



mineral resources & energy

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

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DR NOBUHLE NKABANE, DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, TO LEAD THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) 66TH GENERAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON 26 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane (MP) will lead the South African delegation to the 66th session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna, Austria and deliver the National Statement on Monday, 26 September 2022.

The Deputy Minister will update the General Conference with regards to the milestones of the South African Nuclear Programme, which include Eskom submission of a License Application and a Safety Case for Long Term Operation (LTO) to the National Nuclear Regulator, the preparations for procurement framework for the addition of 2 500MW nuclear new generation capacity as per IRP2019, and important projects such as the Multipurpose Research Reactor, the solutions in radioactive waste management, as well South Africa's participation in key IAEA programmes.

The nuclear energy forms part of the energy mix and provides clean baseload electricity and plays an important role to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in line with South African Nuclear Energy Policy of 2008.

As a founding member, South Africa has contributed immensely to the work of the IAEA which promotes the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes among its 173 member states.

The General Conference is the highest decision-making body of the IAEA. Member States use the opportunity of the General Debate to address the Plenary, raise matters of importance and outline national priorities in their nuclear programmes. The South African delegation will engage with other countries with similar aspirations within the nuclear energy space to share information. Amongst the bilateral engagements the Deputy Minister Nkabane will engage with the Director General of the IAEA to discuss nuclear issues of mutual interest and emphasise South Africa's support to peaceful application of nuclear technology to ensure socioeconomic development.

Deputy Minister Nkabane will be supported by a delegation that includes Ambassador Rapulane Molekane, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the IAEA, Senior Government Officials from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), and Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), as well as Representatives from the South Africa Nuclear Energy Cooperation (NECSA), National Nuclear Regulator (NNR), National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute (NRWDI), South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), Steve Biko Academic Hospital and ESKOM.

To follow the presentations without actively participating in the Forum join via the live link button which will be available on the web page at <https://www.iaea.org/topics/temporary/66th-iaea-general-conference>.

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