

Press Statement

AWEaP JET Skills Development Programme set to position women as the leaders of South Africa's energy transition

South Africa continues to progress towards the critical overhaul of the country's energy system, from fossil fuels to a mix of energy generation technologies. The Just Energy Transition (JET) Partnership will significantly affect domestic communities whose economies rely heavily on legacy energy value chains. As a result, there is a pronounced need to ensure that workers and businesses within these economies can participate in the emerging energy sector.

To aid the realisation of a just transition, African Women in Energy and Power (AWEaP) has created the JET Skills Development Programme aimed at imparting knowledge on the country's energy transition policy to women professionals and entrepreneurs across multiple sectors. The programme is designed to empower women with the necessary knowledge to participate in local JET strategy design and opportunities presented in existing, emerging and new energy technology value chains.

AWEaP has signed an MOU with Wits Business School's (WBS) African Energy Leadership Centre, the academic partner of the programme. The centre will deliver the academic element of the programme through a hybrid course of live streaming lessons and in-person contact sessions.

The first phase of this programme targets municipal electric utilities in Mpumalanga. This pilot phase will be supported by the USAID Southern Africa Energy Program (SAEP), a [Power Africa](#) initiative, who will fully fund the tuition for 40 delegates consisting of municipal women leaders, managers, and operators.

"We are excited about the imminent launch of our pilot programme. The partnership with WBS's African Energy Leadership Centre means that we can deliver tailored academic and practical content for each province in the country," said Bertha Dlamini, President of AWEaP. "Often, when industry policies are rolled out, women are either forgotten or partially involved. Through this programme, we will ensure that no one gets left behind and that women will gain the knowledge necessary to participate effectively in the design of localised JET strategies," Ms Dlamini added.

The skills development programme will enrol delegates from South Africa's coal hub Mpumalanga; it is a course that will enable their participation in designing and implementing green energy systems. "South Africa's energy sector supports hundreds of thousands of direct and indirect jobs in the coal value chain. Energy transition is an inevitable future for this country's energy industry. It is therefore imperative that we manage the transition very carefully. Creating programmes to support a just transition is critical for us as an education provider, as we can train,



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upskill and equip sector leaders to manage the transition,” says Yasira Cajee, WBS Marketing Officer: Executive Education.

The programme is endorsed by the Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities – (AMEU); South African Local Government Association – (SALGA); Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disability (DWYPD); Eskom; UN Women South Africa; Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA); Business Unity South Africa, Energy Working Group (BUSA); South African National Energy Development Institution (SANEDI); BRICS Women Alliance (BWA); Women’s Economic Assembly - The Presidency – Women Economic Assembly; Department of Small Business Development (DSBD); Southern African Power Pool (SAPP); Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency and Energy and Water Seta. The programme will contribute toward creating an inclusive, equitable, transparent and participatory energy system in South Africa.

“It is an excellent opportunity to place women at the centre of the country’s developing Just Energy Transition. This programme will also begin to serve our people in order to achieve the aspirations of our Constitution,” said Adv. Mikateko Maluleke, Director-General of DWYPD.

Looking to the future, AWEaP envisions that key learnings from this pilot will enable the scaling of the skills development programme into the rest of South Africa and beyond.

“We believe that when women and youth can participate actively in the design of localised JET strategies, they will also contribute towards creative targeted initiatives that will stimulate microeconomics and promote entrepreneurial activity amongst women, youth and persons with disability. This is how we aim to ensure that the transition is indeed JUST,” concluded Ms Dlamini.

These are the registration details for the programme:

Registration: Interested municipal officials in Mpumalanga can apply for the programme by following this link:

<https://aweap.africa/jet-skills-development-programme/how-to-register/>

Deadline for applications: 26 September 2022

For media enquiries, please contact Kim Napo on +27 81 327 1400

Ends



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