



Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority



REGIONAL RESEARCH & INNOVATION CONFERENCE 2026

**THEME: ADVANCING ENERGY AFFORDABILITY
AND SECURITY IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



RIC 2026 PROGRAMME



20th – 24th April, 2026



The Edge Convention Center, College of Insurance



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EPRA Kenya



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Conference Theme and Thematic Areas



The theme, “Advancing Energy Affordability and Security in Sustainable Development” reflects the need to balance increasing energy demand with economic viability, climate mitigation and adaptation goals and inclusive development. Energy affordability remains a barrier to access for millions of people across Africa, while energy security is critical to regional stability and industrial growth. Innovative solutions and integrated regional approach are essential to develop resilient and future ready energy systems. Regional cooperation through electricity interconnections, integrated energy markets, harmonized regulatory frameworks and policy reforms present an opportunity to enhance energy security and affordability. The M300 Initiative, a key regional effort to connect 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa to electricity, underscores the potential for deeper power system integration. Optimizing the oil and gas value chain and modernizing the petroleum sector remain essential for economic stability, given the region’s dependence on petroleum products for transportation, agriculture and industry. Strengthening infrastructure, refining capacity and regional storage systems can reduce vulnerabilities and enhance supply security

Sub-Themes



a. Regional Energy Policy and Regulation

- Harmonizing regulatory frameworks
- Policy incentives for affordable energy access
- Electricity markets
- Energy pricing mechanisms

b. Emerging Technologies

- Digitalization of energy systems
- Decentralized energy systems
- Energy efficiency
- Energy storage and transmission



c. Innovative Financing Mechanisms

- De-risking energy investments
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Green Bonds, Sustainability Bonds
- Carbon Markets
- Other Climate Financing Mechanisms



d. Research, Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing

- Role of academia and research institutions
- Cross-border energy research collaborations
- Data and digital tools





e. Innovation in the Oil & Gas Value Chain

- Research and technology to enhance exploration, production and refinery efficiency
- Value addition opportunities in regional logistics, processing and distribution

f. Energy Security & Resilience

- Addressing vulnerabilities in energy supply chains
- Fuel security, emergency reserves and price stabilization mechanisms
- Regional power systems
- Transition pathways



g. Environment



h. Emerging Issues



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