



For Immediate Release

Press Release: Thursday, 08 April 2021.

Kafue Gorge - The Swedish Government and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have launched the implementation of Skills for Energy in Southern Africa (SESA) project. The Project is a US \$ 3.8 Million partnership agreement to be executed over a three- and half-year period.

The regional project, which will be implemented by the Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC), is a build up to the just-ended Skills Development for the Renewable Energy Sector (SkiDRES) pilot Project implemented from April 2019 to October 2020, whose objective was to test and prepare for further skills development for the Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) sector.

The main objective of the SESA project is to increase uptake of Renewable Energy (RE), Energy Efficiency (EE) and Regional Energy Integration (REI) interventions in Zambia and Southern Africa, leading to a more sustainable and low-carbon energy mix.

The project will ensure that a significant number of technicians and professionals in the region's energy sector improves their ability to apply, manage and promote modern renewable energy technologies. In addition, the project would ensure that KGRTC has built its brand and standing as the region's Centre of Excellence for competitive skills training in RE, EE and RE technologies.

Hosted by Eng. Kaela Kennedy Siame, Director of Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC), the SESA Project launch was witnessed by Head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy, Ms Susanna Hughes, and respective parties from the Embassy, the ILO, KGRTC, and Government of Zambia, Energy sector sub-organs of SADC, including local, regional and international partners.

Speaking at the launch, Eng. Siame noted that the need for appropriate, relevant and updated skills could not have come at a better time than now as the SADC region invests in Renewable Energy Technologies to meet the SADC Vision 2050 which complements the UN 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063. KGRTC is committed to play its key role in fulfilling Pillar 3 of the SADC Vision 2050 on Social and Human Capital Development through the SESA.

Ambassador of Sweden to Zambia H. E. Anna Maj Hultgård said that energy innovation, a growing share of renewables, and digitization are all driving forces for great changes in the energy sector. Major technological developments make it possible to have more affordable, further reaching and less polluting electricity supply, in Zambia and in the region. This will deliver jobs, growth, and investments, but also raise the demand for new skills, knowledge and tools within the energy sector.

Speaking during the project launch, the ILO Country Office Director for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique Mr George Okutho says skills development is a key component of the decent

work agenda and that energy sector specific skills are key in averting the current impediments in universal access to secure, clean and sustainable energy in the SADC region.

“The major thrust of the Agreement is through the SESA regional project increase uptake of Renewable Energy (RE), Energy Efficiency (EE) and Regional Energy Integration (REI) interventions in Southern Africa, leading to a more sustainable and low-carbon energy mix. More than 1,600 men and women will be trained in RE, EE and REI under SESA Project. This will sustainably contribute towards increasing the employability of workers, transition young people into productive and decent work, and increase the productivity of enterprises through better quality and relevant training,” stated Mr Okutho.

About Power Africa Initiative

Sweden supports the Power Africa initiative to bridge the financial gap and double electricity access for millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa is a partnership between the public and private sector that started in 2013. It aims to increase electricity access and solve Africa’s energy crisis

<https://www.sida.se/English/how-we-work/approaches-and-methods/funding/financing-for-development/power-africa/>

About the ILO

The only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States , to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men..

<https://www.ilo.org/africa/about-us/offices/lusaka/lang--en/index.htm>

About the Embassy of Sweden

<https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/zambia-lusaka/>

The overall mission of the Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka is to strengthen and build on the relationship between Sweden and Zambia, through political dialogue, development cooperation, trade promotion and cultural exchange.