

# Ban looms for power-guzzling appliances

## Bill proposed to give minerals and energy minister wide-ranging powers to enforce state's conservation programme

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**CAPE TOWN** — Importing and using power-guzzling appliances could be banned under a law designed to enforce the government's energy conservation programme, the minerals and energy department said on Friday.

As well as powers to ban appliances, the proposed Energy Security Bill will empower the minerals and energy minister to penalise offenders and issue standards and regulations for appliances and equipment used to generate or consume energy.

Nelisiwe Magubane, deputy director-general of electricity, nuclear and clean energy, said the bill would enable her department to work closely with the trade and industry department and the South African Revenue Service to stop energy-inefficient appliances entering SA.

"With some of the fridges at the moment you cannot help but feel that they are being dumped in the country. The bill is also intended to prevent technological dumping. They find their way into SA because we have not developed rules to deal with them."

Magubane did not believe

such a ban would contravene world trade rules.

The proposed bill will give the government the power to enforce measures such as rationing and load shedding, which Minerals and Energy Minister Buyelwa Sonjica has announced in past weeks to prevent the country being plunged periodically into darkness during outages.

The submission of energy consumption data will be made compulsory to help with planning and co-operation in the development of sector plans to be made mandatory to ensure integrated energy planning.

"Many of the problems we are facing relate to planning," Magubane said.

"This new bill will ensure that there is adequate energy data available both in terms of supply and demand, and will make sure that there is long-term planning. It will also extend existing provisions on renewable energy for electricity generation to other forms, such as biofuels."

Magubane said new legislation covering the full spectrum of energy was required to supplement the Electricity Regulation Act.

A range of institutions will also

be legally established as separate entities so that they can be funded in their own right. They will help the government with long-term planning to ensure security of energy supply.

These bodies would include the National Energy Efficiency Agency and the South African Energy Research Institute, which now fall under the umbrella of the Central Energy Fund, as well as the Energy Modelling and Information Agency and Institutions for the management of strategic stocks.

The bill will also address environmental issues emanating

from the generation, transmission, distribution, handling and use of energy, which are cross-cutting and not covered by current laws.

Magubane said the proposed bill was not intended to take over sections in the Electricity Regulation Act. She hoped it would be ready for submission to the cabinet before the end of next month and to Parliament by June.

She said the bill had been in incubation since 2004, and had been to the cabinet but was sent back to the department so that it could be strengthened and given more teeth.

