

## Energy independence zimbabwe

In charting resilient pathways for a sustainable future in Zimbabwe's energy sector, there is a need to promote a mix of energy sources from renewables, nuclear, and clean fossil fuels. Energy security has come to the fore in the context of climate change.

Energy security refers to the reliable and uninterrupted availability of energy resources to meet a country's economic, social, and environmental needs. It encompasses multiple dimensions, including the availability, affordability, accessibility, and sustainability of energy sources.

The need to ensure that a nation has a diverse and stable energy supply, minimizing the risks associated with energy disruptions, price volatility, and geopolitical tensions is also central to energy security.

Experts in the energy sector assert that there are significant risks to energy infrastructure and supply chains due to climate change impacting the transmission and distribution of fuel supply chains and potentially increasing energy demand.

Isaac Chiridza a Conservation Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry, in Energy, Solar Energy, Sustainability, Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency calls for a delicate balance on climate-proofing energy infrastructure.

Chiridza, a Principal Energy Development Officer Ministry of Energy and Power Development says damage to infrastructure from extreme weather events, such as floods and storms, can damage transmission lines, substations, and distribution networks.

He cautions that risks to distribution supply chains, such as disrupted transportation routes or extreme weather events affecting fuel storage and distribution, can disrupt the supply chain for fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.

During heat waves, as temperatures rise due to climate change, the demand for cooling and air conditioning in Zimbabwe is likely to increase. This will put additional strain on energy systems, particularly during peak demand periods says Chiridza

Globally the need for diversification of energy sources has risen to the fore as Russia's attack on Ukraine sparked a global energy crisis that left Western nations scrambling to reduce their reliance on Russian oil and gas to focus on nuclear technology.

For the Global South this transition or diversification of energy sources faces not only financial constraints but the risks of losing out on potential stranded reserves as the fossil fuel reserves far outweigh carbon reduction



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targets states Chiridza.

Zimbabwe has already felt the pangs of this financing shocks having lost out a Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) finances to a proposed 2,800-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power station near the Sengwa coal field in Gokwe North, Zimbabwe.

ICBC pullout follows a trend already set by the Philippines-based multilateral bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) --one of the region's biggest energy financiers, which announced in May 2021, in a new draft energy policy, it was cutting down all financing of fossil fuels.

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