

## Africa's Increasing Demand for Energy

Various factors at play creating an escalating demand for energy in Africa

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Johannesburg, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019:** Africa's demand for energy is steadily increasing and solutions to meet this growth have become a major concern amongst the energy sector leaders within the continent. Key factors contributing to this soaring energy demand are both Africa's ever-growing population and the continent's accelerating economic growth.

According to projections published by the United Nations Population Division, Africa's population has grown by 30 million people in the past year and by 2050, annual increases are expected to exceed 42 million people per year meaning that the total population will have doubled to 2.4 billion. This translates to 3.5 million additional people per month or 80 more people per minute. The vast increase in the number of people in Africa along with increased standards of living puts significant pressure on the demand for affordable energy.

The past few decades have seen significant improvements and growth in the African economy. Africa's per capita energy consumption is growing faster than that of any other continent, owed largely to increased infrastructure, investment and political stability. Africa's population is characterised by young people and a growing labour force, together proving to be a considerable strength in this aged world. With 1.1 billion workers and rising, the continent is expected to boast the world's largest working-age population by 2034. A progressive economy requires substantial energy for increased scale of manufacturing, provision of services and transport. Energy remains an essential input to stimulate and ensure uninhibited economic development, driving economic productivity and industrial growth. In fact, energy remains fundamental to the functioning of any modern-day economy.

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Furthermore, Africa is still undergoing rapid urbanisation transitions, further contributing to its economic development and energy consumption demands. More economic activity translates into higher levels of income earned and, as wealth increases, so does the demand for energy. Productivity in cities is cited as three times higher than in rural regions and the United Nations predict that over the next decade, 187 million more Africans will reside in cities. This increase in urbanisation will see a surge in the consumption of energy by households and businesses alike as it was reported that between 2010 and 2015, household energy consumption increased at a rate of 4.2% compounded annually.

African economies are set to profit from rapidly advancing technological devices and as the advancement of such devices unfolds, there is an increase in availability across the continent. The use of these electronic devices places further demand on the energy equation. As people become wealthier, they naturally desire more consumer goods which subsequently utilise energy in both their manufacture and usage.

It remains suffice to say that there are many positive factors at play, creating a sharp increase in the demand for energy in Africa. The continent's expanding population numbers, together with a growing economy on account of improved infrastructure, a young, sizeable workforce, inward investment and increased political stability, all contribute to the energy system demand. Growing communities require additional energy to accommodate their rising numbers, as does a developing economy to support its growth through manufacturing and consumption activities.

African Energy Ministers and large energy company CEOs will be discussing and unpacking what the future game changers for the Africa energy sector will be and how to meet the escalating demand for energy at the Africa Energy Indaba taking place on the 19 – 20 February 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The discussions will form part of the Indaba conference and will attract keen interest from parties able to provide solutions to meet the demand. The importance of technology in an evolving energy sector will be explored as the impact of digitisation can play a significant role in the implementation of energy access. The format will be panel discussions, providing opportunity for audience participation, culminating in some key findings and solutions.

Press Release Ends

## **ABOUT AFRICA ENERGY INDABA**

*An African Energy event for Africans and by Africans*

### **2019 Theme: Africa's Energy Future**

Africa's power and energy sector is a critical driver of growth and development across the continent. With vast natural energy resources ranging from coal, oil, gas, hydro, solar, wind and geothermal, there is ample choice for the discerning energy investor. Lack of access to electricity means that there is an opportunity for regional governments, energy businesses, organisations and financiers to unlock electricity access to millions of people who have don't have power. **The Africa Energy Indaba** is the continent's premier energy conference and exhibition: bringing together leading African and global energy players to unlock energy and business opportunities across the African continent. The event is



the World Energy Council (WEC) regional event for Africa and has strategic partnerships with the South African National Energy Association (SANEA) and the NEPAD Planning & Coordinating Agency (NPCA).

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**19 -20 February 2019 at Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg**  
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