



**energy**

Department:  
Energy  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SIGNING OF ENERGY AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

***TUESDAY, 09 SEPTEMBER 2014***

Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson, the Minister of Energy, today signed an historic agreement with her counterpart Mr Kapandji Kalala, Minister of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

This inter-governmental Agreement paves the way for major developments in the field of energy, and is a potential game-changer for the entire African continent. The Agreement has long been discussed, and its finalization has been part of this administration's commitment to turn ideas into action over the first 100 days.

The purpose of the Agreement is to promote cooperation in the field of energy resources between the two countries. This will be done on the basis of equal partnership and mutual advantage, taking into account the expertise and possibilities for co-operation available between the two countries.

The Agreement specifically promotes cooperation in the fields of electricity, hydroelectricity, renewable energy, and energy efficiency through various mechanism such as the exchange of information regarding their respective electricity policies, institutional arrangements and regulatory frameworks; technology transfer, research and development cooperation. The Agreement enables the two countries to focus on specific projects in the areas of

construction and maintenance of hydropower infrastructure; renewable energy; and energy efficiency, electricity generation; transmission; and distribution; electrification and trading in the power sector.

South Africa and the DRC drafted a Treaty on the Grand Inga Hydro Power Project in October last year, and I am pleased to record that Cabinet has recently approved the ratification of this Treaty between the Republic of South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by Parliament. Ratification will enable the commencement of Phase I of the Project, and the DRC is very keen to get contractors on site and commence with the construction. This Phase will provide 2 500 Megawatts of electricity, and contribute to regional integration, energy security, access to energy and economic growth in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Recognising Africa's position as the continent with the lowest access to modern energy, yet having the world's greatest potential for low carbon development, the Grand Inga project and other potential energy projects will enable the continent between the two countries towards this Agreement took in to account the fact that with the right mix of domestic policies, innovative technologies and international finance assistance, the continent could become a leader in reconciling growth, clean energy and climate change mitigation efforts. The success of the project will enable the African continent to have access to clean energy and alleviate energy poverty by providing approximately 40 000 MW of hydropower to the continent.

This Energy cooperation agreement is all encompassing and will assist both countries to work together to explore opportunities in the energy sector, share knowledge on policies, enable the two countries to cooperate on human resource development in the sector and improve the energy sector in the region and the continent at large.

***Issued by the Minister of Energy***

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