



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

# NBI

National Business Initiative

## NEWSFLASH

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### NBI convenes Independent Power Producer community to mark a new era in collaborating for shared impact



On 22 May 2026, the [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#), through the [Just Energy Transition Skilling for Employment Programme \(JET SEP\)](#), convened the Independent Power Producer (IPP) community in Cape Town to explore practical approaches for strengthening collaboration on local skills development, Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD), and Socio-Economic Development (SED) implementation within the renewable energy sector.

The workshop discussed what a practical collaboration platform for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) could look like to reduce duplication, strengthen impact, and support the implementation of ESD and SED investments in local communities.

Participants included representatives from IPPs, the [IPP Office](#), the [Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority \(EWSETA\)](#), the [South African Wind Energy Association \(SAWEA\)](#), the [South African Photovoltaic Industry Association \(SAPVIA\)](#), the Western Cape Government's '[Growth for Jobs](#)' department, and the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) field serving the renewable energy industry.

Additionally, it was highlighted at the workshop that NBI's recent research had shown that the **Just Energy Transition (JET)** presents an opportunity to reconfigure the national skills ecosystem so that it is more agile, coherent, and aligned with emerging economic realities. This is articulated in Chapter 9 of the [JET Implementation Plan \(JET IP\)](#), which recognises this shift and outlines the need for a more coordinated, demand-led, and responsive skills ecosystem that can support emerging industries while ensuring that the transition is fair and inclusive.

Workshop outcomes and next steps

### A need for a centralised geospatial database for online and pipeline IPP projects:



A key objective of the workshop was to obtain additional data of online and pipeline IPP projects that are currently not indicated in publicly available databases.

This information was provided by workshop participants and the next step is to incorporate it into the **Just Energy Transition – Anticipating Talent, Labour and Skills (JET ATLAS)**, a geospatial tool developed by the NBI to forecast skills supply and demand across South African municipalities for renewable energy projects.

### Local skilling and work readiness require earlier coordination:

Participants stressed that local communities are often not prepared in time to access skilled and semi-skilled opportunities when renewable energy projects enter construction.



This prompted calls for earlier coordination between IPPs, EPC contractors, local government, training providers and sector bodies to identify likely demand, prepare candidates in advance and create clearer pathways into technical and operational roles.

### Creating the conditions for stronger collaboration:

Participants noted that collaboration is often constrained by reporting requirements, procurement structures, compliance obligations and the absence of a central facilitation mechanism. At the same time, several examples showed that collaboration is possible and beneficial when there is a trusted convener, a shared purpose, and clear visibility of what each stakeholder can contribute.

Workshop participants further highlighted the **Free State** as the next frontier for utility-scale renewable energy project clusters, a development confirmed by the growing number of pipeline projects reflected on the updated map.

As a next step, a follow-up session will be convened in **July 2026** to build on the momentum of the May workshop and move toward a more action-oriented collaboration framework. The session will focus on:

- Presenting an updated and validated project map and dataset
- Reviewing additional stakeholder input gathered after the workshop
- Prioritising one or two catalytic opportunities for deeper design
- Selecting or confirming a pilot geography for collaborative action
- Clarifying institutional roles, possible working groups and required financing mechanisms
- Agreeing on a practical workplan for the second half of 2026

For further information, or to engage more closely with the Just Energy Transition Skilling for Employment Programme (JET SEP), please contact **Lindiwe Johnson: [LindiweJ@nbi.org.za](mailto:LindiweJ@nbi.org.za)** and **Noluthando Mthimkulu: [NoluthandoM@nbi.org.za](mailto:NoluthandoM@nbi.org.za)**