



REFLECTIONS, MILESTONES, AND THE ROAD AHEAD: A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

At the beginning of the year, I wrote in our Energy Council newsletter: “2024 will be a challenging year, but I believe it will also be a year of huge opportunity, and one where we just have to ‘get the job done.’” Despite the predicted challenges, our progress in the electricity sector has exceeded all expectations. What a pleasure it was to enjoy December with the “Christmas lights on”!

Our Government of National Unity (GNU) has set the tone for more collaborative working and greater transparency. The establishment of the new Ministry of Electricity and Energy has strengthened political leadership and accountability in the sector. Furthermore, the signing of the ERA and Climate Bills has provided the certainty needed to implement major sector reforms and decarbonize the sector in alignment with international norms and standards.



We also strengthened our international ties by re-establishing South Africa’s membership in the United Nations-affiliated World Energy Council (WEC) and forming a South Africa Member Committee. This committee, with its broad representation, will foster robust energy dialogue and bolster our commitment to implementation.

In addition to our strategic milestones, we’ve expanded our footprint by moving into new offices in Johannesburg (visit us at 12 Desmond Street, Kramerville) and opening an office in Cape Town, providing our team there a collaborative space with a stunning view of the mountain (find us at Spaces Sunclare Centre, 21 Dreyer Street, Claremont!).

This year, we also conducted our first annual member survey, with over 70% of members providing detailed feedback on critical energy issues and Council performance. Encouragingly, 100% of members agreed that our strategy supports the energy transition. However, the survey also highlighted key sector concerns:

1. **Security of Supply**
2. **Policy and Regulatory Uncertainty**
3. **Market Reform**

With Eskom’s EAF currently below 60% and ongoing delays in NERSA decisions, these concerns remain valid.

I firmly believe we have a clear understanding of *what* needs to be delivered in 2025, but the *how* continues to pose challenges. Implementation remains our collective hurdle. While the sector has demonstrated its ability to deliver consistently and efficiently in the past, the lack of skills and capacity—particularly within public institutions—is a critical bottleneck. As we face complex and demanding reforms in 2025, strong leadership will be essential to make tough but necessary trade-offs. The G20 will present an additional opportunity, albeit one that places significant strain on government and organizational resources such as BUSA.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Energy Council team for their hard work and passion this year. We are, as they say, “building the plane as we fly,” and I deeply appreciate their agility, dedication, and commitment.

Wishing everyone a safe, restful, and blessed festive season and a prosperous 2025.



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