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African Energy Commission

Securing Africa's Energy Future

PRESS RELEASE

AFREC Supports Malawi to Turn Electricity Grid Loss Assessments into Investment Ready Loss Reduction Action Plans



Lilongwe, Malawi, November 23, 2026 – The African Energy Commission (AFREC), with support from the Royal Kingdom of Denmark, successfully conducted a technical validation training in Malawi to strengthen national expertise in electricity distribution loss reduction and translate assessment findings into practical projects to improve grid efficiency.

The training, held from 16-20 November in Lilongwe, builds on a baseline study and loss audit conducted in August 2026, covering selected substations, distribution transformers, and two mini-grid sites. The findings informed the development of targeted reduction action plans to support Malawi's ambition to reduce electricity distribution losses from 20.3% to 15.8%.

The initiative brought together technical experts from the Ministry of Energy, the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM), the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA), the Mulanje Electricity Generation Agency (MEGA), Sitolo Mini-Grids, NewEra and the Centre for Energy Efficiency and Conservation (CEEEZ). Participants validated the assessment findings, strengthened their technical capacity to identify and quantify losses, and developed measures to improve electricity distribution performance.

Speaking at the training, AFREC Head of Policy Planning and Strategy, Mr. Yagouba Traore, said reducing electricity losses was critical to improving utility performance, strengthening financial sustainability and ensuring that more of the electricity generated reaches consumers. *"Across Africa, over 40% of Member States report electricity network losses above 20%, compared to 6–10% in developed countries. These losses undermine utility performance, weaken financial sustainability and compromise reliable service delivery for businesses and communities. We cannot afford to lose the little electricity we generate. Our ultimate objective is practical action that makes an impact. We want the loss-reduction measures and action plans developed during this week to be transformed into priority, bankable projects that can attract public and private investment for implementation,*" he said

The training was implemented under the *Efficiency First: Powering Africa's Sustainable Development Initiative (2024–2028)*, supported by the Royal Kingdom of Denmark. The initiative works with African utilities to assess distribution losses, strengthen technical capacity, develop reduction action plans, and support energy efficiency measures implementation. AFREC, working with NewEra and CEEEZ, developed the *Handbook for Determination of Distribution Grid Losses and Development of Reduction Action Plans* to guide utilities in systematically assessing network losses and identifying appropriate interventions.

Ministry of Energy, Deputy Director of Energy, Mr Thokozani Malunga, said determining losses accurately is essential for identifying effective interventions and achieving Malawi's broader electricity access and sustainability goals. *"Calculating losses with high accuracy will allow ESCOM to identify and establish actions to reduce them. We must take full advantage of the training to build capacity to identify and develop measures to reduce losses,"* Mr Malunga said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Douglas Kamanga, Revenue Protection Manager at MERA noted that only 30 per cent of revenue protection interventions are currently being implemented in their operations in Malawi underscoring the need for stronger technical capacity.

Malawi is among the countries receiving support under the initiative, alongside Tanzania, where AFREC recently conducted a distribution grid loss assessment and stakeholder consultation to support the development of targeted reduction plans.

Through these interventions, AFREC is advancing its continental energy efficiency agenda by helping African Union Member States to strengthen their technical capacity and improve the performance of existing electricity infrastructure, reduce operational losses, and maximise the value of electricity available for productive use.

Notes to Editors:

The African Energy Commission (AFREC) *is a specialised energy agency of the African Union mandated to develop, coordinate and support the integration and transformation of Africa's energy sector. AFREC works with African Union Member States and regional institutions across areas including energy information and statistics, energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy transition, energy planning and capacity development.*

Efficiency First: Powering Africa's Sustainable Development (2024–2028) is implemented by AFREC with support from the Government of Denmark. The programme supports the development, adoption and enforcement of at least 15 Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for electrical appliances and equipment, reduction of technical losses in electricity distribution grids, and stronger monitoring and evaluation of energy efficiency policies.

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