

'Leaders have duty to drive changes'

IN THE world of today, the global playing field is not level: and the so-called developed countries own the stadium, the lights, the ball and the whistle. They have the better-equipped team and they set the rules of the game.

"In order for Africa to gain ownership and influence over these factors, fundamental changes are called for. This is the duty of leaders," said Reuel Khoza, the chairman of Eskom Holdings, at the African Business Leaders Forum in Sandton, Johannesburg, last week.

Khoza said that through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), the continent had set its own agenda, which called for business to play a developmental role.

He said it would be encouraging if the continent's leaders could deliver a series of "quick hits", including:

- Taking full ownership and control of oil refineries in Nigeria and Angola, including research and development; and
- Developing energy resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Africa as a whole.

African leaders should go beyond analysing and interpreting global trends and set out to change African conditions, Khoza said.

"For far too long Africa has looked up to those who made it their core business to engineer our destitution, inculcate a sense of 'nobodiness' and dependence, and define our destiny; and make Africa forever beholden to them for skewed trade, grants and assistance with strings attached. In order for Africa to prosper, these must change fundamentally."

Apart from being chairman of Eskom Holdings, Khoza is also chairman of the black empowerment group Aka Capital, as well as Corobrik, and the Nepad Business Group (South Africa).

He is also president of the Institute of Directors in Southern Africa, where he has promoted the concept of African business leadership as a form of "servant leadership" meeting the needs of stakeholders with empathy or *ubuntu*.