

ENERGY PROGRESSION EXPLAINED

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UNDERSTANDING KEY WORDS

- Whereas the word '**progression**' emphasizes the need to 'improve', the word '**transition**' on the other hand focuses on changing. It is possible for someone to change from one condition to another without addressing the critical circumstances
- However, for someone to move forward to an 'improved' state, it is essential for that person to be ready and to work towards achieving the 'improved' state.

ENERGY PROGRESSION v ENERGY TRANSITIONS

- Well, we note that the global focus on energy transitions is reducing reliance on fossil fuels, without necessarily addressing the factors that are making it hard to ensure this transition.
- It would take time, more finances, advanced technology and preparation to jump from fossil fuels to renewables on the African continent.

ENERGY PROGRESSION v ENERGY TRANSITIONS

- The current global energy transition debate does not take into consideration the impacts this is likely to have on the developing countries. It is true, there are some visible initiatives including the energy justice concepts and practical initiatives such as the establishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), however, the financial contribution from the developed countries is not enough to address the social, economic and energy challenges experienced on the African continent. Furthermore, one might ask if the GCF contributions are enough to also cater for an increase in population growth expected on the African continent and other developing regions?

CURRENT GLOBAL CRISIS & ENERGY PROGRESSION

- The current global crisis, is proof that the world should consider ‘energy progression’ and not ‘energy transition’. The increase in oil and gas prices, has led many policy makers around the world to re-consider their decision for a wholesome energy transition. In 2022, many experts have realised the need to invest in both fossil fuels and renewables (progress and not have a wholesome transition).
- Policies to ban funding for fossil fuels have been reversed in 2022.

KEY FACTS

- The escalating energy access challenges due to the pressure from the global energy transition/climate change debates.
- The decline in investments in fossil fuels (this was experienced in 2020)
- Technological barriers to ensure an effective energy transition in poor countries.
- The high costs of renewables.
- The anticipated role of fossil fuels to meet energy demand for the growing population in developing countries.
- Role of fossil fuels for economic growth including urbanization and industrialization for developing countries

WHAT IS ENERGY PROGRESSION?

- It refers to the utilization of both fossil fuels and renewables gradually, in a tailored pace for different countries to respond to their unique energy challenges.
- In summary, energy progression recognizes the differences in societies and the need to consider these differences when shifting from one energy source to another. Understanding and responding to the progressive nature of energy use is crucial in solving the energy access challenges experienced in developing countries

MAIN AIM OF ENERGY PROGRESSION

- The main aim of energy progression, therefore, is recognizing the progressive character of energy use, implying that it has to happen gradually and in different stages. This, in essence, implies that, in all these stages, there should be adequate support at the national, regional and international levels through among others the availability of finances and technology to ensure that countries progress from one form of energy to another.

PROPONENTS OF ENERGY PROGRESSION

- With energy progression, we pay extra attention to the energy access challenges in developing countries; the role of fossil fuels in industrialization; the role of fossil fuels in urbanization; the role of fossil fuels in meeting the domestic energy demand from the anticipated population growth. In this respect, while advocating for clean technology to utilize fossil fuels, we advocate for more funding to support developing countries develop and capitalize their fossil fuels.

ENERGY PROGRESSION DEMANDS

With energy progression, we also call upon climate change activists to be considerate and think of the many people who are relying on less than one dollar a day due to lack of access to modern energy. Most importantly, with energy progression, we ask international financial institutions to reconsider their policies banning funding for fossil fuel projects because at the end of the day, different countries face different energy challenges and they should all be given a chance to progress from one energy use to another.

EXAMPLES OF ENERGY PROGRESSION

- Europe is an excellent example of the progressive character of energy use, for instance, initially, in the nineteenth century, the focus for European countries was to shift from wood and waterpower to coal; in the twentieth century the focus was to shift from coal to oil; in the twenty-first century, the focus is to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. On the contrary, the focus for most countries in SSA is to shift from wood to electricity grids (even if these are powered by high-carbon intensity energy resources such as coal).

ENERGY PROGRESSION v ENERGY JUSTICE

- How Just is the Just transition if over 600 million people lack access to electricity?
- What are they transitioning from?
- The justice should be in respect in ensuring that there is a level playing field with respect to energy access and energy security in both the developed and developing world.
- 2022 energy crisis is evidence of the hypocrisy in the energy sector- whereby, the world panics to pump more oil when there is a crisis in the developed world. What about the 600M lacking access everyday? **(This is what Dr Nalule has christened, “The Energy Security Ballgames”)**

REFERENCES

- NOTES EXTRACTED FROM THE BOOK CHAPTER BELOW. PLEASE CITE THIS WORK AS BELOW:

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