

MEDIA STATEMENT

The NTCSA provides an update on the establishment of the Wholesale Electricity Market in South Africa (SAWEM)

Thursday, 26 March 2026: The National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) has revised the target date for introducing the Wholesale Electricity Market in South Africa (SAWEM), which is now planned for launch by the third quarter of 2026.

The market was initially targeted for implementation on 1 April 2026; however, following further assessment with the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) and industry partners, additional work is required to ensure that all market, operational and regulatory requirements are fully in place.

The granting of the Market Operator Licence to the NTCSA by NERSA in December 2025 marked a significant milestone in the electricity-sector reform programme. While several licence conditions are still being finalised, this approval demonstrates continued progress toward establishing a transparent and competitive market framework that supports investment and strengthens confidence in the national electricity system.

Adjusting the implementation timeline ensures that the market is introduced responsibly and that its design is robust, credible and fully aligned with regulatory expectations.

“The introduction of the Wholesale Electricity Market, when all requirements are ready and met, will represent a significant step forward for South Africa’s energy sector. We are laying the foundation for a more efficient, transparent, and competitive system that, over time, will support lower electricity costs and attract the investment needed to ensure long-term energy security” said the Chief Executive Officer of the NTCSA, Monde Bala.

The NTCSA is adopting a structured, phased approach to implementation to safeguard system stability and avoid any unintended disruptions. This approach is designed to ensure that all technical, regulatory and operational elements are fully coordinated before the market goes live.

The NTCSA will continue to work closely with the government, the Regulator, market participants, and industry stakeholders to ensure the successful and sustainable development of the market.

Further updates will be provided as additional milestones are reached.

For media enquiries, please contact the NTCSA Media Desk at media@ntcsa.co.za.

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