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Norochcholai Coal Power Plant

The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) wishes to congratulate President Mahinda Rajapaksa and his Cabinet for the consistent stand they have adopted towards the country's power policy and for their initiative and courage in deciding to commence the much talked about and much delayed coal power plant at Norochcholai without any further delay. It is with sadness that we note here that the successive Governments in the past have failed to understand the urgency and the importance of setting up a coal power plant to meet the country's ever increasing energy needs.

We at the IESL, over a period of almost a decade, have been agitating for a viable and cost effective power policy for the country knowing too well the adverse effects the absence of such a policy could have in the years to come on the country's economy and the industry. We have brought this to the notice of the policymakers repeatedly.

The Institution believes that any long-term power policy should place emphasis on renewable energy as well, since we have no proven petroleum deposits. In this respect, we are happy to note that according to the draft energy policy of the country, by the year 2015, at least 10 per cent of the country's energy requirements are to be met through renewable sources. We assure our continued support and cooperation in this regard.

We thank the media for taking our message on long-term energy policy to the public and to the decision makers at different occasions.

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