



energy

Department:  
Energy  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Minister of Energy to celebrate Global Wind Day with Cape Town Youth**

13 Jun 2013

South Africa's Energy Minister will join the SA Wind Energy Association and learners in celebrating Global Wind Day in Cape Town on Saturday. Global Wind Day is an international initiative celebrating the power that wind energy has to change the world.

The Minister of Energy, the Honourable Ms Elizabeth Dipuo Peters, will join South Africa's wind energy industry in celebrating Global Wind Day in Cape Town on Saturday.

Global Wind Day is a worldwide annual event held on 15 June. It is a day for discovering more about wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to change our world.

As part of the celebrations, the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) will host a youth-focused charity event at Searidge Park Primary in Tafelsig, Cape Town. 220 children from Khayelitsha, Langa and Mitchell's Plain will participate.

The event will be attended by the Minister of Energy, the Honourable Ms Elizabeth Dipuo Peters, Miss Earth Regional Finalist Shaina Naidoo and the 2013 SA Global Wind Day Ambassador and former SA Youth Kite-surfing Champion Colin Heckroodt.

A full programme includes a mix of edutainment and will conclude with the Energy Minister flying kites with the learners.

"We are extremely honoured that the Minister of Energy, who is an internationally recognised renewable energy champion, has made herself available to participate in this youth-focused event," says chief executive of SAWEA Johan van den Berg. "Educating our children about the benefits of renewable energy and the realities of climate change is essential in securing a sustainable future."

South Africa is one of more than 75 countries around the world where wind farms are in operation, generating energy from a clean, renewable and free source. Currently there are only eight turbines in the country, but through the Department of Energy's

sophisticated Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP), there are currently 15 wind farms under construction with many more in various stages of development.

Over the past year, South Africa has been internationally recognised for its renewable energy investments. Earlier this month, the country became one of the 10 founding members of the Renewables Club, a political initiative of pioneering countries that are united by an important goal: a worldwide transformation of the energy system. The 10 Renewables Club members currently account for more than 40 per cent of global investments in renewable energy.

Says Van Den Berg: “Our projections indicate that within three years South Africa will rank in the Top 15 countries for installed wind power capacity. Our resources and electricity demand are excellent and in time there is potential to move further up the global order.”

For more information on Global Wind Day, visit <http://www.globalwindday.org/>

For more information on the Global Wind Day event in Cape Town, contact  
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