



03 July 2020

## **DMRE STATEMENT FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT AT A MILNERTON REFINERY**

The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe wishes to express his deepest condolences to the families of the two workers who lost their lives in the accident that occurred at the ASTRON Energy Refinery in Milnerton, Western Cape. The Minister further wishes the seven workers that were injured a speedy recovery.

The Minister was briefed by the CEO of ASTRON on the incident which occurred as the refinery was starting up following a planned maintenance shutdown.

The Minister has been assured that the Department of Labour Inspectors are on site and investigating the incident as required by law.

While some impact on fuel is expected, we believe that it is not going to be severe as the refinery had been on a shutdown prior to the incident. ASTRON is planning to import refined products and will also rely on other oil companies to supply the market.

The Department will soon convene meetings with all oil companies to ensure that alternative supply arrangements are put in place.

End

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**Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy**

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