

Africa urged to manufacture own energy technology

By: [Creamer Media Reporter](#)
28th September 2009

The African energy sector should manufacture or “Africanise” its own energy technology, rather than import unsuitable technology from wealthy countries, the South African National Energy Association (Sanea) chairperson **Brian Statham** proposed.

Rather than simply selecting state-of-the-art technology when setting up energy projects, the sector also had to consider technologies that are easy to operate and maintain in the continent’s context, he noted in a statement.

“All too often developers fail to realise that these [energy] projects will be located in places remote from maintenance facilities, and where there are few people with high levels of technical skills. This may make it both difficult and costly to achieve the levels of performance normally expected from these modern technologies,” explained Statham.

There was a “great need” to encourage the innovative design, manufacture and project implementation that would allow the continent to serve its own needs, he added.

Further, the creation of “uniquely African” technologies also had the added potential of attracting investment opportunities.

“Developing countries such as in Latin America and parts of Asia are also experiencing similar problems as Africa, such as impoverished areas and underdeveloped resources. But by developing technologies suitable for these circumstances, we will create jobs, empower the entrepreneurial spirit and extend the African footprint across the developing world,” said Statham.

The continent could also move towards greater independence in terms of meeting its own energy needs and unlocking the related social and economic benefits, he noted.

Statham would chair the second Africa Energy Indaba being held in February next year.

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