



energy

Department:
Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

EMBARGO: NONE

FUEL SHORTAGES

23 December 2011 – The Department of Energy is aware of the on-going fuel shortages affecting certain parts of the in-land provinces like Gauteng and Mpumalanga. The department wishes to assure all concerned that it is in daily consultation with the oil companies that are responsible for supplying fuel to the market and, has requested them to submit their contingency plans.

The various oil companies that are experiencing the difficulties in meeting the needs of their retailers have already publicly stated the reasons for the shortages and, the department notes these. In line with these explanations, the current situation with regards supply is very fluid – with changes occurring as deliveries are made. In addition to the on-going deliveries to affected areas, and based on the commitments made by the oil companies with regards the supply situation, the department expects the situation to return to normal at all petrol stations at the latest by the third week of January when the supply backlog would have been addressed.

Government notes that the periodic fuel availability challenges are an indicator of the need for action in the development of additional refining capacity and improvements in the import infrastructure for liquid fuels as a matter of urgency

by all role players including the state and the industry players. In this respect government has commenced work towards the development of medium-long term policy frameworks and plans to alleviate the current problems experienced.

Given the prevailing shortages, motorists are urged to err on the safe side by proactively filling their tanks before embarking on long journeys and, topping up when necessary. Motorists are also encouraged to avoid driving at high speeds which lead to higher fuel consumption which leads to frequent refills, and high fuel expenditure.

Above all, motorists are reminded to DRIVE SAFE - enjoy Christmas with family and friends and come back refreshed for 2012!

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