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**Africa's chronic power problems affect 30 countries and take a heavy toll on economic growth and productivity. Africa needs 7,000 MW of new power generation capacity each year, but has been installing only 1,000 MW in recent years.**

- Outside of South Africa, power consumption averages 124 kilowatt-hours per person per year, or just about enough to power one light bulb per person for six hours a day.
- Only one fifth of the population of Sub Saharan Africa has access to electricity compared with one half in South Asia and four fifths in Latin America.
- At present rates of electrification most African countries will fail to reach universal access to electricity even by 2050.
- Africa's power costs around US\$0.18 per kilowatt-hour on average to produce (about twice as expensive as elsewhere).
- Frequent power outages force firms to rely on expensive back-up generators that cost US\$0.40 per kilowatt-hour.
- Many countries rely on inefficient, expensive, small-scale, oil-based power generation.
- Africa is well endowed with large-scale, cost-effective energy resources but they tend to be located a long distance from the major demand centers and their development is often too expensive for the countries where they are found.
- To harness these resources will require regional power trade that could potentially save the continent US\$2.2 billion a year in energy costs.
- Addressing Africa's power problems and implementing regional trade will require spending of US\$41 billion per year.
- Reducing the operational inefficiencies of power utilities through institutional reforms would save US\$3.3 billion a year.
- Reforming poorly designed power sector subsidies, that today are largely failing to reach the poor, would capture a further US\$2.2 billion a year that could be used for power infrastructure development.
- A financing gap of US\$23 billion per year remains that can only be bridged by additional funding.