



Black Energy
Professionals
Association

NewsBEPA

The official monthly newsletter of Black
Energy Professional Association



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Introduction

by Hlulani Masingi

As we enter National Energy Month this May, let us welcome you to **NEWSBEPA!** Our very first email newsletter that aims to bring you the latest news in our association and in the energy sector. We all know by now that the world has been experiencing a crisis of unprecedented nature and effect. The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020, keeps evolving and we are now dealing with a significant global challenge. This has encouraged us to share a few thoughts with you.

In house news

by Hlulani Masingi

Firstly, we would like to share the pride we feel for what the **Black Energy Professionals Association** stands for, and we owe that to all of you. As BEPA, we strive to increase black people's participation in the renewable, coal, oil, gas and nuclear energy sectors. This encourages us to keep going even in times of hardship.

We have a broad view of the energy sector as we represent all the technologies across the entire value chain of the energy sector. Our members, together with our Board Members, are highly qualified and seasoned in their sectors and have also participated in the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme. We conduct our own internal Working Groups, which operate across the entire value chain of the energy sector, bringing attention to black participation and economic transformation in the energy industry. BEPA and its members can drive change and transformation in the energy sector, which is shown by our participation in various industry forums. We have the immense industry knowledge and well-developed networks. Therefore, we can encourage black participation, ownership, gender diversity, job creation in the industry and progressive sector policies both for corporates and individuals who are active in the industry.

Secondly, we wish to address those of you who have been negatively affected by this pandemic, both personally and in business. We send you and your loved ones our warmest embrace and wish you a speedy recovery. There is no doubt that this crisis has brought about irreversible changes in the ways we think and work. The effects of this pandemic have presented us with new challenges, and the energy sector has resultantly undergone new changes in sync with the global society.

The South African energy sector is booming with opportunities. For instance, earlier this year, the Minister of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, announced the opening of Bid Window 5 of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). The Procurement window seeks to procure 2 600 MW of power from renewable energy, which must include 1 600MW from onshore wind and 1000MW from Solar PV; with project sizes ranging from a minimum of 1 MW to a maximum of 140 MW for Onshore Wind and 75 MW for Solar PV. We believe this will promote the participation of projects that are fully developed and that are able to be constructed and connected to the national grid as soon as 12 months, but not later than 24 months, from Commercial Close. Registration for Bid Window 5 is now open on the Ipp-Renewables website; we have solicited commentary from our members on the REIPPPP Bid Window 5 RFP, which we will submit to relevant industry stakeholders.

The SA energy sector should promote economic transformation to enable meaningful participation of black people, and particularly black women, in the economy at a strategic and commercial level. Some of the women who are living proof and are paving way for other black women in the industry are the co-founders of BEPA, Meta Mhlarhi and Makole Mupita, who have been at the forefront of the renewable energy sector development in South Africa. Slowly but surely, South Africa's renewable energy industry is making efforts to promote gender diversity in the burgeoning sector. This is exactly what BEPA necessitates! To find out more about the industry's latest developments, make sure to remain on the lookout for

NEWSBEPA.

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OUR SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

by Hlulani Masingi



In the last quarter, we have brought you several exciting industry highlights and updates across our social media channels. Amongst others are various industry experts and the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme winners' announcements. Once again, we would like to congratulate the following industry experts on their new appointments:

Dr Nombasa Tsengwa

Chief Executive Officer-designate of EXXARO

Mr Reginald Demana

Divisional Executive: Mining, Metals, Infrastructure and Energy of Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa

Mr Kennedy Bungane

Chief Executive Officer of African Bank Holdings Limited

Mr Saki Zamxaka

Chief Executive Officer of Gauteng Enterprise Province

Mr Shafeeq Abrahams

CE & Principal Officer for the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund

Also, congratulations to the following Preferred Bidders for the **Risk Mitigation IPP Procurement Programme**, in alphabetical order:

Acwa Power Project DAO

Karpowership SA Coega

Karpowership SA Richards Bay

Karpowership SA Saldanha

Mulilo Total Coega

Mulilo Total Hydra Storage

Oya Energy Hybrid Facility

Umoyilanga Energy

We would like to commend our director and two of our members that have been selected to participate in a few industry forums as BEPA representatives. BEPA's director, Pius Gumbi has been selected to contribute to the SA Renewable Energy Masterplan. Our members, Lebo Mphahlele and Charles Marthinus now partake in the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) as part of the Energy Services Company (Esco) Market Development Working Group.

This quarter, BEPA has explored the ways in which national events and commemorations such as Freedom Day and Worker's Day related to the energy industry and continues to do so. To stay up to date with the industry and our social media posts, follow BEPA on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Meet the team

by Hlulani Masingi



HLULANI MASINGI

BA (Hons) - University of the Witwatersrand
BA - University of the Witwatersrand

Hlulani Masingi has a solid education and more than seven years' media experience. She graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand with a Bachelor's Degree in Media Studies and English Literature (2008) and Honours Degree in Media Studies (2009). Born in Johannesburg and raised at ka-Mhinga, an underprivileged village in Limpopo, Hlulani is a determined individual. Regardless of her impoverished background, she has a variety of interests that include PR, Communications, Marketing and Events, and Creative Writing, about which she is extremely passionate. She has worked as an online editor for one of South African's affluent magazines, and prior to that, she was involved in marketing within a publishing house. She has also worked at a professional service company aimed at delivering rapid economic transformation in South Africa; recently she has joined BEPA as the Marketing and Communications Manager.



KUTLWANO LECHESA

BCom Marketing Management - Pearson
Institute of High Education

Kutlwano Lechesa is a young, driven and hard-working black South African woman with a passion for marketing. She holds a BCom Marketing Management degree and currently works as a Marketing Assistant at the Black Energy Professionals Association (BEPA). She is highly regarded for her written and verbal communication, while her other skills include digital marketing, social media marketing, the ability to multi-task, attention to detail and being a team player.



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by Hlulani Masingi

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Founded By Sophie
Masipa
The Marketing and
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Advisory



Odwa Magwentshu
Editor

Thank you

by Meta Mhlarhi

In closing, our Executive Director, Meta Mhlarhi, would like to end on a personal note:

"I am proud and inspired by the way all of us have risen to this pandemic - with flexibility, resilience, courage, and a caring heart. Thank you for your patience. Let us work together to keep participating across all parts of the energy sector! I am working hard to cope with the ongoing crisis. Our team and I will be with you every step of the way. Like most of you, I also have a family to worry about."

"Our team and I will be with you every step of the way."

"I am not only a Black Energy Professional, but also a mother, a wife, and a sister. At times like these, the worry list can be long for all of us, there are no exceptions. However, I am also convinced that we will get through this, we should not lose our self-confidence and our energy. It is literally in our hands!

Please, do look after yourselves, your businesses, and your families. Always stay safe and thank you."

