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ENERGY TRANSITION

# Power: Salga to help councils

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THE SA Local Government Association (Salga) has collaborated with the USAid Southern Africa Energy Programme (SAEP) to help municipalities take advantage of the policy shift in energy generation.

The partnership will provide technical assistance and capacity building in efforts to support municipalities in managing existing energy infrastructure, increasing electricity access, introducing novel energy solutions, and initiating the Just Energy Transition (JET).

Salga said it was playing an advocacy role in the shift in the national policy to allow for the private sector's

entry into the energy generation space, and for municipalities to be able to buy not only from Eskom but also from Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Councillor Tebogo Hlakutse of the Electricity, Energy and Public Works Working Group said that as the country was fundamentally transforming the electricity sector for future sustainability, regulations have changed to allow municipalities to procure power independently to ensure energy certainty.

"Although it is our wish, not all municipalities will enter the space at the same time, because of various factors relating to playing in the IPP space, some of which are financial stability or have a healthy balance sheet, the resources for generation in the



**MAYORS**, municipal managers, councillors and representatives from Salga member municipalities have been holding constructive engagements on energy transition.

jurisdiction such as solar irradiance, land, wind and landfill."

A two-day session was held recently in Secunda, Mpumalanga, with the

aim of supporting municipalities in the province and also increasing awareness and understanding of JET.

Last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa called for all South Africans to be part of the solution; to contribute in any way they can to ending energy scarcity in South Africa.

He announced that the government was working to cut red tape for the registration of new power projects and announced plans to resuscitate the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme to substantially increase investment in wind and solar power.

"The president's plans lacked extra details on the role of municipalities in addressing the country's energy security. Salga is forging ahead with

its new generation capacity-building programme aimed at enabling municipalities to be ready for the future energy landscape," said Hlakutse.

Salga noted the need for municipalities to have concrete plans to access climate funding in order to adapt to the transition, hence this support. Municipalities will also require an appropriate part of the \$8.5 billion (R153bn) JET climate financing package to support local government transition.

Salga is confident that with its support, it will have more than 50% of municipalities ready for the IPPs. "Salga has played its advocacy role in the shift in the national policy to allow the private sector into the generation space, and for municipalities to buy not only from Eskom but also IPPs."

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