



energy

Department:
Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TO ALL MEDIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

**Minister of Energy conveys condolences on the passing of the CEO of BP,
Mr Gerard Derbesy**

The Acting Minister of Energy, Ms Dipuo Peters on behalf of the Department of Energy, the office of the Deputy Minister and the Director General has expressed deep sadness at the untimely passing of the CEO of BP, who collapsed while playing tennis. Mr Derbesy took over as BP CEO after working for more than a decade in marketing and refining in the region, the US and in the UK. In 2012 he was elected as the Chairman of the South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA).

Mr Derbesy will be remembered for his passion and dedication to his work which earned him the admiration and adoration of many in the energy sector. *“His death creates a huge void as we still had hope of engaging him and tapping into his wealth of knowledge and expertise at many levels as a partner in government, as we push back the frontiers of energy poverty in our country and our continent”* the Acting Minister said.

On behalf of the South African government, we extend wishes of strength and courage to his wife and children and the BP management and staff worldwide. May his soul rest in peace.

Statement issued on behalf of the Minister of Energy – Mr Dikobe Ben Martins and the Deputy Minister Ms Barbara Thomson.

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