m. To promulgate information about the activities of the Department of Energy to all rural consumers, to advise them about any Government policies which may affect rural electrification and to respond positively to requests, comments and enquiries from rural consumers;
- n. To comply with the requirements of the Electricity Act, Cap 180, and its Regulations;
- o. To be solely accountable for all rural electrification activities to the Minister responsible for the Energy portfolio of the Government - this will include amongst other things, the submission of annual, accounting, audit and performance assessment reports;
- p. To arrange for the execution of the duties of the Department of Energy by the most cost effective means either by its own staff or by means of private sector accountants, consultants, contractors or other such organizations.

PART B - PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR A SCHEME

5.0 GENERAL

This chapter sets out the procedure for villages/settlements to follow to make an application for an electricity scheme in terms of the Rural Electrification Policy

This chapter also sets out the procedure to be followed by the Department of Energy following receipt of an application up to the time a final choice is made by the village/settlement and the payments are made for the scheme to be implemented.

The information contained in this chapter includes the Application Form, Information Sheet on Types of Schemes and the Schedule of Costs. Also included are details on surveying for schemes.

5.1 APPLICATION FORM

A copy of the '**Application Form for a Rural Electrification Scheme**' is attached as **Annex 1**. Copies of the Application Form will also be made available from the Provincial Administrators and District Officers. The completed applications will be returned to the Provincial Administrators and District Officers who will then forward them to the Department of Energy in Suva.

Once an application is received at the Department of Energy head office it will be registered in the Applications Register. The Applications Register will be created by the Department of Energy as a formal document to maintain a record of all applications that are received. It is preferred this register becomes a specific file within the computer system of the Department of Energy.

Following registration, it is the responsibility of the Director of Energy to ensure the relevant assigned officer is informed of the details of the application. Thereafter it is the responsibility of the responsible assigned officer to meet with the village/settlement to discuss the application. It is expected there will be more than one such meeting to discuss the proposed choice of a scheme before it is finalized. These meetings will include the use of publicity and information materials to ensure the village/settlement is fully informed of all options and the relevant costs. If need be the Director of Energy will arrange a visit to an existing similar scheme to that proposed to be selected.

5.2 INFORMATION SHEET

5.2.1 An information sheet has been prepared to assist the Department of Energy during discussions with villages/settlements about the choice of an appropriate scheme. It sets out details of the various types of schemes for villages/settlements. The Information Sheet is accompanied by a Schedule of Costs. This schedule sets out the estimated costs associated with the various schemes. They are given under four headings of capital works, operating

schemes, maintaining schemes and sustaining schemes.

5.2.2 A simple interpretation of the foregoing is:

SUSTAINING = UPHOLDING + REPLACEMENT

The costs set out in the Schedule of Costs are based upon those prevailing on the date shown on the schedule and will vary from time to time due to many factors such as adjustments to exchange rates and inflationary factors. As and when appropriate, the schedule will be up-dated and re-issued by the Director of Energy.

5.2.3 The Information Sheet and its Schedule of Costs are lengthy documents such that it will be necessary for assigned Projects Officer to have some formal instruction on their contents. The Director of Energy will provide this instruction. The instruction will enable the field staff to discuss the choice of schemes with villages/settlements with confidence. These two documents are not confidential and if villages/settlements request copies for further study, they should be given to them accordingly.

5.2.4 It is again emphasized to the assigned Projects Officer that the schedule of costs provides estimates only to enable villages/settlements to make a choice of a scheme. The Director of Energy must in turn express the same emphasis to villages/settlements who are given copies of the schedule. Only after a scheme is chosen, an initial payment made and a survey undertaken, can a final cost estimate be determined.

5.3 INITIAL PAYMENTS

5.3.1 The consumer (community) will be responsible for providing labour as its form of contribution to the capital cost of the project

5.3.2 Government will be responsible for the full community contribution to the capital cost of the project.

5.3.3 Once a choice of scheme has been made the Director of Energy will then make arrangements for a detailed survey of the site of the scheme. From this survey a detailed design for the scheme will be prepared and thereafter a final cost estimate determined.

5.4 START OF CONSTRUCTION

5.4.1 The Director of Energy will also advise the village/settlement of the estimated time of starting construction of the scheme. It is to be understood the time of construction of any scheme has many dependencies. One of these is Government approval of the annual budget estimates to finance 100% of the capital cost of the scheme (SHS, Mini-grid projects) or 100% of the required community contribution in the case of FEA rural grid extension projects. Another is the availability of resources such as manpower and materials. The Director of Energy will inform the village/settlement about these factors. He will also keep the village/settlement fully informed of progress towards construction. The Director of Energy will keep the Provincial Administrators and District Officer

informed likewise.

- 5.4.2 It is the responsibility of the Director of Energy to establish a programme of future work as a formal procedure in the head office so that the future workload is properly identified at all times. This will facilitate the availability of information to keep villages/settlements, Provincial Administrators, District Officers, Director of Energy and other interested parties informed.

5.5 SURVEY

- 5.5.1 The survey referred to in 4.0 above, will be arranged by the Director of Energy and undertaken by his staff. The Director of Energy will co-ordinate the site survey and/or FEA who will in turn liaise with the village/settlement.
- 5.5.2 The village/settlement will assist the survey staff during the survey by providing, at no cost, unskilled labour and accommodation on site. Survey staff will make their own arrangements for the provision of food. The village/settlement will also arrange, at reasonable cost, the provision of local road or water transport for the survey staff to access the site.
- 5.5.3 During the survey, agreement will be reached with the village/settlement on the location of plant items such as the power house, cable routes, distribution pillars, solar panel supports, etc. Due consideration must be given to factors such as power plant noise as well as cable routing to provide an efficient electricity distribution system.

6.0 SUPPLY FROM FIJI ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY GRID

6.1 Scope of Equipment

- 6.1.1 It is important that the Director of Energy advice villages/settlements who wish to select this scheme that it must be close enough to an existing appropriate FEA supply to enable such scheme to be economically viable. This will be determined from the costing calculations in accordance with the Schedule of Costs.
- 6.1.2 This scheme includes the following major equipment items:
- a. An extension of the existing FEA supply to a point adjacent to houses or buildings to be connected to the supply.
 - b. An electrical installation in each residence consisting of:
 - Two 18W (2ft) fluorescent lights
 - One 10A power point
 - One metre box with main switch and current fuses
 - c. An electrical installation in one community facility to provide appropriate lighting and one 10A power point.

- d. A service connection from the FEA supply to each of the buildings which will have an electrical installation.

6.2 Features

6.2.1 The features of this scheme are:

- a. The provision of a continuous power supply.
- b. The village/settlement and the individual householders become consumers of FEA and are thereby subject to the rules and regulations which govern an FEA electricity supply.
- c. The FEA tariff applicable to the supply includes all maintenance and sustaining costs of the FEA system up to the point of connection of the building service main to the FEA overhead line.
- d. The individual consumers are responsible for maintaining and sustaining their own building electrical installations and the service connections from the FEA overhead line.
- e. Consumers are not entitled to the benefits of the grace period.
- f. The Department of Energy will pay the FEA connection fees for each building included in the scheme but the individual consumers and/or the village/settlement will be responsible for the payment of the deposit for the various FEA accounts.

7.0 SCHEDULE OF COSTS

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The costs shown in this schedule are to be read in conjunction with the description sheets of the options from which villages/settlements may make a choice. All staff of the Department of Energy must understand these costs are estimates only. They are defined to enable the relevant staff of the Department of Energy help villages/settlements choose the most appropriate electricity scheme for their needs.
- 7.1.2 The applicants first apply to Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA) for electricity supply from the Authority's power supply grid. FEA then processes the applications and issues quotation estimates to the applicants.
- 7.1.3 Rural communities that can afford to fund their own schemes do it on their own but the ones that need assistance shall seek help through Government's Rural Electrification program which is administered by the Department of Energy. Assistance within a year will be rendered on a "first-come-first-served" basis.

- 7.1.4 Once a particular type of scheme has been chosen, the Director of Energy will arrange the necessary survey and then quote these costs more accurately. The costs and other financial data quoted in this price schedule include \$ VAT (value added tax).

7.2 Grace Period

- 7.2.1 The Rural Electrification (Amended) 2015 only provides for a grace period of six months (6) after the installation of Solar Home Systems schemes. The grace period is defined as a period of time following the installation of a scheme during which the full impact of the costs associated with maintaining and sustaining a scheme is effectively catered for by the Department of Energy.
- 7.2.2 In summary, during the grace period, villages/settlements will pay contributions towards the full costs of maintaining and sustaining their schemes. These costs are included in the tariff for the supply.
- 7.2.3 During the grace period Government will pay the rest of the costs of maintaining and sustaining schemes and will also arrange for the establishment of credits for the contributions villages/settlements would otherwise have paid during the grace period towards replacing their schemes.

7.3 Schedule of Costs - Schemes Supplied by FEA

- 7.3.1 The Director of Energy must take care discussing estimated costs of schemes proposed to be supplied by FEA because of the large variation in costs extending the nearest appropriate FEA electricity supply to a village/settlement. An appropriate FEA supply would be one of its 11kV and low voltage distribution networks funded under its annual rural electrification fund. Such schemes are carried over for a maximum of two years and thereafter FEA re-quotes the project.

The 132kV transmission system from Wailoa across Viti Levu is not an appropriate supply for a village/settlement. The cost to supply electricity to a village/settlement adjacent to that system would exceed a million dollars.

The conditions of the grace period do not apply to schemes which are supplied with electricity by FEA.

7.3.2 Cost of Capital Contribution Payment

To ensure all Fijians benefit from government policies and assistance available, as of 01 January, 2016, all required community contribution will be fully borne by Government.

7.3.3 Cost of Maintaining

The cost of maintaining a building installation is the responsibility of the owner. The cost of maintaining the system supplying electricity is included in the FEA tariff.

7.3.4 Cost of Sustaining

Similar remarks are applicable as set out above for the cost of maintaining.

7.3.5 Validity of FEA Quotations

FEA quotations will be valid for a period of 24 months from the date of issue of the quotation to give the Department of Energy ample time to plan and process scheme approvals for funding from Government.

8.0 ELECTRIFICATION COMMITTEES

- 8.1 All community/village seeking Rural Electrification assistance must establish an electrification committee and headed by the Turaga ni Koro or Advisory Councillor.
- 8.2 In the event of their absence a nominated community representative upon the advice of the Turaga ni Koro or Advisory Councillor may head the electrification committee and confirmed by the Provincial Administrator or District Officer or Director of Energy

APPLICATION FORM - RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME

If you wish to apply for a rural electrification scheme, will you please answer the questions set out below and provide as much information as possible in answer to 3. The more information that is given the easier it is for us to respond to this application.

When you have completed this form, please hand it to your Provincial Administrator or District Officer who will then forward it to the Department of Energy for further action. As soon as possible after the Unit receives the form, they will contact you to discuss the options for electrification of your village and settlement.

Director, Department of Energy

1. LOCATION OF VILLAGE OR SETTLEMENT

Name of Village or Settlement :

Name of District : Province :

2. CONTACT PERSON IN VILLAGE OR SETTLEMENT

Name :

Postal Address :

Telephone No. (if applicable)

3. DETAILS OF VILLAGE OR SETTLEMENT

Number of households :

Do you want electricity for anything other than household lighting and a power point? If **Yes**, please give details

.....

.....

9.0 SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS

Procedural Policy Guideline - Community Handover of Solar Home Systems

9.1 Purpose

9.1.1 The purpose of this document is to;

- i. Establish a procedural policy guideline for the handing over of Solar Home Systems by the Department of Energy to the individual SHS customers.
- ii. Provide an implementation status for the handing over of the systems.
- iii. The objective of having Solar Home Systems for the communities was to provide the basic lights and a provision of small electrical loads to those communities that were far away from the FEA electricity grid and Rural Government Stations (RGS).

9.2 BACKGROUND

9.2.1 The Fiji Government through the Department of Energy has installed 5800 Solar Home Systems (SHS) in rural, remote and maritime areas.

9.2.2 SHS projects were initiated through PICTRE a donor agency based in Hawaii in 2001.

9.3 RENEWABLE ENERGY SERVICE COMPANY (RESCO) MODEL

9.3.1 SHS projects were designed to be implemented based on RESCO model in which the system is owned by the Government and maintenance is facilitated by Government through the rental revenue collected from the communities.

9.3.2 The RESCO model provided the road map for ensuring the self-sustainability of projects whereby all the maintenance cost was to be recovered from tariff collections. As a concept of involving private sector participation, the model enables engagement of private sector (Renewable Energy Service Companies) to do supply, installation and maintenance of the systems.

9.3 SCOPE

This policy shall apply to the Department of Energy and the individual customers involved in the Solar Home Systems Project.

9.4 DEFINITION AND ABBREVIATION

‘SHS’ stands for Solar Home System

9.5 REFERENCES & APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

- Rural Electrification Policy.
- Mou between Department of Energy and SHS Customers.
- Cabinet Decision dated 13 March 1993.
- Table: Finances of Solar Home System.
- Proposal for Handing Over.

9.6 MAIN POLICY PROVISIONS

9.6.1 Features of the Solar Home System Assistance Scheme

The features of this scheme are:

- a. A Solar Home System will be provided to a consumer on a rental basis;
- b. The village/settlement or individual householders must make monthly rental payments of \$18.00 to enable the Rural Electrification Unit to maintain the systems;
- c. The operating costs are minimal;
- d. The maintenance costs are very small; and
- e. The scheme is not entitled to the benefits of the grace period.

9.7 SCOPE OF EQUIPMENT

9.7.1 This scheme includes the following major equipment items for each individual household:

- a. Solar panels installed on a wooden pole with adjustable tilt brackets;
- b. Two 11W and one 7W fluorescent lights;
- c. Two 12V lead acid battery;
- d. One battery charge-controller; and
- e. One Inverter.

9.8 CABINET DECISION 87/2014 highlighted the suspension of the current directive of Government assistance to Rural Electrification Schemes be **“finite”** “under the principle of “User Pays” within the REP (1993) and to apply only to rural communities that have been provided with diesel generator schemes in the past.

9.9.1 Removal of diesel schemes as a system on its own, as an option for rural electrification under the REP (1993);

9.9.2 All communities supplied with diesel schemes from 1973 – 2008 under the REP (1993), and have shown promise in terms of sustaining their schemes be provided with hybrid power installations.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY HANDOVER

- 10.1 Revoke any current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of Energy and SHS customer.
- 10.2 Formalize transfer of ownership of SHS to customer and/or RESCO.
- 10.3 Existing maintenance contracts will not be renewed further by the Department of Energy upon its expiry.
- 10.3.1 Institute the realignment of current SHS Programmes through the implementation of the RESCO model that will enable the SHS owner(s) to engage with the private sector (Renewable Energy Service Companies) for the maintenance of the systems.

11.0 HANDOVER OF NEW SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS

- 11.1 Alignment of the SHS program to Rural Electrification Policy where community contribution is waived and Government contribution is 100%.
- 11.2 SHS projects are handed over to customers within 6 months from the date of commissioning. The handover date will be dependent on the contractual provisions with regards to the installation of the SHS (i.e. after the expiry of the installation contract defect liability period).
- 11.3 The warranty for solar home system components will also be transferred to the customer from the time of project handover.
- 11.4 Revive the RESCO model that enables engagement of the private sector (Renewable Energy Service Companies) to supply, install and maintain the systems.

12.0 APPROACHES TO HANDOVER OF EXISTING SHS

- 12.1 Over the years, communities had contributed a significant amount of money that consists of both a refundable component and monthly rentals. All payments by communities installed with Solar Home Systems from 2002 to date will be considered.
- 12.2 Communities will be refunded the refundable component of their deposits on handover.
- 12.3 The monthly rentals collected will be retained within the trust fund to enable the Department of Energy subsidize costs of engaging RESCOs by communities in geographically isolated areas and carry out capacity building programs for the communities.

13.0 REVENUE COLLECTION

13.1 The requirements under the Ministry's 2015 Finance Manual Section 5.4.2;

“Revenue Collector/Cashier must bank money received on a daily basis. The lodgement form shall be prepared in triplicate detailing the deposits made”

13.2 With the handover of SHS to individual owners, the Government will not be involved in the collection of revenue. Instead, the Department of Energy will provide technical advisory support to individual SHS owners or communities for the maintenance of SHS by RESCOs. To this effect, all communities need to form Solar Committees that can liaise with RESCOs for maintenance services and also liaise with the Department of Energy for technical advice.

14.0 EXCEPTIONS / EXEMPTIONS

14.1 This policy is only applicable to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport specifically the Department of Energy.

15.0 RESPONSIBILITY

15.1 The Director of Energy shall ensure that all staff of the Department of Energy complies with the terms of this Policy and is the point of contact for government on all issues arising in the implementation of this policy and SHS programme.

15.2 The Community/Village Electrification Committee will coordinate and action all instructions from the Department of Energy in respect to all issues regarding the SHS Project

16.0 ELECTRIFICATION COMMITTEES

16.1 All community/village seeking SHS Project must establish an electrification committee and headed by the Turaga ni Koro or Advisory Councilor.

16.2 In the event of their absence a nominated community/village representative upon the advice of the Turaga ni Koro or Advisory Councillor may head the electrification committee and confirmed by the Provincial Administrator or District Officer or Director of Energy

17.0 TRAINING

17.1 The Government through Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Department of Energy) will facilitate capacity building training sessions for Turaga-Ni-Koros or Advisory Councilor or the nominated representative of the community on basic SHS maintenance and management of RESCOs.

17.0 REVIEW

17.1 This policy shall be reviewed as and when required.