



energy

Department:  
Energy  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Media Statement

### EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### DoE – NORTHERN CAPE CABINET ENGAGEMENT

**Kimberly 7 June 2013** – Following a highly successful public participation programme event to acknowledge the 5,6 millionth national household electricity switch-on held at Warrenton/Magareng Municipality on 6 June 2013, the Ministry of Energy and Northern Cape Provincial Cabinet, District and Executive Municipal Mayors held a historic consultation meeting to share and discuss energy issues of strategic importance to the province on 7 June 2013.

Led by Minister Dipuo Peters and Premier Sylvia Lucas, the meeting was addressed by the provincial Director General, Adv J Bekebeke, and the various line function Deputy Directors General of the Department of Energy and Chief Executive Officers of the Energy State Owned Entities including the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), PetroSA, Central Energy Fund (CEF), National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) and NECSA.

In his presentation to the house, the provincial DG gave an overview of the provinces' economic development programmes, with a particular focus on the Northern Cape's energy profile. Acknowledging the challenges caused by historical omissions in the development of the provinces' economic profile other than in diamond mining, the DG stressed the current status of the province as one with the potential to become a leader in alternative energy implementation programmes.

Corroborating the provincial DGs summary of the provinces potential as a leader in renewable energy offerings, Dr Wolsey Barnard, DoE Deputy Director General (DDG) for Energy Programmes and Projects, gave the house a status report on the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme. The DDG stated that with 21 of the 47 Window 1 and 2 projects located in the Northern Cape, the province is currently a leader in hosting IPP's. A status welcome by all present as it reflects the fact that the Northern Cape has the highest irradiation levels in the country.

Dr Barnard also spoke to the issues of current provincial electrical connectivity. He highlighted the fact that approximately 44 000 households in the province are without electricity. The Integrated National Electricity Programme will address some of the provincial backlog during the 2013/14 financial year. The INEP national allocation of R3.8 billion, is divided between Eskom and municipalities who will receive R 2.1billion and R1.6 billion respectively.

Addressing the issue of the 1 million Solar Water Heater Geyser programme, the DDG took this opportunity to appeal to concerned municipalities to prioritise their participation in the programme by providing all required information timeously and in line with set requirements.

In addition to the thorny issues of household connectivity and the development potential associated with the REIPP, the DoE's team addressed petroleum, and nuclear programme matters. Speaking to the petroleum issues, Mr Tseliso Maqubela, DDG, focused on the potential associated with shale gas for the province. as well as the need to prioritise production and utilisation of LPGas for household, business and industrial usage.

Mr Zizamele Mbambo, DDG, addressed the house on nuclear programme issues in terms of the existing Vaalputs Disposal site facility located outside Springbok. He stressed on safety issues, skills development opportunities for provincial youth in taking up study opportunities in fields such as nuclear engineering. Dr Ramastsemela Masango and Mr Thabo Tselane, also spoke to the efforts made by the DoE and the

SOEs in demystifying nuclear in order to promote better public appreciation of the contribution that nuclear energy can make to the nation.

Ms Phindile Nzimande, CEO of NERSA, undertook a commitment to have a follow up engagement with provincial municipalities to assist to come closer to the national benchmark in terms of energy tariffs.

In closing, Minister Peters and Premier Lucas acknowledged that it was not possible to exhaust all the pertinent issues at this first interaction, and that there would be future engagements to discuss all the issues in greater detail. Premier Lucas expressed her appreciation at the development of a highly positive and enriching relationship between the parties. She said the information shared with her and her provincial colleagues by the Minister and officials of the DoE on Renewable Energy, has clearly demonstrated the potential of Renewable Energy to fight the triple challenges created by poverty, inequality and unemployment.

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*This statement is issued by the Department of Energy in conjunction with the Northern Cape Premier's Office.*

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