



Press release - FINAL

SANEDI APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH SICELO XULU AS CHAIRPERSON

The South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) announces its new board appointed by the minister of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Gwede Mantashe, following the expiration of the previous board's term.

SANEDI's new board comprises ten members who hold extensive experience across various industries, including clean energy, intellectual property and chemical engineering. The newly appointed board members are: Sicelo Xulu, Lungile Mtiya, Abegail Boikhutso, Tumelo Mashabela, Ilze Baron, Jongikhaya Witi, Mthokozisi Mpofu. Noma Qase, Gerhard Fourie and Olga Chauke sit on the board as alternate members.

The board members were appointed in December 2021, and subsequently accepted their nominations in January 2022. They have already sat in their first meeting and all the board sub-committees have been formally constituted.

The new appointed chairperson is Sicelo Xulu who has previously served at a number of entities, including City Power Johannesburg where he held the role of Managing Director.

Xulu, with over two decades of engineering, is a professional engineering technologist and is registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa. He is currently a fellow member of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE) and he served as a CEO of the institute until December 2020.

"I look forward to steering SANEDI and furthering its mandate of being a leader in coming up with clean energy solutions in order to get closer to a carbon-free South Africa. Our plan will focus more on providing solutions to the country's energy pain points such as loadshedding, Just Energy Transition and Electricity Supply Industry reforms through executing energy research and improving energy efficiencies as more and more people turn to renewable energy," Xulu says.

Lungile Mtiya, appointed as deputy chairperson, comes with over a decade's experience in Human Resources with labour relations, labour law and bargaining councils knowledge.

Representing the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment on the board is Lindiwe Chauke who has broad expertise in climate change mitigation in various sectors including transport, waste, agriculture among others.

Representing the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition are Gerhard Fourie, (Chief Director for Green Industries in Industries Competitive Growth and Growth Branch), and Ilze Baron (Director in the Green Industries unit of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition).

Jongikhaya Witi, Chief Director for Climate Change Monitoring, Evaluation & Mitigation, will represent the Department of Environmental Affairs. He is also a member of multiple professional bodies such as the Water Institute of South Africa and the National Association for Clean Air.

Abegail Boikhutso brings financial skills to the board. She has 20 years of experience in finance and has previously held various public and private sector roles in the industry.

Mthokozisi Mpofo will represent the Department of Energy and has previously held the role of deputy director general for the Energy Programme and Project Management unit and is chief director for Electricity Infrastructure for the department.

Nomawethu Qase will also represent the Department of Energy on the board. She is currently the director for Renewable Energy Initiatives for the department and has a wealth of expertise in the energy sector.

Tumelo Mashabela, a patent attorney with over 10 years of experience in intellectual property. She is also a member of the South African Institute of Intellectual Property Law.

“In the current business environment, we are in, the skills that are required at this point in time for SANEDI, as a ten-year organisation, and moving into a new phase, include legal and compliance, because that’s on everyone’s lips now in terms of state-owned entities,” explains SANEDI’s general manager for energy efficiency and corporate communications, Barry Bredenkamp.

Some of the skills incorporated into the board include patent law, which Bredenkamp says is a critical element for SANEDI as it moves into the technology transfer arena.

“All of the newly appointed board members have excellent reputations in their field and are accepted leaders, and people with knowledge in their respective fields,” added Bredenkamp.

Under their leadership, the new board wishes to see SANEDI move forward in advancing the organisation's low carbon vision.

“We’ve come ten years down the line. We’ve achieved significant milestones, but the whole global energy industry is evolving into a low carbon future or a net zero future, and that’s where they would like to see us making inroads,” said Bredenkamp.

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About SANEDI:

The South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), established by the Government, directs, monitors, and conducts applied energy research to develop innovative, integrated solutions to catalyse growth and prosperity in the green economy. It drives scientific evidence-driven ventures that contribute to youth empowerment, gender equity, environmental sustainability, and the 4th Industrial Revolution, within the National Development Plan (NDP), through consultative, sustainable energy projects. For more information, go to www.sanedi.org.za.

Issued on behalf of SANEDI by One Union:

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