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Energy demand to double in Africa by 2050

STAFF WRITER

AFRICA'S energy demand is expected to double by 2050 and with its abundant supply of renewables, the continent has adequate capacity to meet demand.

So said organisers ahead of the Africa Energy Indaba 2020, which will draw industry experts, project developers, financiers, energy users, government officials and energy industry manufacturers to seek solutions to enable adequate energy generation across Africa.

Renewable energy can provide clean, reliable and affordable power, simultaneously and significantly increasing energy access across Africa.

Africa currently had inadequate transmission and distribution capacity, the organisers said, as over 600 million people did not have access to electricity.

In an endeavour to procure energy from independent power producers (IPPs), some African nations have followed South Africa's example in developing effective renewable energy programmes.

The country has collaborated with legal, financial and technical experts to develop strategies that are acceptable to developers and funding communities.

The organisers said: "To attract such investors to renewable energy and power projects, African nations are creating well-defined and reliable regulatory frameworks supported by a consistent investment environment. As the costs of renewable energy technologies decline, renewables are now on a level playing field with various other technologies, and such projects can be established without the need for government subsidies.

"South Africa, Egypt and Morocco are leading the way with regulatory and policy frameworks that secure market entry, income streams and contract prices. For instance, South Africa's 102 IPP projects have delivered approximately R200 billion in direct investment within a decade.

"In addition, increased separation of state-owned generation companies from the main transmission system, as in Kenya, provides equitable conditions for IPPs and increased investor confidence."

Energy services may include a combination of gas stoves, solar water heaters, solar chargers and energy-efficient lighting. These can be used instead of fuel sources such as paraffin that contribute to the risk of fires and air pollution.

The upcoming Africa Energy Indaba 2020 will shed light on what is required of municipalities to consider the option to procure from IPPs and to find solutions to energy access.

It will also unpack success factors regarding IPPs and the procurement thereof, consequently empowering energy stakeholders to proactively and swiftly capitalise on opportunities.

Climate Action Tracker, an independent scientific analysis, said South Africa was the world's 14th-largest emitter of greenhouse gases due to its heavy reliance on coal to power the country.