

**MEDIA ADDRESS BY MS. DIPUO PETERS, MINISTER OF ENERGY,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND  
CLINTON CLIMATE FOUNDATION IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, PRETORIA**

**09 OCTOBER 2009**

It gives me a great pleasure to be party to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and Clinton Climate Initiative (**CCI**), a program of the William J. Clinton Foundation (the **Clinton Foundation**) for which we have convened today.

The Clinton Foundations is a well known international non-profit organization which seeks to help Governments in various countries in dealing with interventions intended to mitigate the impacts climate change. One area of their focus which is also of the great importance to us as a country is the deployment of large-scale of Clean Energy generation platforms and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Clinton Foundation is currently assisting Governments in India, Australia, and the South Western United States to assess, develop, and implement projects to deploy the generation of large solar energy platforms. We believe that with the abundant solar resources we have, the foundations can also assist to assess this opportunity.

It is commonly known that our country is well endowed with certain natural renewable energy resources that still remain largely untapped, solar energy being one of particular abundance.

We have indicated in our Renewable Energy Policy of 2003, that a target of 10 000 GWh of renewable energy will be attained by 1013. The implementation of the objectives of this MOU will take us a step closer to the attainment of the set goal.

You may recall that this is one of the objectives set forth in the Budget Vote Speech I delivered a few months ago. I alluded to the fact that we will engage Clinton Foundation in the quest of tapping into their expertise and leverage support from their well established institution especially in area of solar energy.

We envisage that the cooperation between Government of South Africa and Clinton Foundation will assist us in deploying cleaner, renewable energy technologies at a larger scale

We will begin our cooperation on a pre-feasibility study to assess the potential for the creation of a Solar Park in our country. A Solar Park could serve as a concentrated zone of solar development in the country and could include significant solar generation capacity by different Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

What makes the Solar Park concept particularly attractive is the envisaged economies of scale and integration of processes. Instead of having many generation licenses, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), interconnectors, generation plants, e.t.c. only one or few will be commissioned, saving time, money and labour, thus making the unit cost of renewable energy more and more competitive with the conventional fuel generation. This is the ultimate goal we want to achieve in deploying renewable energy.

The Pre-feasibility will cover the preliminary identification of one or more sites for a Solar Park in South Africa, through analysis of solar radiation indices, land

availability, and access to and costs of transmission, water, job creation, local content; assessment of possible enabling frameworks for a Solar Park; analysis of the cost of power from a Solar Park; and assessment of possible low-cost financing options for a Solar Park;. In addition to the implementation framework we are developing for deployment of renewable energy, the feasibility study will also indicate enablers for the renewable energy initiatives.

The outcome of the process will be a business case upon which the IPPs will be attracted to our shores and the local renewable energy industry will be created.

We look forward to the successful and productive cooperation with the Foundation.

I thank you

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