

Egypt energy independence

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Achieving energy independence is vital for Egypt's national security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability. This ambitious goal involves reducing reliance on imported energy by increasing domestic production and diversifying energy sources. The journey to energy independence is complex, encompassing various technical, economic, and legal dimensions.

Energy independence means Egypt can meet its energy needs without depending on external sources. This objective requires developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework that encourages domestic energy production, promotes renewable energy, and ensures sustainability. From a legal perspective, achieving energy independence involves addressing multiple issues, including legislation, regulation, international trade, and environmental protection.

Renewable energy plays a crucial role in achieving energy independence for Egypt. The country has abundant solar and wind resources, and the government has set ambitious targets for renewable energy production. The Feed-in Tariff (FiT) program, launched in 2014, aims to attract investment in solar and wind energy projects by guaranteeing fixed prices for the electricity produced. One of the most notable examples of this initiative is the Benban Solar Park, one of the largest solar parks in the world, which illustrates Egypt's commitment to expanding its renewable energy capacity. Such projects not only foster the growth of the renewable energy sector but also contribute to long-term energy security and sustainability.

Measuring energy independence involves assessing the extent of reliance on domestic versus imported energy. Key metrics include the energy balance, which accounts for production, imports, exports, and consumption; the energy self-sufficiency ratio, indicating the percentage of total consumption met by domestic production; import dependency, measuring the share of energy needs met through imports; and the diversity of energy sources, which reduces supply disruption risks and enhances resilience. Legal frameworks should promote a mix of renewable and non-renewable sources to achieve a diversified energy portfolio.

Several countries have made significant progress toward energy independence through effective legal frameworks and policies. Egypt, too, has made considerable strides in this direction. The development of the Zohr gas field, supported by the government's strategic vision and regulatory measures, has reduced reliance on imported natural gas. Investments in renewable energy projects, such as the Benban Solar Park, supported by the FiT program and international partnerships, further diversify Egypt's energy portfolio. Additionally, the new investment law and environmental regulations ensure a balanced approach to energy development, considering both economic and environmental factors.

In summary, achieving and measuring energy independence from a legal perspective requires a multifaceted



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approach encompassing domestic energy production, renewable energy regulation, international trade, environmental protection, and robust metrics for assessment. A comprehensive legal framework supporting investment, innovation, and sustainability is essential to ensure long-term energy security. By adopting and enforcing effective legal measures, Egypt can reduce its reliance on external energy sources, promote economic growth, and protect the environment. As the global energy landscape evolves, the role of law in shaping and securing energy independence remains critical for Egypt's future.

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Amid a profound economic crisis, the power outages experienced by Egypt in recent months are becoming a evident sign of the fading promises of development made by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi almost ten years after he came into power. Indeed, since mid-July, heatwaves and increasing electricity consumption coupled with chronic dysfunctions of the energy sector have led to lengthy and repeated power cuts. In some areas, power cuts occurred multiple times per day and lasted for hours, disrupting industrial activities and citizens' daily lives.

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