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ESAL provides these entities with information and strategies of high and timely value in guiding policy, legal,

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Get In Touch
Victoria Towers 1st floor
Kilimanjaro Avenue, Upperhill
P.O Box 21372-00100
Nairobi
Info@esalafrica.com
www.esalafrica.com

The Role of Local Content in Creating Linkages with other Sectors of the Economy.

eveloping local content in the oil and gas sector can create linkages with other sectors of the economy. Effective linkages between sectors is essential for a balanced growth of the economy and avoidance of the "Dutch disease" in order to stimulate an all-round growth of the economy. There are various ways in which developing local content in the oil and gas sector can create linkages. One way is through forward linkages which relates to the processing, beneficiation and value addition of the extracted commodities in the country.





Another way is through backward linkages which relates to the procurement of goods and services that the oil and gas sector requires to operate from the country and lateral linkages which relate to the development of new industries and or the enhancement of existing ones, using the goods, services and capacity developed in the oil and gas related supply chain within the country.

Lateral linkages facilitate and enable the emergence of new economic sectors therefore playing an important role in the diversification of the economy. This lowers the dependence on the oil and gas sector. While enhancing local content in the country, the skills and knowledge used to address specific needs of the domestic oil and gas industry can be leveraged and adapted to serve other markets in the economy of the country. The oil and gas industry demands high standards and is able to invest in capacity development for its supply chain. The lateral linkages created through increased local content encourages the enhancement and productivity of other economic sectors. This improves national competitiveness, reduces the reliance on imports and enables increased exports. However broad government support is needed through such initiatives like formation of clusters with industries that have synergies with the oil and gas sector. Other ways can be the creation of technical skills training institutes, centers of excellence and infrastructure, which can benefit from the demand and investment capacity of the oil and gas sector. It is important to improve the capacity of regulators, including standard authorities so as to support the transfer of capabilities from one sector to another.

By Yvonne Otweyo

yvonne.otweyo@easalafrica.com

Ms. Otweyo is a Senior Associate- Advisory at ESAL Africa. She holds a Master's degree (LLM) in Oil and Gas Law and Policy (Distinction) University of Dundee (CEPMLP), and an Advocate of the High court of Kenya. She is currently part of the team developing the Local Content Policy for Kenya a World Bank funded project under the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives.