

# Changing mind-sets about the continent

AFRICA urgently needs to build public and private sector capabilities that can compete in the global economy and bring much-needed prosperity to the continent.

As Africa's pre-eminent supplier of energy, Eskom has explored mechanisms for financing growth, transferring technologies, setting up public-private sector partnerships and, most importantly, changing global mind-sets about the continent.

So says Thulani Gcabashe, CE of Eskom, explaining that changing mind-sets — among policy makers, business, the public and the non-governmental sector — is crucial to enable the energy sector and others who wish to attract investment to Africa.

"The achievements of some businesses in showing how sustainability makes good business sense is a good example of what can be done in this regard."

Gcabashe cites his company's contributions towards the self-reliance that will make Africans masters of their own destiny. Eskom's initiatives include:

- Expansion of the Inga 111 Hydro Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo and linking the continent's regional power pools. The Inga 111 Project is expected to have a capacity of 3 500 megawatts when complete;

- Constantly engaging African institutions that have a bearing on Nepad, such as the Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electrical Power in Africa; and

- Through the Southern African Power Pool, strengthening the regional energy network. This is the area of Eskom's primary strength inside South Africa and in the Southern African Development Community region.

Models of co-operative tools for regional co-operation include projects such as Motraco, the Mozambique Transmission Company, by South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique, to supply electricity to the Mozambique Aluminium Smelter.