

# Solar power Africa Conference 2022

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# Labour ambitions from renewable energy

- Building an economy and Industry that works for workers
- History of SA in setting up new Industries
- Creation of jobs and Industrial capacity
- Continental supply and value chains
- Master Plans
- Localisation/Import substitution to drive growth
- Skills development

# Building an economy and sector that works for workers

- The SA society and economy need to be transformed
- The triple challenge is not conducive to sustainable development
- Unemployment of 40%, poverty levels up and inequalities increasing
- Need for an inclusive Industrial strategy
- Focus on jobs and Industrial capacity
- De concentrate the economy to provide access to all
- Move up value chains to high value add and integrate continent
- AfCFTA market of a billion people

# History of new Industries in SA

- The development of the Platinum Industry is a example of what to avoid
- No infrastructure around the new mines set up .
- Export raw materials import high value added products
- No housing , low wages , social disfunction , Marikana

Setting up of this new Industries require conscious planning

- Just transition from coal to protect workers and communities
- move up value chains, to higher value add, in Industry plans
- Ensure both demand and supply side measures are in place

# Master plans

- SA committed to building greater Industrial democracy
- At the Legislative level – competition amendment bill reduces concentration – the Companies Act to put workers on boards and report on the Apartheid wage – new forms of ownership that empowers workers
- Master plans – in 16 Industries across the SA economy
- Designed to ensure that all the stake holders and role players in the economy have an interest and jointly determine direction of industry.
- Deals with a cross sector of issues from Government Incentives to skills development and Business support , including import tariffs

# Localisation

- South Africa needs to reduce its levels of imports to have the kind of economic balance that promotes development. SA levels of imports are at .....% and most of our trading partners from developed countries are around .....%
- A key focus of SA economic recovery strategy is on promoting localization .
- So as the solar and renewable industries develop we should ensure that SA develop the capacity to produce many of the components required locally.
- in this respect we would require government support in designating certain products and putting in place tariffs to protect the emerging Industry , to drive up local demand .
- This policy should however be clear and consistent so key investment decisions can be made on market certainty.

# Skills development

- Labour absolutely committed to ensure that we create the skills in this sector to move up value chains and improve productivity .
- The institutions should be directed to develop the required curriculum and support Industry plans .
- In this respect the National Skills Fund should be accessed , as well as the various SETA that are relevant to this sector .
- Labour would like to see the skills plan lead to career paths for workers , that adds more value and supports higher wages.
- existing skill like assembly and installation exist and can be leveraged off related sectors, like electronics and previous PV plants,
- Additional skills and capacity needed to link into the grid and support the various indirect labour requirements .
- Special focus needed to develop the cell technology and complex functions upstream – from Universities and technicians

# Conclution

- Climate change is a real threat to society and Labour supports the move to cutting carbon emissions – in this respect renewable energy sources must be pursued and expanded .
- Solar power is the future and developing countries must invest and develop the technology required
- The transition however poses both challenges and opportunities
- Reducing the coal fired power stations will lead to job losses and their must be a just transition that regards workers and communities .
- Setting up the renewable energy projects are going to create jobs and develop whole new industries
- Managing this complex Industry and the vested interest , requires detailed negotiations that presents the best prospects for SA .



# Public Service Wage Bill – COSATU Proposals

- Honour Presidential Jobs Summit commitments;
  - Commitment to no SOE and public service retrenchments.
- Redeployment of personnel e.g. SAPS bloated head offices to stations; and
- Redeploy SAPS VIP unit to stations.