

South Africa Bio-Energy Atlas Launch

24 March 2017

Programme Director, Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Minister Naledi Pandor, other dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed an honour for me as Chairman of SAIPPA to share the stage with individuals from across South Africa that are doing excellent work in improving the lives of ordinary South Africans.

Minister Pandor, your Department is doing great work in contributing to South Africa's transition to renewable energy and to formalise the establishment of the bio-energy industry.

Of utmost importance are the principles of inclusivity, addressing energy poverty and stimulating economic opportunities in our drive to provide energy to communities currently not receiving such services.

The Department's commitment of living up to its mandate to use science and technology to improve the country's economy, create employment and improve the quality of life of all citizens is commendable.

Mega trends determining our future are the impact of climate change, the development of technology at an increased pace according to Mohr's law, and changing demographics world-wide.

Bio-energy should therefore be incorporated into modern energy services as a significant contributor to the energy industry and to the bio-economy.

Bio-energy will play an important role in the future energy mix of South Africa and Africa.

The world class Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme, launched by the Department of Energy and managed by the IPP office since 2011 created private investment in the energy sector order of R200bn by the end of 2015 and will lead to local communities receiving R29bn for the 20 year period of the projects' life span.

It has set the stage for South Africa's transformation into a low carbon, renewable energy future. The Bio-Energy Atlas is a next step in this transformation. Together with the Wind Energy Atlas of the Department of Energy, the Carbon Sinks Atlas as published by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Renewable Energy Toolkit as developed by Promethium Carbon to guide project development on mine impacted land it will play an important role in establishing this low carbon future.

South African carbon sink stocks are located 80% in natural systems and 94% of it is in the soil. The development of the Bio-Energy industry will improve this situation by impacting cultivation of energy crops without negatively impacting food and water security.

We look forward to a low carbon energy future in which solar, wind and gas (and specifically bio-mass and bio-gas) plays a major role in the lowest cost energy mix.

SAIPPA and its members will utilize the Bio-Energy Atlas to develop new, distributed energy projects which will positively impact local content, job creation, black ownership, management and control, sustainable human settlements and eradication of poverty and inequality.

One of our members, Exxaro Resources will in the near future develop Micro-grid projects combining wind, solar and bio-mass to energy technology to bring energy to communities in South Africa and Africa that don't have access to sustainable, affordable and reliable energy. The first pilot project will be constructed on mine impacted land during 2017 and 2018 and the information as presented in this Bio-Energy Atlas will form part of the roadmap in executing these projects.

SAIPPA and its members are commending the Department of Science and Technology for the role it is playing in transforming the country's energy mix to a more sustainable, low carbon future.

Let's work together to utilize the outputs of the Bio-Energy Atlas to improve the lives of ordinary South Africans.