

Sawea, Sapvia launch skills development programme

Two of the renewable sector's representative bodies have collaborated to launch an innovative programme to drive change, enhance the local skills base and ensure South Africa reaps the full benefits of a decarbonised economy.



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The South African Wind Energy Association (Sawea) and South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (Sapvia) want to ensure that local developers, current or potential, can access the knowledge and expertise needed to take projects from development through due diligence, financial close right up to commissioning. Therefore the Developing Developers programme is designed to address the gaps in the local industry and ensure effective knowledge sharing across the value chain of South Africa's nascent renewables sector.

"Historically we have relied on much-needed foreign investment and know-how, but the time has come for South Africans to step up and step into the role of developer. We have so much to gain by empowering local communities and upskilling individuals across the RE value chain," Niveshen Govender, Sapvia chief operating officer says.

"We have set ambitious targets for the growth of renewables, with wind and solar PV set to take precedence in the low-carbon and renewable economy. The potential for South Africa is unprecedented, not least the potential financial rewards that could be reaped on both an individual and collective level," says Ntombifuthi Ntuli, Sawea chief executive officer.

"The Developing Developers series will be the first of our initiatives to drive effective change and build local competence to a global standard so we can develop world-leading projects that will deliver the energy security and supply we desperately need," Govender says.

Workshops

Sawea represents the interests of over 100 members who are invested in the South African wind power value chain and Sapvia is the representative voice for more than 370 companies in the solar PV industry in South Africa.

The two organisations have partnered with the IPP Office, REEFSA and the Black Energy Professionals Association (Bepa) to present a seven-part series of workshops to address key areas that aspiring developers need to understand if they want to succeed.

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