Featured Article
Energy in Africa: Crisis or opportunity?

Sector in Focus
African Power: Economic impacts of energy shortages on development

An Interview with Rob Short
Insights on Africa's energy crisis and sustainable development
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This is the first time that the magazine has made this award which recognises outstanding work in IP, based on client and peer feedback as well as research for the World IP Survey. Adams & Adams has won the award for Best South African IP Law Firm in the past, but this is the first time our expertise in Africa has been celebrated internationally. It seems that by offering our local and international clients innovative and individualised legal expertise, our South African and Pan-African offices have been able to create world-class solutions worth celebrating.
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest edition of the Adams & Adams Africa Focus – our quarterly publication that is produced exclusively for and tailored to the specific interests of you, our valued clients. In this edition, we begin as usual with updates on key economic, political and industry-specific developments across the African continent.

The featured article, authored by one of South Africa’s leading energy experts, Professor Jo-Ansie van Wyk, analyses opportunities that have presented themselves in Africa’s energy sector. The article pays particular attention to various international initiatives to address the lack of sufficient energy infrastructure on the continent.

Our usual Sector in Focus feature, explores the economic impact of Africa’s energy crisis. Some of these include rising inflation, declining industrial production, increasing negative effects on SMEs, hikes in diesel prices and the knock-on effects on societies throughout Africa.

This edition also provides our readers with an informative topical interview with CAI consultant and sustainable energy specialist, Rob Short. Energy issues raised in the discussion include the development of strong institutions to drive the required long-term view across areas by governments, innovation as a key driver of sustainable energy development and the possibilities of scaling up renewable energy projects to feed national grids.

We also review the recent Africa Energy Indaba, which is billed as Africa’s premier energy event, and preview the upcoming Power and Electricity World Africa 2015 conference and its focus on key initiatives to address Africa’s energy challenges through innovation and the growth of renewable energy resources.

Just as in previous editions, we invite you to take some time out to sit back and enjoy the latest edition of our quarterly publication, with its unparalleled focus on Africa. We trust that you will find the content useful and enjoyable, as it has been tailored specifically for you.

1 Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons.
Africa | African Union-China infrastructure deal to connect Africa: China and the African Union (AU) have agreed on an ambitious plan — hailed by AU chair, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, as the “most substantive project the AU has ever signed with a partner,” — to develop road, rail and air transport routes to link capitals across the continent. The deal, signed by Dlamini-Zuma and China’s Vice Foreign Minister, Zhang Ming, on 27 January 2015 ahead of the pan-African bloc’s annual summit, will see major African cities from Nairobi and Abuja to Johannesburg connected by highways, high speed railways and new international airports. The memorandum of understanding was signed following discussions between Dlamini-Zuma and Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang, during the premier’s visit to the AU Headquarters in 2014 and, according to the AU chief, sub-committees to oversee the implementation of projects in each sector have already been established.

Africa | African Energy Leaders Group (AELG) launched: Speaking at a high level panel on energy at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, held from 21-23 January 2015, Nigerian billionaire and philanthropist Tony Elumelu launched the multi-stakeholder advocacy group that aims to bring together political and economic leaders to drive the reforms and investment needed to end energy poverty in Africa. The AELG was created by a working group of African leaders, including Elumelu and fellow billionaire Aliko Dangote, African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka, Prime Minister of Ivory Coast Daniel Duncan and Ghanian President John Mahama. The group intends to address the continent’s energy deficiency by fostering deep energy sector reforms, supporting innovation, building public-private partnerships, promoting renewable energy, and boosting economic gains. It also aims to create integrated and commercially viable regional power pools by scaling up investment under existing regional plans.

Angola | Oil price slump sees budget slashed: In the wake of a US$ 14 billion budget cut in January 2015 following a revision of the projected price of a barrel of oil from US$ 81 to US$ 40, the Angolan government announced in February that it is seeking at least US$ 10 billion in loans from the World Bank and other international financiers. If granted, the US$ 500 million soft loan for budgetary support will be the first such loan to Angola by the World Bank. The budget cuts due to decreases in oil revenues caused by the steep drop in the global oil price have resulted in the suspension of all infrastructure projects planned for 2015 in the nation still rebuilding after a 27-year civil war.

Burkina Faso | Appointment of transitional president ends military rule: Michel Kafando was sworn in as transitional president of Burkina Faso on 18 November 2014. This came after a brief military takeover of government when President Blaise Compaoré resigned and fled the country in October 2014 in the face of mass protests against his attempt to change the constitution and extend his 2-year rule. Kafando, now tasked with leading the West African country to elections scheduled for October 2015, named Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Zida his prime minister and appointed a cabinet. The army claimed 6 of the 26 cabinet posts while the remaining seats have been taken by members of civil society groups and an assortment of political parties.

Democratic Republic of Congo | Protests erupt into violence: Citizen protests against plans by President Joseph Kabila to extend his rule took place across the country from 19-21 January 2015, turning violent as several people were killed in clashes with police. The marches, organised by opposition parties, were aimed at stopping Kabila from extending his rule by using delaying tactics in the form of a census to

update the voters’ roll that would continue beyond December 2016 when his second and final term comes to an end. While the constitution requires such a census in order for the voter roll to be updated, it was not taken before either the 2006 election when Kabila was first elected or the 2011 election when he was re-elected. On 25 January 2015, parliament voted in favour of amending the bill that calls for the census, removing the need for a census, instead requiring only that the voter roll be updated in time for the 2016 elections.

**The Gambia | Attempted coup foiled:** Armed attackers stormed The Gambia’s presidential palace in an apparent coup-attempt on 30 December 2014, led by a former commander of the presidential guard. The Gambia’s president, Yahya Jammeh, who was not in residence at the time of the attack, returned to Banjul on 31 December 2014. The Gambian government has down-played the incident, denying any instability in the secretive West African nation. United States (US) prosecutors have since charged three American citizens in connection with the incident. On 29 January 2015, one suspect — who holds dual US-Gambian citizenship — pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to overthrow a foreign government with which the US is at peace and admitted to taking part in the attack on the presidential palace.

**Kenya | Parliament passes controversial anti-terror law:** A controversial new anti-terror law aimed at “enhancing the authorities’ capacity” to deal with terrorism and security issues was passed by parliament on 18 December 2014. On 23 February 2015 the Constitutional Court annulled eight clauses of the Security Laws (Amendment) Act of 2014 following a challenge by the opposition. The law, which gives the president and intelligence agencies a range of new powers — including the right of the authorities to detain terror suspects for up to one year, the handing of powers to intelligence agencies to tap communications without court consent and the requirement for journalists to obtain police permission before investigating or publishing stories on domestic terrorism and security issues — was challenged on the grounds that it infringes rights to freedom of speech and civil liberties. The court threw out measures that would curtail media freedom and a measure imposing a cap on the number of refugees allowed into Kenya.

**Libya | The battle between rival governments continues:** As two rival governments and parliaments battle for control of the country’s vast energy reserves, the internationally recognised parliament elected in June was declared unconstitutional by Libya’s highest court on 6 November 2014. The Supreme Court invalidated the election of the House of Representatives, saying that a committee that prepared the election law had violated the country’s provisional constitution. The decision came a day after gunmen stormed Libya’s largest oilfield, El Sharara, halting production at the facility in the south of the country. Fears now abound among Western powers and Libya’s neighbours that the OPEC-member country could descend into civil war, as it remains split in two: a western part controlled by fighters calling themselves Libya Dawn who seized the capital in August 2014 and reinstated the old parliament; and the eastern part, which was consequently left with the internationally recognised government and parliament with its elected House of Representatives. The political chaos seems set to continue as the internationally recognised parliament voted on 23 February to pull out of a UN-sponsored agreement for national dialogue talks with the rival government.

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Mauritius | Opposition wins landslide election victory: Despite Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam’s coalition of his Labour Party and Paul Berenger’s Militant Mauritian Movement being tipped as the favourite, the centre-right opposition coalition, Alliance Lepep, led by former President Anerood Jugnauth, won 47 of the 62 seats in parliament in Mauritius’ 10 December 2014 parliamentary election. The Alliance Lepep campaigned against a recent government proposal to hold direct elections for the largely ceremonial post of the president who is currently elected by parliament.

Mozambique | Filipe Nyusi sworn in as president: Mozambique’s main opposition, the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo), which contests the results of the October 2014 election, boycotted the 15 January 2015 inauguration ceremony attended by regional leaders and Portuguese president, Anibal Cavaco Silva. Nyusi’s victory — with 57% of the vote against Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama’s 37% — has seen the extension of the ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (Freimo) party’s nearly 40-year hold on power. Despite the poll being given the all-clear, Dhlakama has condemned the election as fraudulent, referring to it as an illegal takeover of power. The former rebel leader also demanded that a caretaker government be put in place and has threatened to form a parallel government in the centre and north of the country. The two parties agreed on 23 February to extend the mandate of the foreign military observer mission deployed across the country since October 2014 to ensure post-election peace.

Namibia | Swapo wins Africa’s first “e-vote”: The South West Africa People’s Organisation (Swapo), led by Prime Minister Hage Geingob, won Namibia’s 28 November 2014 presidential and legislative elections. Swapo, which has won every election since Namibia’s independence in 1990, won with a landslide victory of 87% of the vote. The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance won five seats with 4.8% of the vote, overtaking the Rally for Progress and Democracy, which won just three seats with 3.15% of the vote. With about 72% of the 1.2 million eligible voters casting their ballots on nearly 4,000 electronic voting machines, the poll has been billed as Africa’s first “e-vote”, with other African nations having had only pilot or limited e-voting. While opposition parties launched a court challenge days ahead of the election to prevent electronic voting, citing concerns that the voting machines could facilitate vote rigging, observers gave the election the all-clear.

Nigeria | Highly anticipated poll postponed: Nigeria’s Independent National Electoral Committee (INEC) announced on 7 February that it has postponed the country’s 14 February presidential elections by six weeks until 28 March 2015 due to security concerns. National Security Adviser Sambo Dasuki wrote to the INEC the previous week, stating that it could not guarantee security during the original election timetable because of on-going military operations to fight Boko Haram insurgents, whose leader Abubakar Shekau has pledged to disrupt the polls. The INEC has, however, designated red zones where the vote could not be held and alternative polling stations for the affected constituencies have been identified. The ruling People’s Democratic Party (PDP) has been calling for a delay in the elections for months, arguing that it is not ready to hold them, citing such concerns as the inability to distribute a sufficient number of biometric ID cards necessary in time for voting. The opposition All Progressive Congress (APC) has been strongly against a delay and reaction to the announcement appears split along party lines.

South Africa | Coega IDZ secures ZAR 1.84 billion investment in 2014: In its integrated annual report released on 17 November 2014, the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) revealed that it secured ZAR 1.84 billion (US$ 126 million) in 10 new investments in the 2013/14 financial year, becoming the first industrial development zone (IDZ) on the continent to attract a double-digit portfolio of investors in a 12-month period. Among the new investors were Qtelch Moulding, ID Logistics, Digistics Digital Logistics, Afrox and Ulba Tantalum Africa.

Photo courtesy of Electoral Commission of Namibia, http://www.abc.net.au
which invested in the automotive, logistics, chemicals and agroprocessing sectors. Powerway/Sungrow and Powerway/JA Solar joint ventures invested in the IDZ’s renewable energy sector. Coega IDZ also achieved a 37.9% small, medium-sized and microenterprise (SMME) participation and involvement rate, having attracted 25 operational investors by the end of the 2013/14 financial year. The number of the CDC’s operational investors is forecast to reach 30 by the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

South Africa | Government throws Eskom a ZAR 23 billion (US$ 2 billion) lifeline: The struggling state-owned electricity utility will receive ZAR 10 billion (US$ 872 million), the first of two instalments, in June 2015, Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene announced in his budget speech on 25 February 2015. The remaining ZAR 13 billion (US$ 1.13 billion) will be paid by year end. The funds will be raised through the sale of nonstrategic state assets. Nene indicated that if further support were deemed necessary, an equity conversion of government’s subordinated loan to Eskom would be considered. The utility will also apply to the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa) in 2015 for “adjustments towards cost-reflective tariffs,” Nene said. Claw-back relief granted by Nersa for the second multiyear price determination period (1 April 2010 to 31 March 31 2013) already entitles Eskom to increase tariffs by 12.7% from 1 April 1 2015.

West Africa | AU backs task force to fight Boko Haram: As Boko Haram continues its devastating assault on towns and villages in north-eastern Nigeria, as well as cross border attacks into Cameroon, Chad and Niger, African Union chair, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, announced, on 31 January 2015, at the pan-African body’s annual summit in Addis Ababa, that the AU has backed a Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) to fight the militant Islamist group. The West African task force, which will have an initial mandate of one year and comprise 7,500 troops contributed by Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, will conduct “military operations to prevent the expansion of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups’ activities and eliminate their presence,” Dlamini-Zuma said. On 22 February, France announced its support of the AU’s bid to win UN Security Council backing for the five-nation taskforce, which has killed hundreds of Boko Haram militants since the beginning of February in separate battles in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

Zambia | Country holds special presidential election: Zambians went to the polls on 20 January 2015 to choose the replacement for President Michael Sata who died on 28 October 2014 at the age of 77. The ruling Patriotic Front (PF) party’s Edgar Lungu was sworn in as the new president after a narrow victory, with 48.3% of the vote. Lungu will serve out the remainder of the late president Sata’s term until 2016, when the next general elections will be held. The United Party for National Development (UPND) came in close second in the by-election, with 46.7% of the vote. The narrow margin of defeat has fuelled speculation that party leader Hakainde Hichilema, who maintains that the January poll was rigged, could lead the UPND to victory next year.

Zambia | Government seeks resolution to mining royalty rate disagreement: The Canadian Barrick Gold Corporation, which is one of Zambia’s largest employers, announced plans to begin laying off its workers in March and to suspend its operations by June 2015 due to the hike in royalty rates, which came into effect on 1 January 2015. The new royalty rates, which apply to the production of all base metals, require that open pit mines pay up to 20% royalty on their revenue — up from 6% previously — while underground mines pay 8%. The government has faced pressure from business groups and labour unions to reverse the rate increase since it was announced in October 2014. Over 2,000 unionised workers downed tools on 23 February 2015 in protest of potential job losses at Barrick’s Lumwana mine. The same day, Lungu reported that the revenue authority was in talks with mining firms to resolve the dispute.

Zimbabwe | European Union resumes aid programme: The EU announced on 16 February 2015 that it has given Zimbabwe € 234 million (US$ 267-million), the first financial assistance that the 28-member body has granted to Zimbabwe since imposing sanctions in 2002. Half of the money, intended to improve health, agriculture-based economic development, governance and institution-building, will be released in 2015, the rest being paid gradually until 2020. At the signing ceremony, the EU ambassador to Zimbabwe cautioned that this new chapter does not signal an end to the problems in EU-Harare relations. On 20 February, the EU renewed, until February 2016, its asset freeze and a travel ban on President Robert Mugabe and his wife, Grace.
ENERGY IN AFRICA:
Crisis or opportunity?

By Professor Jo-Ansie van Wyk

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...lectures International Politics in the Department of Political Sciences at the University of South Africa (Unisa). She completed a doctorate on South Africa’s nuclear diplomacy and has consulted on a wide range of issues for the World Bank, UNESCO, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the South African Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Consultancy Africa Intelligence (CAI), among others.

Globally, the demand for energy is increasing and Africa is no exception in this regard. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has described the global energy crisis as a ‘major crisis’ and an ‘energy poverty crisis’, with Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) as the ‘epicentre of this crisis’, with 620 million Africans (66%) living without electricity.1 However, despite insufficient and aging infrastructure, the continent offers significant investment opportunity in the public and private energy sector.

Access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa

Although nearly a billion people will gain access to electricity by 2040, 30% (mostly in rural communities) will still be without power.

African and international investment in the energy sector in Africa

Investment opportunities are driven by two factors. First, African states – most notably, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa – are realizing that energy production and distribution are major drivers of socio-economic development, and have, for this purpose, reformulated their energy policies and targets.2 Second, evidence suggests an emerging scramble for energy in Africa as national, continental and international investors compete to gain access to, and maintain a presence in the sector.3

According to the IEA, Africa has rich energy sources but these sources are unevenly distributed, poorly developed, and power infrastructure is poor.3 To reverse this situation would cost an estimated amount of US$ 300 billion in private investment.4 It is this contradiction between resource abundance and underdevelopment that simultaneously suggests crises and opportunities for investment in the continent’s power sector.

Continently, energy development is formulated and coordinated by the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) by means of initiatives such as the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Priority Action Plan, and in partnership with entities like the African Development Bank. On behalf of their members, the AU developed PIDA as part of ‘horizon 2040’, which outlines Africa’s energy vision, including its intended energy mix and related power projects (see Figure 4), such as the development of transmission corridors, pipelines and hydroelectric projects. Various international initiatives are also stimulating investment opportunities in the continent’s power sector, as illustrated in the above table.

The US has been one of the major investors in the African energy sector. Following its passing of the Energy Africa Act (EEA) in 2013, various other initiatives such as the US Africa Energy Ministerial (AEM) on ‘Catalyzing sustainable energy growth in Africa’ and the US Africa Leaders’ Summit have taken place in 2014; resulting from the Power Africa Initiative that President Barack Obama announced during his visit to South Africa in June 2013. The US’ intentions with the EEA is clear as it intends to ‘establish a comprehensive United States government policy to assist countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty alleviation and drive economic growth, and for other purposes’.  

**Approaching investment in the African energy sector**

Potential private sector investors looking to play a role in energy solutions in Africa should be cognisant of three points for careful consideration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/International organisation</th>
<th>Initiative/ Mechanism (selected examples)</th>
<th>Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Power Africa</td>
<td>Develop energy mix in Africa’s energy sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank &amp; United Nations</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SEALL) &amp; Energising Development Initiative</td>
<td>Universal access to energy; development of renewable energy; and energy efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway, United Kingdom</td>
<td>Energy+</td>
<td>Universal access to energy; energy efficiency &amp; low carbon development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Australia, The United Kingdom and Switzerland with additional funding by Ireland and the EU</td>
<td>Energising Development (EnDev) Partnership</td>
<td>Access to energy for households, social infrastructure (schools, clinics, hospitals) and small and medium enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank Group</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)</td>
<td>Financing and development of clean energy sector projects</td>
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<td>United Nations</td>
<td>UN-Energy Africa</td>
<td>Joint energy projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)</td>
<td>Development aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation’s (NORAD) Clean Energy in Africa Programme</td>
<td>Improved household and institutional access to clear energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</td>
<td>Stable electricity supply, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and rural electrification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)</td>
<td>Development aid through non-governmental organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Korea International Cooperation Agency</td>
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1. First, superpower competition between the US, China and the EU over access to and control of Africa’s energy sector is likely to increase, and varies with respect to different aspects of the energy sector in Africa (see below). For instance, Chinese investment in the African energy sector is predominantly into SSA; in countries with little or

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no US and EU involvement; and predominantly in hydro-power projects.

2. Second, African power utilities are predominantly state-owned, which requires access to government, and a competitive tender process. Through Power Africa, the US government has secured greater US private sector investment in Africa, including 14 African private sector investors.12

3. Finally, Power Africa Initiative, a five-year US presidential initiative, prioritises six so-called ‘focus countries’, namely Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania; the aim being to contribute 10,000 MW and 20 million new connections by the end of the five years. By mid-2014, the US had already invested US$ 7 billion in Power Africa initiatives. According to the US government, “these initial focus countries met a number of critical criteria, including a commitment to tough policy reforms in their energy sectors to improve their business climates, and a hard push to attract and leverage private sector resources to dramatically increase the continent’s energy supply”.14 This focus on meeting specific requirements prior to investment in terms of Power Africa’s requirements suggests that the US intends to invest in countries meeting certain democratic criteria. In addition to the US’ focus on these six African states, it has also provided energy-related technical assistance to 14 others.15

These points for consideration notwithstanding, the potential for private sector investment in various sectors remains high; especially in non-government related power projects in several sectors as outlined in the chart on the preceding page. Whereas investment in fossil fuel energy has dominated Africa’s energy scene, increasingly, new investment opportunities in renewable energy such as bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, solar and wind power are emerging.

Solving Africa’s energy crisis

Africa’s energy crisis can be solved. Potential investors are advised to consider public-private sector partnerships (PPPs) with African state-owned power utilities; partnerships with international donor agencies; non-governmental organisations; or United Nations-funded projects. Opportunities for investment in Africa’s energy sector also include investing in small-medium enterprises in the energy sector; and mini- and off-grid power resources and sectors on the continent.

However, investment success in Africa’s energy sector is dependent on increased power sector reform on the continent; increased investment in energy production and distribution; improved management of energy-related resources and associated revenues; and increased regional co-operation in the energy sector.16

13 Ibid.
Africa still has a long way to go in terms of meeting the continent’s ever increasing energy demands. With just under 1 billion people, or 13% of the global population, Africa accounts for a meagre 4% of global electricity consumption. However, since the year 2000, due to consistent and substantial economic and population growth, energy demand in Africa has risen by 45%.

The inability of governments to meet the growing power needs of the continent has a number of interrelated consequences, including rising inflation rates, hikes in diesel prices, decreased industrial productivity, lower SME output and various social effects such as upheaval against the lack of power provision, decreased family incomes, lower-birth weight of new-borns and increased stress in pregnant mothers. Annually, nearly 5% in retail sales are lost due to power outages, while the cost of running back-up generators has run into some US$ 5 billion in 2012 alone. Africa’s power grid is undeniably under immense strain to keep up with economic growth and increased demand for power — especially in urban centres.

A key area of concern with regard to electricity generation is poor planning and implementation of policies by governments across the continent. In most cases, governments begin new initiatives for expanding or improving the power supply chains far too late, resulting in countrywide load-shedding, unexpected outages and blackouts which can last days on end.

The total electricity generation capacity of the African continent was 90 GW in 2012, with the bulk (roughly 50%) stemming from South Africa. By comparison, Germany alone generates just under 50 GW and has a population of just over 80 million (compared to Africa’s population of more than 1 billion). This massive disparity in power provision across the continent has forced many to look for alternative means of electricity generation, including purchasing costly diesel-fired generators in order to sustain business operations. Cumulatively, this use of generators will amount to some US$ 25 billion over the next five years, not taking into account economic and population growth that will likely push the figure even higher.

The impacts of an unstable energy supply are numerous, with a variety of knock-on effects to the economy.

**Inflation on the rise**

Inflation is an area that takes strain as power shortages become more prominent. As less power is made available to the grid, economic production slows down. This decrease in manufacturing output and services drives up the cost of finished goods as well as services that typically depend on stable supplies of energy in order to operate.

During 2010, Tanzania suffered immense pressure to curb the inflation rate amidst rolling blackouts. Similar effects occurred in Ghana where the lack of stable electricity resulted in a depreciating currency and a sky rocketing inflation rate that hit a high of 16.5% of GDP in 2014. As a result of declining economic growth and the unstable supply of goods, global rating agency Standard & Poor was forced to downgrade Ghana’s credit rating to B-. In the same year, Kenya also tried to curb its own inflation rate that was rising...
fast due to lower economic output as a result of unstable power supplies. Such impacts will take time to be reversed and will likely come at a substantial cost, including tariff and tax hikes.

**SMEs in deep trouble**

During the early phases of the power crisis in South Africa in 2008, the City of Cape Town suffered constant blackouts over a period of 12 days that resulted in massive losses to the SME sector. A study conducted on nearly 3,000 South African SMEs shortly after the end of the 2008 crisis found that 70% of them experienced substantial impacts on business activities, while 80% lost portions of their business entirely. All in all, the 12 days of power cuts amounted to US$ 900 million in losses.

In Nigeria, the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) noted that in 2009 alone, 830 businesses closed their doors and over 80,000 people lost their jobs due to the inconsistent power supply. Nigerian SMEs operating in a diverse set of enterprises, such as fashion design, welding, hair-dressing, electrical and printing, also took heavy strain during prolonged periods of load-shedding in 2012.

The case is similar in Ghana, where micro and small-scale industries (MSIs), such as cold stores, grinding mills, wood processing firms and printing presses, experienced a near 50% loss in productivity throughout 2014. In Senegal, the situation is even more dire, where 60% of SMEs reported extreme difficulties in day-to-day business operations and a quarter of the figure reported losses in sales of 10% or more during 2013. Tanzanian SMEs experienced similar impacts resulting in many having to close their doors due to a lack of power.

**Industry on the slowdown**

Larger African economies with substantial industrial sectors, such as South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana, take heavy strain when the lights go out. Multinational Corporations (MNCs) in Ghana — Coca-Cola and Unilever for example — have been forced to reduce their electricity consumption in order to prevent being disconnected from the grid entirely. During 2014, factories had to operate on a basis of “2 days off, 5 days on” in order to curb the strain on the grid, leading to decreased output and lower profits until full power was restored.

Some of the larger MNCs in Nigeria, such as Michelin, Coca-Cola and Cadbury, also experienced a similar situation that resulted in them relocating their facilities out of Nigeria to keep their business running. In the mining industry, operations in Ghana had to reduce output by up to as much as 25% in order to keep running. Similarly, mining operations in Zambia and Zimbabwe were heavily affected by South Africa’s 2008 crisis, resulting in operations in both countries halting as South Africa was unable to contribute its usual energy supply to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). Such power outages take a heavy toll on economic development and profitability. In 2014, MAN noted that in Nigeria, roughly US$ 12 million was lost every week and half of the industrial establishments in the city of Kano closed down due to the financial toll that power outages were having. These incidences of business closure were not unique to this one city as similar impacts were noted across the major industrial centres of Nigeria.

**Diesel prices increasing**

In an attempt by SMEs and other larger enterprises to self-sustain during periods of load-shedding or total blackouts, investments have been made in the purchase of diesel-powered generators in many of Africa’s largest economies. However, this method of ensuring lighting and electricity has not been without its own adverse impacts on economic development.

In Nigeria, 30% of the entire population relies on diesel for lighting and electricity. In South Africa, the use of diesel turbines by the national power provider, Eskom, in times of coal grid outages were having.

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In South Africa, the use of diesel turbines by the national power provider, Eskom, in times of coal grid constraints, has bumped up the price per kilowatt hour.

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hour to US$ 0.26-0.43 from the usual cost of US$ 0.04-0.05, which has caused a hike in electricity tariffs for consumers across the board – industry and the general public alike.\textsuperscript{19}

The case is the same in Kenya where the higher cost of thermal energy use has pushed up electricity tariffs for consumers and this does not even include the cost of the standby generators themselves.\textsuperscript{21} Other costs also increase as the use of generators becomes more predominant. In Tanzania, for example, internet cafés charge as much as 60% extra on hourly rates of internet use if they have to resort to using a generator to maintain operation.\textsuperscript{22}

**Society is suffering the most**

Inevitably, there are also general effects from the lack of a stable energy supply that impact directly upon African societies. These effects vary in nature, from riots against government to lower birth weights in new-born babies. Senegal\textsuperscript{23} and Kenya\textsuperscript{24} have both experienced rioting to a point where the national power provider in Senegal, Senelec, had offices across the country burned and looted in protest of poor service delivery. Such issues can cause governments to rapidly change policies, but this is done in an attempt to not only try and curb growing tensions, but to also remain in power. Such actions are normally in conflict with the best possible long-term solutions that could be implemented.

There are also other effects that reverberate throughout society. In Nigeria, families struggle to maintain food stocks in fresh conditions and have resorted to smaller more costly purchases as opposed to buying bulk, due to fears of prolonged power outages that could last for as long as 16 hours on hot summer days.\textsuperscript{25} Tanzanians experience a conundrum of societal effects, including disruptions in health services, income reduction per household, lower fertility rates due to stress and lower birth weight of new-borns due to increased levels of stress caused to mothers during pregnancy.\textsuperscript{26} Overall, societal development is adversely affected in times of energy constraints, with the effects of such issues far outlasting a 12-hour power outage.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{20} Salim Fakir, ‘South Africa’s energy crisis: Renewables for the rich?’, 12 January 2015, http://sacsis.org.za.
\item \textsuperscript{22} ThisDay, ‘Power rationing spells doom for economy, analysts warn’, 23 March 2010, http://www.thisday.co.tz.
\end{itemize}
Concluding remarks

Africa’s energy sector is indeed struggling to meet growing consumer demand. There are also setbacks in upgrading existing facilities in order to diversify grid supplies away from one predominant source. Government bureaucracy, lack of policy implementation and the inability to take decisive action have all left countries across the continent with the lights out. Many citizens and businesses alike have resorted to powering households and enterprises with more costly fuels, thereby driving other costs within their economies upward.

Considering the economic impacts that have emerged as a result of poor energy provision, governments will have to carefully consider all available options that will best cater for the needs of citizens and the development of their countries and economies. Diversification will be a key feature in this process, as the majority of countries are over-reliant on a single power source for their energy needs. At the same time, there is a need to address ailing energy infrastructures that are the root cause of insufficient supplies in many countries across the continent. Private sector participation in energy provision will also be key, but this needs to be well managed in order to maximise the benefits to the African population.

In this exclusive A&A interview, we discuss the energy crisis and sustainable development with Rob Short, an independent consultant with over 20 years’ experience working in the energy and environmental sectors. His interest in renewable energy and climate change began in 2000 when he joined the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) as their environmental specialist. Since then he has been involved in a number of assignments in local, provincial and national government, and the private sector, in South Africa and the Southern Africa region. This has included a period as the National Business Initiative’s (NBI) energy programme manager.

Environmental change and sustainable development pose some of the greatest challenges in meeting Africa’s increasing energy needs. What is the most important move African governments need to make at this critical juncture to ensure that the energy sector supports sustainable development? Why?

In responding to the very real and immediate needs of their citizens for improved energy access, security and affordability, countries may severely under-prioritise the depth of analysis and planning needed to ensure that all key issues are considered effectively. To avoid this pitfall, countries must develop strong institutions to drive the required long-term view across all areas of government.

This can only be done by having a solid information base on the energy sector in their countries, combined with the technical capacity to interpret it effectively. Only on this foundation can sound policy be developed and implemented, so as to create an effective enabling environment for the infrastructure programmes needed to give ultimate effect to such policy.

Which renewable energy source holds the most potential for the sustainable development of Africa’s energy sector? Why?

Any country needs a diverse set of energy supply options to manage risk – we have seen this need when we look at how countries that rely heavily on hydropower have experienced shortages in low rainfall periods. It brings us back to the need for good information, technical expertise and planning to assist governments in understanding the strengths and benefits of each potential renewable energy source, and the roles they can play in ensuring that the country has the ability to provide its citizens with the energy they require.

While great strides have been made in the use of renewable energy sources in Africa, most renewable energy production is small scale and focused on stand-alone (off-grid) rural electrification. What are the possibilities for scaling up renewable energy production to contribute significantly to national grids?

We are seeing larger-scale renewable projects feeding into national grids throughout the continent. This has come on the back of investments to improve transmission systems and an appreciation of the diversification and longer-term cost benefits of such technologies. It is also related to governments finally seeing these technologies as viable and reliable, and not just defaulting to fossil-fuel based options.
There is significant experience worldwide of various mechanisms that can be employed to increase the use of renewable energy sources in supplying national grids. Considering that renewable energy production in Africa is primarily motivated by rural electrification needs, are African governments doing enough to facilitate large-scale renewable energy production? Why/why not?

As this is still a new area of policy, governments, not unreasonably, tend to be conservative in their energy planning. Once we have more models and examples of how renewable energy projects can support a country’s energy needs in the longer term, there will be a more rapid adoption of such technologies. This will be assisted by countries sharing their experiences and lessons learnt - a process that is being usefully assisted by a number of international development organisations.

How important could regional integration and cooperation be for large-scale power generation and transmission, and cross-border trade in energy in order to help meet Africa’s energy demands?

As is the case with many different types of infrastructure, regional integration has real benefits in terms of improving efficiency and market opportunities. The Grand Inga Hydropower project is an example of a project that needs effective regional cooperation to really deliver on its massive potential for positive spin-offs in Southern Africa.

How important will China’s infrastructure investments in Africa be for developing the energy sector to meet its full potential? Why?

In order to develop its energy sector, the continent will need a whole range of international partners to be involved, not just China – which is of course, and will be, a significant player. This cooperation will need to be in areas of financing, institutional development and technology transfer.

The point needs to be made again though that to ensure that this cooperation assists us in delivering on the developmental needs of the continent’s citizens, we need to develop our own capacity to ensure that the relationships are not one-sided. The need for the continent to have strong and effective institutions in this sector with strong political support that can act decisively and can take a long-term view cannot be over-emphasised.

How important is the issue of energy access?

Addressing the supply issue is one side of the equation. The other side is ensuring that communities have access to energy on a consistent basis to build the sustainable livelihoods they all aspire to and to ensure that a country’s economic base (and specifically its industrial base) is supported in its on-going operation and further development.

The negative impacts of not getting this right can be seen by the problems South Africa is currently experiencing as a result of load shedding. This is a result of poor decision-making and the associated lack of investment stretching back a decade or more. In South Africa’s case this is further compounded by the ageing nature of its distribution and transmission networks. If there is no shared, common national vision and understanding of the challenges faced, the energy sector will not be able to effectively support a country’s national development objectives.

Can Africa overcome its energy sector challenges in the near future to achieve the sustainable production of modern, high quality and reliable energy for the majority of citizens?

Answering this question feels a bit like answering the question whether an African team will ever win the FIFA World Cup. Of course the answer is yes. What it will require though is solid, on-going work over an extended period of time, built around strong institutions that continually develop their capacity to analyse, act and learn. It’s not going to be a smooth path and is of course materially linked to the context in which energy policy and implementation occurs. This means that without good governance, committed civil servants and the active participation of the different stakeholders in society to support such a vision, our energy sectors won’t be able to deliver the energy services our citizens require and deserve.
(DRC) - Closure and intermittent Operations of the Trade Marks & Patents office

Recent incidents of political instability and unrest in Kinshasa have led to the DRC IP Office being closed for a week. As of the 4 February 2015, the office remains closed and its current operational hours are dependant upon the situation on the ground. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on developments.

Please click here or contact us for more information.

Domain Name Disputes: Kenya

The Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC) prescribes a Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy of ADRP) and Regulation similar to ICANN’s UDRP. In terms of Kenya’s ADRP, a complaint in a domain name dispute may request the cancellation or transfer to it of a domain name registered in the .co.ke domain name space. However, until recently, KENIC’s ADRP was not operational and only existed in theory.

Please or contact us for more information.

Trade Marks of Affairs in Libya

The functioning of the Libyan Trade Marks Office has been affected by the ongoing civil unrest in the country. Although it has been confirmed that the office is currently operational, it is necessary to consider recent political events that have influenced the administration of the country. Since the Trade Marks office is under the control of the Fajr Libya Militia, it cannot be guaranteed that all processes concluded during this time will be considered valid once the political conflict is resolved. In light of the current situation, it should be noted that trade mark applications filed during this time face an uncertain future.

Please or contact us for more information.

Steve Biko Autopsy Case. A Privelage

Adams & Adams is privileged to be involved in a case of national and historical importance, alongside Advocate Goerge Bizos, and on behalf of the Biko family and Steve Biko Foundation. It had come to the attention of the family and foundation that an original autopsy report of the late Steve Biko was scheduled to be sold at auction on December 1, 2014 in Johannesburg. The Biko family, together with the Steve Biko Foundation, strongly opposes the sale of this historic document and filed a successful urgent interdict to prevent its sale. Delivery of the documents will form part of the next legal application.

Please or contact us for more information.

Ethiopia - New Registrar Appointed

With effect from 6 March 2015, Mr. Teshale Yana has been appointed as the Director-General of the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office (EIPPO). The EIPPO had been under an Acting Director, Mr. Girma Bejiga, since 5 January 2015 following the termination of the mandate of the former Director-General, Mr. Berhanu Adello, on the same day. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on developments.

Please or contact us for more information.

Seychelles - New Industrial Property Act

The Seychelles Parliament recently passed the new Industrial Property Act 7 of 2014, which makes important changes in respect of the protection of Trade Marks, Industrial Designs and Patents. The new Act will come into force with effect from 1 March 2015 and an increase in official fees is expected. For more information on the Industrial Property Act 7 of 2014.

Please or contact us for more information.
The Sandton Convention Centre will host over 80 leaders and top innovators in the energy industry and government utilities from 26 African countries at the 18th annual Power & Electricity World Conference and Exhibition, from 24-25 March 2015.

Featuring presentations by Dr Robert Stoner, Priyanka Bakaya, Dr Matthew L. Scullin and Jothi Periasamy — named by the World Economic Forum and The Economist, among others, as the finest innovators and entrepreneurs in the energy space — the event promises to deliver unparalleled insight into the challenges in meeting Africa’s energy demands as well as the opportunities afforded by the energy resources on the continent.

The exhibition, which attracted 5,000 attendees and 300 exhibitors in 2014, will give leading energy authorities and international experts the opportunity to connect with new customers, showcase their brands and share their products and solutions with the energy industry’s top decision makers. Power & Electricity World 2015 features a broad range of co-located events, including Clean Energy World, The Solar Show, Energy Efficiency World and the Water Show. Nominations are now also open for the prestigious Africa Energy Awards to be presented at a gala dinner in recognition of successes and achievements of standards of excellence in the energy industry in Africa.

Other upcoming events of note…

**Nigerian Oil & Gas 2015: Strategic Conference and International Exhibition**  
16-19 March, 2015  
ICC, Abuja, Nigeria  
For more information: [http://www.cwcnog.com](http://www.cwcnog.com)

**Africa Future Energy Forum**  
18-19 March, 2015  
Venue TBC, Nairobi, Kenya  
For more information: [http://africanfutureenergyforum.com](http://africanfutureenergyforum.com)

**18th Annual Power & Electricity World Africa**  
24-25 March, 2015  
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa  
For more information: [http://www.terrapinn.com](http://www.terrapinn.com)

**4th East Africa Oil and Gas Expo**  
27-29 April, 2015  
Venue TBC, Nairobi, Kenya  
For more information: [http://www.expogr.com](http://www.expogr.com)

**15th Annual African Utility Week and Clean Power Africa**  
12-14 May, 2015  
CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa  
For more information: [http://www.african-utility-week.com](http://www.african-utility-week.com)

**SECUREX South Africa**  
12-14 May, 2015  
Gallagher Estate, Johannesburg, South Africa  
For more information: [http://www.securex.co.za](http://www.securex.co.za)

**African Construction Expo 2015**  
12-14 May, 2015  
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa  
For more information: [http://www.construction-week.com](http://www.construction-week.com)

**2nd Uganda Mining, Energy, Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition**  
20-21 May, 2015  
Serena Hotel, Kampala, Uganda  
For more information: [http://www.umec-uganda.com](http://www.umec-uganda.com)
INTA 2015 ADAMS & ADAMS
AFRICA BREAKFAST SEMINAR

Adams & Adams, voted by MIP as the top IP Law firm in Africa, will be hosting a breakfast seminar to provide updates on IP developments in Africa. The seminar will include presentations on filing strategies for trade marks, patents and industrial designs, use of the Madrid system in Africa, enforcement and anti-counterfeiting activities on the continent.

Date: 5 May 2015
Time: 7:30am - 9:30am
Venue: Hard Rock Hotel
Room: Legends Ballroom
Address: 207 5th Avenue, San Diego

www.adamsadams.com

MEET THE TEAM
INTA 2015

Adams & Adams will be attending the 137th Annual INTA Meeting being held in San Diego. We are proud to introduce this year’s team and we look forward to meeting you.
Adams & Adams strives to provide its clients with the necessary legal guidance to navigate the African business enigma, and with this quarterly report, your (un)fair advantage as an Adams & Adams client is significantly enhanced to ensure your success with and within Africa.

The next edition of the Adams & Adams Africa Focus is scheduled for release in June 2015 and will be jam-packed with more insightful commentary and analysis on Africa, as well as updates on key developments across the continent, interviews with major role-players, event picks and much more.

In consideration of your needs and interests as our clients, which evolve with the ebb and flow of the African business environment, we welcome your input and suggestions for future editions of this publication. Our goal, after all, is to enrich your experience as a valued Adams & Adams client.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Siyabonga kakhulu (We thank you very much).

Please send any feedback or queries that you may have to africaip@adamsadams.com.

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