

**Keynote Address: Gauteng Energy Security Outlook**  
**Mr. Edward Mosuwe, Director-General: Office of the Premier**  
**Gauteng Sustainable Energy Workshop | 24 June 2025**

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**Programme Director, Ms. Jo-Ann Keabetswe MacPherson**  
**HOD of COGTA and other HODs and CEO's**  
**Our energy experts**  
**Senior Managers**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good morning**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this important gathering—a workshop that is as much about systems and technologies as it is about people and dignity.

This Sustainable Energy Workshop comes at a time when the province—and the country—stand at a critical juncture. Our mission here today is not simply to diagnose the crisis; we've done that. It is to map a shared and actionable path toward **energy security, equity, and economic resilience** in Gauteng.

**1. A Province in Transition: The Urgency of Energy Security**

Let us be candid: load shedding, load reduction, transformer theft, and infrastructure decay have ceased to be operational challenges—they are now developmental constraints.

Across our communities, the absence of reliable electricity is not an inconvenience; it is a daily disruption to livelihoods, learning, health care, safety, and productivity. In this context, energy security is not just a technical imperative—it is a **human rights and governance** imperative.

And it is this provincial administration's view, as articulated by Premier Panyaza Lesufi, that **the road to Gauteng's future is lit by the power we can generate, store, and distribute reliably.**

## 2. Taking stock:

Let us be reminded that Gauteng has taken decisive action to reduce reliance on the national grid. In January 2023, we have done what no other province has—investing over R1.2 billion in energy infrastructure, directly impacting over 43000 households and easing the burden of load-shedding. Over the past 18 months, we have made some of the most significant strides in our democratic history through our provincial energy intervention programme. These include:

- Launching the **Gauteng Energy Emergency Plan**, now in its Phase 2 close-out and transitioning to Phase 3;
- Mobilising **intergovernmental energy task teams** and activating municipal partnerships to accelerate installations, from mini-grids to household solar PV;
- Partnering with **City Power, Eskom, GIFA, and local municipalities** to initiate waste-to-energy, the hydrogen economy, and open cycle gas turbine (OCGT) projects;
- And putting in place coordination instruments such as the **Energy Emergency Council**, chaired by the Premier, to ensure oversight, integration and accountability.

But we also know this: the pace of delivery has not yet matched the scale of need. That is why today's workshop is critical.

## 3. From Fragmentation to Integration

Programme Director, this cannot be another technical exchange that leaves the institutional silos intact.

Today must be about:

- **Breaking down fragmentation**—every pilot project, every rooftop solar installation, every clean cooking model must feed into a consolidated, trackable provincial initiative;

- **Funding solutions**—our municipalities cannot carry the energy transition on indigent tariffs and unfunded mandates. We need viable models that blend public finance with investment capital. We must find innovative partnership models.
- **Scale and equity**—we cannot build a system that serves Sandton but sidelines Alexandra. Gauteng’s energy response plan must close the gap, not widen it.

This is the ethos driving the proposed **Phase 3 Energy Implementation Framework**—a framework that moves us from emergency responses to structured energy resilience

#### 4. Integration with the Presidential Johannesburg Working Group (PJWG)

Our participation in the PJWG has revealed what is possible when all three spheres of government coordinate. Energy, as you know, is one of the top priority themes under the PJWG.

The same load reduction zones in Johannesburg that feature in this workshop—Evaton, Winterveld, Kliptown—are the ones where national, provincial, and municipal resources must converge. Let us use this workshop to **leverage those instruments**, and not duplicate them.

#### 5. Turning commitments into outcomes

Colleagues,

Our residents are not asking us to do the impossible. They are asking us to keep the lights on, the infrastructure safe, and their bills fair.

So let us emerge from today with:

- A set of energy financing models that work for our communities.
- A repository of scalable, costed clean energy projects;
- A governance model that ensures every project has a champion, a timeline, and a delivery mechanism.

Let me borrow a phrase from our PJWG workshop: *This must not be another plan to plan. This must be a turning point.* Let us lead Gauteng into a sustainable energy future—with unity, urgency, and impact.

***I thank you!***