

Official Gives RSA Electricity Import Figures

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[Text] The director of Mozambique's electricity company, Fernando Juliao, has disclosed that Mozambique imports 24,000 megawatts of electricity from South Africa every month. Mr Juliao spoke to journalists in the Mozambican capital to explain the company's pricing policy.

Substantial increases in electricity charges were imposed in 1987 after the first two devaluations of the Mozambican currency, the metical. This has led to many complaints from the public. The director pointed out that total electricity consumption in Maputo is about 300,000 megawatts a month, of which 80 percent is imported.

The foreign exchange expenditure involved is a result of the nonfunctioning of the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme. Mr Juliao said domestic consumers account for 40 percent of the electricity used in the city and that the other 50 percent is used by industry found inside the city limits and services. [sentence as heard] He said prices have been stiffer for industrial and agricultural consumers than for domestic consumers. The director said the last increases had been 100 percent for domestic consumers but 200 percent for factories and 300 percent for commercial services and farmers.