



MINISTERS OF ENERGY ROUND TABLE:
FAST TRACKING ENERGY PROJECTS – THE GOVERNMENT VIEW

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Overview: improving power generation and distribution is Africa’s most urgent development needs, as highlighted by the first of the AfDB’s High 5 priorities: “Power Africa”. While some African governments have been successful facilitators of energy projects, others are still struggling to create the necessary enabling environment. In this round table Ministers will share their experiences and best practices and outline priority projects in their countries.

PREPARED FOR
THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY
HONOURABLE KORNELIA SHILUNGA

18 JUNE 2018 - MAURITIUS

16:45 – 18:00



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I wish to express my gratitude to the African Development summit organisers for having considered a theme that is of significant importance to governments across many African states.

Infrastructure Development

As a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Namibia has adopted the SADC Protocol on Energy. SADC has enacted several strategic plans for energy development in the region, including the SADC Energy Cooperation Policy and Strategy in 1996, the SADC Energy Action Plan in 1997, the SADC Energy Activity Plan in 2000, and, most recently, the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan and Energy Sector Plan in 2012. In general, these development strategies focus on the infrastructure developments in the SADC member states' energy sectors, which include liquid petroleum fuel, natural gas, electricity, coal, renewable energy, as well as energy efficiency. Although implementation of these strategies has been slow, the region has made significant strides, particularly in the electricity sector.



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Indeed, these regional initiatives cannot be achieved without significant improvements of our domestic environments.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia is cognisant that, in order to meet the back-log of our infrastructure development needs, structural reforms have to be implemented in both the private and public sector. Government is fully aware that modern and reliable infrastructure is critical for high and sustained economic growth. Without it, almost everything in the economic value chain tends to be slower, less reliable and more expensive.

In terms of priorities, Namibia is fortunate to have relatively well-developed physical infrastructure such as water dams and water carriers, modern ports, a well-developed road network, electricity distribution network and modern Information Communication Technology [ICT] infrastructure.



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Despite boasting such well-developed infrastructure, there are some weaknesses emerging, that if not addressed with urgency, could become bottlenecks for continued growth and development.

These include: shortage of locally generated electricity; an aging rail network, and an underdeveloped water infrastructure network.

Namibia has come a long way, in terms of policy development, and regulatory environment, for infrastructure development to be conducted on a level playing field. Those initiatives to improving power generation and distribution infrastructure in Namibia include the recent approval of our Energy and Renewable Energy policies.

Without going into too many specifics, the government of Namibia's approach on infrastructure development in the Energy policy is "the support of the planning and development of energy infrastructure to serve the needs of the nation."



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QUESTIONS:

Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can governments which make the rules for procuring infrastructure, truly fast track projects.	In Namibia's case, the government has committed to the implementation of its public procurement Act, and the development of an E-procurement and an e-government system, to enhance transparency and accessibility;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can developers, financiers and DFIs help?	Private sector participation in infrastructure development: Infrastructure development requires various methods of funding other than through the budget. Government has already



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	<p>approved in principle Public Private Partnership arrangements. To enhance transparency and have clear rules in place, a PPP Bill will be tabled in the National Assembly before December 2016</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">As infrastructure or energy minister you are responsible for project delivery, but you depend on other government departments. How have you been able to engage their support?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is there a government structure that can be particularly useful for project implementation?	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you find that you have the capacity and institutions to support your ambitions?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure often requires the private sector to partner with local governments, specialized agencies, utilities, and state-owned enterprises, creating additional risks on the national govt balance sheets when the govt is required to backstop these institutions. How have you been able to manage these?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In your opinion, which country other than your own country or program in Africa has achieved particularly impressive results in	



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infrastructure development?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your Government view of the proper energy mix of your country and for the continents?	<p>The Government of Namibia shall strengthen the country's climate resilience by diversifying the energy mix with more non-hydro renewable energy. Renewable power offers abundant fuel sources (be it solar, wind, or invader bush-based bioenergy), a negligible carbon footprint, and is less prone to inter-annual or seasonal variability than hydropower.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the next key projects that your country is developing and that could be of interest for private investors present here?	<p>The Ministry of mines and Energy developed the National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP) to guide the long-term development of the generation sector, and to publish regulations and notices to</p>



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	<p>mandate the industry actors to develop specific generation projects and classes of generation projects with a defined total capacity allocation.</p>
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