

MINISTER PETERS AND PETROSA SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIA

The South African Department of Energy today (**Wednesday**, 26 May) announced that Minister Dipuo Peters has signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with her Algerian counterpart, the Minister of Energy and Mines, Dr Chakib Khelil.

The agreement was signed today in Algiers during the occasion of the State Visit of President Zuma to Algeria. Minister Peters is accompanying the President to Algeria. The nuclear agreement makes provision for co operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and will also facilitate exchanges in the production of medical radioisotopes.

Minister Peters said, "South Africa has moved from being a pariah for its use of nuclear technology in furtherance of the objective of the apartheid state to a country that respects and conforms to all the international conventions on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Accordingly, we have become the leading producer and supplier of the much sought after medical radioisotopes which are based on low enriched uranium fuel".

"We believe that the peaceful use of nuclear energy among the African countries is critical in contributing to the decimation of energy poverty on our continent and will catapult our two countries onto an even higher economic development", Minister Peters concluded.

The agreement will also facilitate the exchange of expertise and personnel by the implementing agencies such as NECSA and Comena.

NB: Meanwhile, an MOU was signed between PetroSA and Sonatrach. The agreement will enable PetroSA and Sonatrach, the national oil company to work together in the following fields:

- Oil and gas producing and development opportunities in Algeria;
- Investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector in South Africa, Algeria and other parts of the world;
- Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) importation from Algeria to South Africa;
- Gas-to-Liquid (GTL) technological co-operation;
- Trading and marketing opportunities; and
- The development and/or exchange of skills as well as capacity building in the field of oil and gas..

The Parties have agreed that sufficient common interest exists for the establishment of a business relationship between themselves and that further discussion, investigation and evaluation would be required in respect of the abovementioned envisaged activities.

Algeria is well endowed with Oil and Gas and access to such resources by PetroSA will benefit South Africa a net importer of oil and gas. PetroSA is now expected to use the signed MOU to develop concrete projects to be implemented with specific deliverables and timelines.

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Issued by the Department of Energy