

REPORT : POLICY DIALOGUE RESOURCE EXTRACTION, DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA 24TH - 25TH APRIL 2024



INTRODUCTION

This report presents the key discussions and insights from the two-day Strategic Policy Dialogue on energy transition in South Africa, held at the Protea Hotel Wanderers in Johannesburg on the 24th - 25th of April 2024. The dialogue, convened by the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) in partnership with the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC), brought together representatives from major political parties to explore the complexities of energy transition discourse within the context of political party perspectives. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the discussions, analyses, and proposed strategies for shaping South Africa's energy future, as well as the implications for the nation's trajectory, economy, and environment.

BACKGROUND

As South Africa approaches a pivotal moment with the forthcoming elections, the dialogue around energy policy is important. The dialogue aimed to explore the complexities of energy transition discourse within the context of political party perspectives, offering a platform for comprehensive exploration and analysis of each party's vision for shaping South Africa's energy future. The choices made in energy policy formulation and implementation will have far-reaching implications for the nation's trajectory, people, economy, and environment for future generations. The dialogue brought together representatives from South Africa's major political parties, such as the African National Congress (ANC) to the Democratic Alliance (DA), the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), and the African Transformation Movement (ATM), the dialogue highlighted a spectrum of ideologies, visions, and strategies for navigating the complex terrain of energy transition.

WELCOMING REMARKS

The first day commenced with the program facilitator, Dr. Siphumelele Duma, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Pan-African Thought and Conversation, introducing Dr. Claude Kabemba, Executive Director of the Southern Africa Resource.

Dr Kabemba gave opening remarks to the policy dialogue by introducing the Southern Africa Resource Watch as an institution that invests in the good governance of natural resources in Southern Africa. Dr Kabemba outlined that SARW's main headquarters are in Johannesburg, and other offices are in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. He emphasised that the upcoming elections on the 29th of May 2024 offered an opportunity for political parties to convene in this two-day policy dialogue to address the critical issue of access to clean and affordable energy in South Africa. Furthermore, Dr Kabemba stressed that key issues included access to sustainable energy, alignment with international agreements like the Paris Agreement, and ensuring economic growth and job creation. Policymaking around critical minerals, the lack of policies in South Africa, and the need for a unified approach were highlighted. Collaborative efforts within discussions were seen as crucial for effectively anticipating and adapting to power dynamics in energy markets and transitioning towards cleaner practices.



The program continued with the introduction of Diplomatic Fellow Ambassador Jerry Matjila, who acknowledged the meeting as a very healthy form of interaction with various political players in South African Society. The issue of resource extraction and sustainable development was highlighted as a critical issue that is central to the economy, society, and future in South Africa. Matjila defined the discourse on sustainable development and climate change as a dialogue as the nature of the discussion aimed to explore, subject and resolve a problem. Ambassador Matjila added that when South Africa is confronted with an issue, the country has never failed to see the long term.

Matjila expressed his desire to witness the panellists sharing their research and observations of the country's history, including the

Chinese arrival in the 1880s for diamond mining, gold, coal, iron ore, and platinum mining and the history of extraction and its impact on South Africa as well as the destination market of extraction. The Ambassador continued to outline South Africa as a country that has enriched the world, especially the economies of Western Europe. He asked an important question: Have South Africa's minerals enhanced the country? The Ambassador also suggested that the discussions should centre around the history of policies discussed in the past, including those related to the extraction economy, energy, and environment in South Africa.

Ambassador Matjila continued to suggest that the distinguished political party panellists discuss:

- The 200-year history of South Africa's extraction industry shows that it has been a significant part of the country's economy since the 1880s.
- The reasons behind energy and climate policies and the need for further reform.
- The value chain of mineral extraction highlights that we are at the bottom of the chain, lacking wealth, prosperity, skills, and knowledge.
- Climate change, its impact on society, food security, energy, and how to climb the value chain and benefits.
- Rain patterns in Western and Eastern Cape.
- Decarbonisation of the world.
- The energy transition and using wind, solar, and hydro technologies.

The program continued with the keynote address presented by Ms Ruse Moleshe, Managing Director of RUBK Energy and Infrastructure. Moleshe emphasised the importance of considering energy resources from a South African perspective. Countries like Norway and the US, which were once heavily dependent on Middle Eastern resources, are now self-sufficient due to the security of fuel supply. Moleshe stated South Africa heavily relies on petroleum products for transportation, which impacts its economy and competitiveness. She suggested that focusing on these aspects is crucial to ensure the country's energy security and competitiveness. Moleshe also highlighted the need to consider the impact of reliance on imports and the security of supply on the economy.

Moleshe continued to stress that South Africa has abundant resources, including coal, renewable energy, and gas. However, these resources still need to be developed, and the debate is centred on whether to use coal or energy. She added that the security of supply is insecure, as most gas has been closed. Most gas's contribution to equity, supply security, and environmental considerations must be more questionable. She used an example of a town that was built



on mosques using indigenous gas, which was not imported. She highlighted that importing gas can lead to inflation due to price fluctuations.

Moleshe pointed out the advantages of gas, such as supporting renewable energy supply, which has sustainability benefits. However, she mentioned that the renewable energy supply is intermittent and requires a flexible supply. Today, diesel is used to meet this requirement, as it is the only option available. Therefore, developing renewable energy sources is crucial for the country's energy security.

Moleshe emphasises the need for a holistic approach to energy debates, focusing on regional energy plans rather than electricity. She highlighted Namibia's progress in gas development, particularly in the Orange Basin, and the need for a more holistic approach. She suggests South Africa should focus on developing renewable energy, which accounts for almost 10% of the country's electricity system. Moleshe pointed out that the current debates and conflicts are hindering progress and conflicting with each other rather than addressing the country's development interests. Lastly, Moleshe addressed the need to prepare to engage with the G20 on energy mix and extraction issues.

POLITICAL PARTY POSITION STATEMENTS ON RESOURCE EXTRACTION, RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RELATED ISSUES.

This session commenced with Mister Vusi Gumbi from the Institute of Pan-African Thought and Conversation, establishing the sequence for political parties to present their position statements. Key parties like the ANC, Democratic Alliance, EFF, and IFP participated. Panel experts were assigned to engage during these sessions.

African National Congress (ANC) Position Statement



- Zuko Godlimpi, a National Executive Committee Member of the ANC, tackled security, equity, and sustainability issues within energy resource extraction. He highlighted the historical significance of coal in global industrial revolutions and South Africa's economic growth, mainly centred around regions like Mpumalanga. The discourse extended to ecological concerns and the challenges of an equitable energy transition within capitalist structures.

- Gordlimpi pointed out disputes regarding transition speeds per agreements like the Paris Agreement, influenced by economic factors affecting nations like Germany, China, and India. The ANC advocated a balanced method, replacing coal with nuclear energy while addressing social and economic impacts such as job displacement in coal-dependent areas, striving for a fair and sustainable energy shift.

- In conclusion, Gordlimpi emphasised the need for transitions to harmonise environmental responsibility and social fairness, critiquing states' actions against their climate change commitments. The focus remained on navigating towards cleaner energy sources while upholding global responsibilities in climate change mitigation efforts.

Democratic Alliance (DA) Position Statement

- Solly Msimanga Gauteng, Provincial Leader of the Democratic Alliance, emphasised the need to develop skills and infrastructure to support new economic sectors like renewable energy. He highlighted the agreement on climate change but criticised the governing party's lack of action in transitioning to renewable energy. He also pointed out the importance of building local capacity in technology production and re-skilling the significant workforce in South Africa's mineral sector to transition away from fossil fuels.

- From the DA perspective, proactive policymaking benefits local communities by addressing historical injustices like waste management near townships. Msimanga advocates for revising curricula, enforcing accountability in environmental rehabilitation by mining companies, and repurposing existing skills towards sustainable sectors. The focus is also on holding companies accountable for ecological rehabilitation post-mining activities while re-training workers for new sustainable industries. The overarching



goal is environmental conservation and social equity through forward-thinking policies aligned with evolving economic demands.

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Position Statement



- Dr Gumani Tshimomola from the Economic Freedom Fighters emphasised the policy dialogue shift in South Africa, focusing on the historical context's influence on current discussions and the impact of external funding on dialogues and policies.
- Dr. Tshimomola called for challenging traditional approaches, particularly in energy security and economic policy. Tshimomola underscored the importance of utilising natural resources effectively to transparently address societal issues like unemployment and poverty through strategic planning.
- Energy security was a central theme in the EFF's position, as Tshimomola advocated for coal use optimisation and considered nuclear energy with innovative financing and highlighted the need for a comprehensive strategy in mineral resource beneficiation.
- Tshimomola also proposed public-owned initiatives with job creation objectives. This holistic approach aimed to rectify past mining practices and foster sustainable development in line with climate change concerns.

Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Position Statement



- Member of Parliament and IFP representative Narend Singh highlighted the IFP's Manifesto position on energy systems, which is focused on energy systems, resource extraction, and climate change impacts in South Africa. The IFP emphasised energy load shedding, a mixed energy system, and responsible resource extraction for socio-economic development. Singh highlighted challenges in balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability, focusing on energy security and global climate goals. Transitioning to renewable energy sources was stressed amidst governance struggles affecting essential services and exacerbating inequalities.
- Singh identified priorities such as sustainable extraction methods, fair compensation for communities, economic diversification, and enforcing regulations on resource extraction.
- Suggestions included investing in research, developing safer technologies, and skills transfer. The dialogue extended to international cooperation for sustainable resource

management and transparent revenue from extractions. Carbon footprint trading schemes were debated to ensure fair local community benefits.

- Lastly, Singh emphasised protecting biodiversity through conservation zones and policies for socio-economic growth alongside environmental preservation in South Africa, envisioning a prosperous future.

African Transformation Movement (ATM) Position Statement

- Zama Ntshona from the African Transformation Movement (ATM) discussed the significance of coal, gas, and oil extraction in addressing energy deficits and economic challenges in South Africa.
- Ntshona emphasised responsible resource utilisation and highlighted the potential for job creation, poverty alleviation, and economic growth through strategic planning.
- ATM's position emphasised balancing modernisation and environmental sustainability while transitioning to cleaner energy sources. Ntshona advocated for cautious resource exploitation alongside investments in renewable energy technologies for a seamless shift that maintains societal and economic stability.
- To address global carbon emission disparities, Ntshona highlighted South Africa's contributions compared to significant emitters like China and the United States, urging a focus on citizens' well-being during the transition from fossil fuels. Ntshona called for parallel systems to meet immediate needs while preparing for future energy solutions, avoiding challenges from rushed decisions or adapting to changing standards. Proposals included investing in renewable energy sources, promoting energy efficiency measures, developing green technologies like electric vehicles, and implementing carbon pricing mechanisms to incentivise carbon footprint reduction.
- Ntshona concluded his statement by reinforcing ATM's commitment to responsibly leveraging existing coal resources while steering towards a more sustainable economy aligned with international treaties and local priorities. Their vision centres on creating a sustainable future that supports economic development and environmental stewardship by advocating for a harmonious approach to energy transition.



Rise Mzansi Position Statement



- Neshan Dinat, National Policy Analyst from Rise Msansi, addressed implementing carbon pricing mechanisms to tackle environmental challenges, emphasising societal transformation and citizens' well-being across generations. Dinat highlighted the importance of a green energy mix in driving South Africa towards safety and prosperity, advocating for a shift away from coal as the primary electricity source.
- Rize Mzansi's position focused on promoting responsible mining practices in South Africa to bolster tax revenues and foreign exchange earnings. Critical mineral supply chains were identified as key supporters of a just energy transition.
- The necessity of transitioning from extractive industries to competitive mining frameworks was underscored, stressing innovation as a pivotal driver for change. The role of gas exploration in the energy mix, alongside advancements like hydrogen and data-driven decision-making, was explored.
- Collaboration among unions, Eskom, and local governments was emphasised to ensure a smooth transition and the protection of workers. Overall, Rise Mzansi focused on balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability, considering technological progress as a means to a cleaner, more efficient energy future.

Build One South Africa Position Statement

- Build One South Africa's position statement was led by National Communications Director Ayanda Allie. Allie delved into resource extraction challenges in South Africa. She highlighted concerns regarding acid mine drainage, inadequate enforcement of social labour plans, and lapses in environmental impact assessments. She emphasised the urgent need for action to rectify these longstanding issues.
- Build One South Africa's vision centres on responsible resource extraction and sustainable development. The approach involves empowering communities through initiatives focused on revitalising small towns, enhancing infrastructure such as schools and clinics, and supporting rural development to tackle urbanisation challenges. It advocates for transitioning from mining-dependent economies to diverse, sustainable economic growth.
- The discussion reiterated the importance of balancing resource extraction with sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Build One South Africa supports job creation while prioritising environmental sustainability through green practices like renewable energy and responsible entrepreneurship. The focus is on fostering a strong economy that benefits communities while safeguarding the environment.
- In conclusion, Allie highlighted the significance of indigenous knowledge inclusion in effectively addressing environmental challenges. Integrating traditional wisdom with scientific knowledge was underscored as vital for holistic solutions. The call was made to incorporate indigenous perspectives into environmental decision-making processes to promote a unified approach to creating a sustainable future for all stakeholders.



Action SA Position Statement

- Mpho Madisha Action SA's Head of Energy and Mineral Resources emphasised the party's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 and increasing energy production through renewable sources such as solar energy to combat climate change.
- Action SA advocates for science-driven policy positions that focus on sustainability, innovation and increasing investment in research and development to address challenges such as mineral resource beneficiation, recycling and economic growth.
- They promote the importance of addressing issues such as crime, corruption and undocumented exploitation while emphasising the need for long-term strategic planning considering finite fossil fuel reserves towards adopting renewable energy solutions such as small modular reactors.
- In conclusion, Action SA highlights the significance of addressing climate change with a focus on the well-being of humanity by preserving the environment and ensuring economically sound policies. They call for proactive measures such as developing deep mining expertise, research into CO2 emissions and impactful decision-making led by capable individuals to ensure a sustainable future.



Access the Statements of all the political parties here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSlrgXxI69M>

Reflections

The first day ended with Hassen Lorgat's observations on political manifestos, which criticised parties for neglecting historical context. Concerns included more accountability in regulatory bodies like the ESCOM and companies' externalisation of social costs. Marginalisation of communities like Mpumalanga was highlighted. Civil society's role in holding the government accountable, especially regarding derelict mines, was emphasised, stressing the need for better oversight and intergovernmental coordination. The focus extended to environmental issues in mining-affected areas, emphasising health disparities near mining sites.

Lorgat's reflection called for a coherent national strategy to ensure the mutually beneficial exploitation of mineral resources without compromising local interests or environmental sustainability. The need for ethical considerations in mining-centric development was underscored, especially concerning issues like water supply contamination and long-term community well-being. The emphasis was on prioritising sustainable practices aligning with community needs over pursuing economic gains.

A PANEL OF EXPERTS TO RESPOND TO THE POSITIONS PRESENTED BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES

Day 2 commenced with a recap of day one provided by the day's facilitator, Darlington Muyambwa, Program Manager at the Southern Africa Resource Watch. The session consisted of a panel of experts responding to the positions presented by the political parties on the previous day.

Response from the Institute for Global Dialogue

- Ashraf Patel led this response from the Institute of Global Dialogue. Patel acknowledged panel discussion on policy proposals from the political parties. He mentioned that the talks aimed to bridge the gap between industry narratives and ground realities, focusing on issues like resource governance and climate change. Each party presented policy ideas, emphasising the need for a Southern African perspective to tackle challenges effectively.
- One key point was the disparity between foreign investments' positive narratives and job losses and poverty in mining towns. The impact of new technologies leading to mass retrenchments highlighted systemic issues requiring political attention. There was mention of ideological influences on policy choices, especially in the energy sector, where conflicting visions within parties could complicate post-election scenarios.
- Patel pointed out that the discussions touched on the importance of considering Africa-wide frameworks for resource governance and the need for more focus on regulatory mechanisms beyond policy proposals. The meeting highlighted the urgent need for political parties to address complex issues facing citizens. It stressed the significance of integrating a more holistic approach towards governance policies to ensure sustainable and equitable regional development.

Response from the South African Climate Action Network



- Thandolwethu Lukoko led the response involving the Climate Action Network South Africa. He stressed the importance of historical context in policy development concerning energy and climate change. Emphasis was placed on considering the geopolitics of energy for a comprehensive approach. Lukoko voiced concerns about strengthening relationships between political parties, academic institutions, and civil society organisations in shaping responsive policies.
- Lukoko discussed the necessity of a maturing democracy with increased idea contestation among political parties to prevent

stagnation. Lukoko also called for long-term foresight in policy-making, looking beyond election cycles and avoiding the "resource curse." Strategic planning towards sustainable development over decades was highlighted as crucial.

- Lukoko called for deeper engagement with geopolitics and inclusive partnerships across sectors for well-informed policy decisions. It was recommended to foster a mature democratic space with diverse voices contributing to long-term national visions, transcending immediate political cycles. Safeguarding against potential pitfalls like resource conflicts within the continent's rich mineral resources landscape was emphasised.

Response from Institute from the South African Institute for International Affairs

- Nerissa Muthayan, a research fellow at the South African Institute of International Affairs, stressed the significance of focusing on energy transition in international relations and upcoming elections, emphasising the necessity of moving away from coal and fossil fuels for policy-making autonomy.
- She highlighted South Africa's commitment to an energy transition through agreements like the JETP partnership deal signed at COP 26. She advocated for just transitions by considering international standards and climate change impacts and addressing the ongoing energy crisis affecting citizens and economic progress.
- Nerissa called for diversifying the energy matrix towards renewable sources for sustainable development, ensuring marginalised communities are not adversely affected by job losses. She urged increased climate change awareness, incorporation of indigenous knowledge, redefining development models suitable for South Africa, and promotion of regional integration and global South cooperation.
- Furthermore, Nerissa pointed out opportunities from Brazil's G20 presidency in addressing critical issues like hunger, inequality, poverty, and climate change with a global south perspective. She emphasised aligning national interests with international platforms such as BRICS expansion while stressing internal coherence among political parties for effective engagement on global stages.



Response from Institute from the Institute for Security Studies

- Kgaugelo Mkumbeni from the Institute for Security Studies stressed the importance of transitioning towards greener energy while ensuring energy security. She urged a transition in economic models towards sustainability and inclusivity, emphasising renewable energy sources and climate governance strategies.



development discussions.

- Mkumbeni makes calls to address spatial injustices, promote youth skills development, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 through strategic resource allocation.
- Mkumbeni's response focused on diversified energy portfolios, enhanced climate finance mechanisms, and clear strategies for just transitions and equitable resource distribution.
- Mkumbeni advocated for specific targets over vague aspirations to drive impactful change swiftly amidst the pressing climate crisis. Bold action was urged to tackle urgent environmental challenges head-on with practical solutions, emphasising the need for international and local perspectives in

- Mkumbeni also called for political parties to outline innovative technology integration and urban planning reforms. They emphasise the need for bold action, highlighting the urgency of balancing current needs with long-term environmental goals for a sustainable and inclusive future.

Response from Institute from Stellenbosch University

- Dr Stephanie Borchardt from Stellenbosch University highlighted South Africa's heavy reliance on coal and the urgent need for a transition in energy sources to address environmental and social consequences.
- Renewable energy emerged as a critical solution, emphasising its cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and the necessity to reduce coal dependency. Challenges and opportunities related to renewable energy implementation were outlined, stressing accelerated adoption supported by proper infrastructure development.
- Borchardt underscored informed decision-making, acknowledging the impact of energy choices and emphasising the importance of sustainability.
- Borchardt raised concerns regarding gas extraction, particularly shale gas drilling, detailing environmental impacts, health hazards, and social injustices. The importance of Accountability and transparency in mining practices was highlighted, emphasising the need for stricter regulations prioritising community involvement and land rights protection.



CLOSING STATEMENTS FROM POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES

Closing Statement from Action SA

- Mpho Madisha from Action SA discussed long-term planning beyond 30 to 50 years for transitioning toward renewable energy.
- Madisha focused on distinguishing between targeting fossil fuels and CO2 emissions in combating climate change. Emphasis was placed on creating effective narratives that align parties on common ground. The significance of policy positions, aspirational manifestos, and individuals behind policies was emphasised for implementation.
- Madisha highlighted the necessity of ongoing engagement post-elections and committed to collectively addressing challenges. Effective manifesto presentation was discussed in the context of community participation and practicality. Addressing political will challenges for successful outcomes was identified as a critical concern requiring capable leadership.



Closing Statement from Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)

- Inkatha Freedom Party's representative, Anthony Mitchell, discussed challenges in mining, focusing on rehabilitation, illegal mining, and the need for specialised policing. Mitchell supported local beneficiation in South Africa's mining sector, raised concerns about sustainable development, and transitioned to renewable energy. The importance of engaging with experts to address complex issues effectively was emphasised. Environmental engagement efforts and calls for stricter regulations on harmful mining activities were highlighted, advocating direct and indirect methods to influence parliament.
- Mitchell's closing statement emphasised the significance of voting as a fundamental right to influence Parliament directly. Citizens were encouraged to actively participate in parliamentary processes by attending debates, submissions, petitions, or

contacting MPs. Indirect engagements included staying informed through official channels like lobbying outside parliament. **Mitchell** expressed appreciation for event organisers and invited continued collaboration, urging individuals to stay involved in political processes for positive change.

Closing Statement from African Transformation Movement (ATM)

- Zama Ntshona from ATM emphasised the need for knowledgeable individuals in decision-making; concerns included a lack of awareness on pressing issues like climate change prioritised by some communities over immediate needs. The impact of international interests on local resources was stressed for societal well-being.
- Energy transition challenges were thoroughly analysed, including electricity provision and generation capacity planning. The African Transformation Movement identified issues like load shedding, reliance on diesel power backup, power plant inefficiencies, and delays in construction projects, aiming for electoral growth.
- Climate change emerges as a critical concern, highlighting communities prioritising immediate needs over long-term threats. Safeguarding against external influences for future societal well-being was a crucial point, given international interests' impact on local resources and movements.
- Political independence was underscored for societal growth, emphasising knowledgeable individuals in decision-making.
- ATM advocated addressing challenges like load shedding, reliance on diesel power backup, power plant inefficiencies, and construction delays.



Closing Statement from Rise Mzansi

- Mitchel Black from Rise Mzansi's concerns at the meeting emphasised the lack of focus on the climate crisis in political discussions, highlighting the urgent need for action. Black proposed a shift towards participatory democracy and involving experts in decision-making processes to address governance issues effectively. Discussing resource extraction, development, and climate change, Black stressed the importance of reimagining development beyond Western standards and considering environmental implications in all societal aspects, including production patterns and energy security.
- Black also addressed challenges like greenhouse gas emissions, advocating for a transition to renewable energy sources, industry regulations, and sustainable production patterns. They underscored the long-term impacts of current practices on future generations, emphasising the need for strategic mitigation measures. Additionally, Black outlined critical principles for tackling the climate crisis, creating new job opportunities in green industries to ensure inclusivity, prioritising marginalised communities through intersectional policies, and emphasising community efforts in food security and disaster management.
- The discussion further detailed the interconnected nature of resource extraction, development, and climate change. Black highlighted the need to consider environmental implications in all societal aspects, emphasising the importance of reimagining development beyond Western standards.
- Addressing specific challenges, Black emphasised the importance of adopting policies with an intersectional approach to prioritise marginalised communities and advocated for new leadership with bold visions to create a safe, prosperous, and equal South Africa within one generation.



CRITICAL REFLECTIONS BY DR. CLAUDE KABEMBA



- Dr Kabemba began by addressing energy transition and political parties' roles in an electoral democracy, stressing voter education on sustainable energy. Dr Kabemba recognised that there was agreement on the importance of tackling climate change, yet concerns over transitioning to a zero-carbon economy are due to financial and technological limitations. Strategising communication with rural voters emerged as a primary challenge.
- Dr Kabemba discussed leveraging Africa's producer power in critical minerals for renewable energy production. The role of geopolitics, particularly considering powers like China and Africa's integration initiatives, such as ACFTA, was emphasised.
- Dr Kabemba made critical points about positioning Africa amidst changing global dynamics and utilising renewable energy for economic development.
- Emphasis was placed on the need for comprehensive policies, governance, research investment, and community engagement to drive successful energy transition initiatives. Accountability from both government and mining companies was highlighted.

- In conclusion, Dr Kabemba urged that achieving a just energy transition demands ambitious, actionable plans from political parties with precise funding mechanisms, maintaining credibility, transparency, and accountability. Collective leadership consensus on robust policies and building adequate government capacity were identified as imperative for successful sustainable energy solutions.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the two-day Strategic Policy Dialogue on energy transition in South Africa provided a comprehensive platform for representatives from major political parties to explore and analyse the complexities of energy transition discourse within the context of their respective party perspectives. The discussions, analyses, and proposed strategies presented during the dialogue shed light on the critical issue of access to clean and affordable energy in South Africa and its implications for the nation's trajectory, economy, and environment.

The dialogue highlighted the diverse ideologies, visions, and strategies of political parties, from the African National Congress (ANC) to the Democratic Alliance (DA), the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), and the African Transformation Movement (ATM). It emphasised the need for collaborative efforts and a unified approach to effectively anticipate and adapt to power dynamics in energy markets while transitioning towards cleaner practices.

Furthermore, the dialogue emphasised the significance of aligning energy policies with international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, ensuring sustainable energy access, and promoting economic growth and job creation. The historical context of South Africa's extraction industry and its impact on its economy, society, and environment was also a key point of discussion.

The insights and proposed strategies presented during the dialogue will undoubtedly contribute to shaping South Africa's energy future. They will serve as valuable inputs for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and the public. As South Africa approaches a critical juncture with the forthcoming elections, the outcomes of this dialogue will play a pivotal role in informing and influencing energy policy formulation and implementation for the benefit of the nation and future generations.

