

CEF GROUP (PETROSA / SANPC PARENT) NEWS (SOUTH AFRICA) · SOUTH AFRICA

CEF Group CEO calls for Africa refining shift

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Central Energy Fund (CEF) Group CEO Dr Tshepo Mokoka has called for a fundamental reorientation of Africa's energy development model, arguing that the continent must move beyond raw resource extraction toward building domestic refining capacity, value-addition industries, and integrated regional energy security frameworks.

Speaking from Cape Town, Dr Mokoka framed the argument in economic terms: Africa's long-term prosperity cannot rest on the export of unprocessed hydrocarbons alone. The CEF Group — the South African state holding company that oversees entities including PetroSA and the South African National Petroleum Company (SANPC) — is positioning itself as a proponent of industrial deepening across the African energy sector. The CEO's call reflects a broader policy conversation gaining traction among African energy institutions: that the continent captures insufficient value from its own resource base, and that downstream and midstream industrialisation represents the structural remedy.

The argument carries practical weight. Africa holds significant proven hydrocarbon reserves yet remains a net importer of refined petroleum products in many sub-regions, paying a structural premium for goods that could, in principle, be produced domestically. Building refining and petrochemical capacity would generate skilled employment, reduce foreign exchange outflows on product imports, and create the industrial linkages — logistics, engineering, maintenance — that sustain broader economic development. Regional energy security, in this framing, is not merely a

geopolitical aspiration but a commercially viable industrial project requiring long-horizon capital and technical partnerships.

For the Norwegian oil and gas service sector, the strategic implication is clear even if no specific contracts or tenders are attached to this statement at this stage. The transition Dr Mokoka describes — from extraction-focused upstream operations toward refining, gas processing, and integrated energy infrastructure — is precisely the value chain in which Norwegian companies hold established competency. Subsea processing, FPSO conversion and life extension, gas-to-power infrastructure, LNG value chains, pipeline engineering, and plant maintenance services all sit within the industrial upgrading agenda the CEF Group CEO is articulating. South Africa itself, through PetroSA's Mossel Bay gas-to-liquids facility and SANPC's evolving mandate, represents a concrete institutional context in which these capabilities become relevant.

No specific project, tender, or financial commitment was announced alongside Dr Mokoka's statement. This remains a policy-level signal rather than a procurement event, and Norwegian companies should treat it accordingly: as an indicator of the strategic direction in which South African and broader African state energy institutions are moving, and as an opening for relationship-building and dialogue with CEF Group entities rather than immediate commercial outreach. Monitoring how CEF Group translates this stated ambition into capital programmes, partnership frameworks, or specific refinery or gas-processing initiatives will be the critical next step for firms seeking early-mover positioning in South Africa's downstream evolution.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a policy signal from a major South African state energy holding group, not a procurement event — Norwegian service companies should monitor CEF Group's capital programme announcements and seek introductory engagement with PetroSA and SANPC rather than approaching procurement teams. The stated focus on refining, value addition, and regional energy infrastructure aligns directly with Norwegian competencies in FPSO operations, gas processing, and plant services. Early relationship-building with CEF Group entities positions Norwegian firms advantageously if and when specific downstream or midstream projects move toward tender.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** PetroSA's existing offshore and GTL assets could require FPSO life-extension or conversion services as South Africa seeks to maximise domestic processing capacity — monitor for project announcements.
- **LNG:** A regional energy security agenda centred on value addition points toward gas monetisation and LNG infrastructure investment; Norwegian LNG technology and project management firms should track CEF Group's gas strategy.
- **Pipeline:** Downstream industrialisation requires midstream connectivity; pipeline engineering firms should engage SANPC as it defines its infrastructure mandate under the new national petroleum company framework.
- **Drilling/Well Services:** Sustaining feedstock for new refining capacity requires continued upstream investment; well services companies should maintain dialogue with PetroSA on its offshore and onshore production programmes.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If South Africa pursues offshore gas-to-power or floating storage and regasification solutions for regional energy security, subsea and floating infrastructure specialists will find a relevant entry point.

[Original source: CEF Group \(PetroSA / SANPC parent\) news \(South Africa\) →](#)

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