

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**1 April 2020, Johannesburg** – The South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA) can confirm that the production and distribution of petroleum products is continuing during the 21-day National Lockdown. The Liquid Fuels Industry forms part of essential products and services.

While two refineries are currently shutdown, SAPIA can furthermore confirm that security of demand is not at risk.

Engen halted their Durban refinery's operations on 27 March 2020 for a temporary controlled shutdown. In a statement, Engen indicated that the controlled activity is due to forecasted lower demand for petroleum products during the National Lockdown. SAPIA can once again confirm, that there is a demand decline of close to 60%.

The Astron Energy refinery in Cape Town shutdown operations for planned maintenance prior to the national lockdown. However, in compliance with COVID-19 regulations, all non-essential maintenance work across industry has been pushed back. Start-up of Astron Energy's refinery will likely be delayed till the back end of May 2020.

Says Avhaphani Tshifularo, SAPIA Executive Director, "As an industry we remain vigilant and will continue to monitor the situation throughout this period to ensure that the demand of supply is consistently met. The highest precautionary measures have been put in place to protect the health and wellbeing of all employees required to deliver these services and products."

## **ENDS**

### **About SAPIA:**

SAPIA represents the collective interests of the South African petroleum industry and plays a strategic role in addressing a range of common issues relating to the refining, distribution and marketing of petroleum products, as well as promoting the industry's environmental and socio-economic progress. SAPIA fulfils this role by contributing to the development of regulation in certain areas of South African policy; proactively engaging with key stakeholders; sharing research information; providing expert advice; and communicating the industry's views.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Cindy-Lee Maneveld

Head: Advocacy, Engagement and Communication

Mobile: 066 423 2316

Email: heac@sapia.co.za

### **Board of Governors:**

M. Kane-Garcia (Chairperson), H. Mtolo, J. Molapo, N. Chili, P. Mabelane, P. Naidoo, P. Vilakazi,  
W. Sanchez & Y. Hassan