



Proposed Speech
Mr Phakamani Hadebe, Eskom Interim Group Chief Executive
CEO Forum
16 May 2018

Honourable Minister of Energy, Mr Jeff Radebe

Honourable Minister of Commerce and Industry in India, Mr Shri CR Chaudhary

European Union Ambassador, Dr Marcus Cornaro

Chairman of the Eskom Board, Dr Jabu Mabuza

Chief Executives

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

Let me begin by thanking the organisers for affording Eskom again another privilege of addressing this esteemed gathering under the auspices of the Africa Utility Week. As the host energy utility, we are proud of our association with this prestigious African flagship programme.

You join us at a time when the effects of climate change are currently being felt in South Africa. The dire need for our host province and the severe impact of the looming “Day Zero” is real-time evidence of this. Nonetheless, I trust that you are still having an enjoyable stay in our beautiful country, experiencing the lovely weather and interacting with the diverse South African population.

Ladies and gentlemen, according to the International Energy Agency, sub-Saharan Africa will require more than \$300 billion in investment to achieve universal electricity access by 2030. On top of this, the World Bank forecasts that the economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa will rise from 2,4% to 3,2% in 2018. However, intermittent and unreliable electricity supply to catalyse industrial and other economic activities can



be a barrier to investment in some cases. To address these challenges, we need to invest time and energy in conducting extensive research into the status of Africa's energy. This research needs to be conducted through collaborative networks of research institutions that bring business, utilities, and the public sector together. In this way, we can define a research agenda to address our specific needs, to build local skills and capability, and to develop appropriate intellectual property. This does not mean that we do this alone; we will need to leverage and partner with BRICS countries and other developing country expertise, developed country institutions and global bodies, such as the United Nations. It is even more encouraging that South Africa plays the chairing role in BRICS, which represents 42% of the world's population and has a combined nominal GDP of US\$16 trillion. Through BRICS partnership, the South African government recently established a one-stop service to facilitate and encourage investment and has introduced a BRICS Business Visa, which allows multiple entries for up to 10 years to business visitors from BRICS countries.

In our efforts to find lasting solutions, we also need to embrace technology and encourage our youth to take up maths and science careers. In this way, we would be creating a sustainable future, as the future of any nation depends on its children. We need to ensure that our power systems become more flexible to reliably operate with higher penetration of intermittent energy resources. Increasing the overall resilience also improves investor confidence in the overall economy. We need to develop the "how can I help you" attitude, reviving the spirit of brotherhood.

Ladies, and gentlemen, it is only through collaborative partnerships that Africa can unlock opportunities brought about by the positive economic outlook. It also through partnerships that Africa can realise its full potential, finding lasting solutions to the overarching challenges underlined by poverty and employment. One such collaborative partnership success is the Southern African Power Pool. Through this vehicle, we have seen the facilitation of socio-economic co-operation and integration among 15 Southern African states and have seen the benefits to approximately 260 million Africans.



The SAPP brings along the possibility of reduced generation costs and furthers a long-held vision in the electricity supply industry of a super grid – creating a fraternity of power.

In the spirit of African progress, we are also really excited that the DRC will develop one of the largest hydropower projects in the world. The Grand Inga Hydropower Project, at 40 000 megawatts of hydroelectricity, enables us to think more broadly about the potential benefits of such projects to the continent. The partnership is no longer a South Africa-DRC partnership, but one from which all of us benefit through the development of much-needed energy infrastructure.

Our neighbour, Mozambique, is also becoming one of the energy hubs of the east coast, with the recent offshore discoveries of natural gas.

Ladies and gentlemen, Africa is in the eye of the storm in a number of fronts. The continent is faced with a number of interlinked challenges. These include land degradation, poverty, access to energy and climate change.

As the head of a utility company, I challenge of all us to commit to the goal that energy, particularly electricity, becomes the least of Africa's problems in the not too distant future. I challenge all of us to develop a high level of intolerance to the fact that about 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are living without electricity, yet Mother Africa is blessed with an abundance of energy resources. I challenge you to commit to turning our organisations to pan-African utilities. Utilities unlocking economic growth and social upliftment for all African people. Utilities seeking to restore human dignity through the provision of basic services. Pan-African utilities seeking to inculcate a culture of human rights because energy, particularly electricity, more than being a basic societal need, is now a human rights issue.

On this note, I wish you well as we continue to inspire each other with confidence as we embark on a journey of finding African solutions to African problems.



I wish you well as we cement partnerships that will lead to socio-economic growth and sustainable development for the African continent.

I thank you.

Edited by:

Internal Communication: Language Services

Corporate Affairs Division