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Engineers Institution lauds President's stand on Norochcholai coal power plant

COLOMBO: The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) congratulated President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the 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," the IESL said.

The IESL release: "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 policy-makers 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 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".