



Key Note Address by the Minister of Energy, Her Excellency Ms. Dipuo Peters, MP at the Solar Plant Inauguration hosted by the DEA on the accession of the COP17/CMP7  
Hazelmere, Durban  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
11h00 –12 h30

Programme Director;

The President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E Mr Jacob Zuma;

Premier of Kwa Zulu Natal, Hon Dr Zweli Mkhize;

Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;

The United Nations Secretary General, Mr Ban Kin Moon

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Bonn; Global Agenda Council on Climate Change, Christiana Figueres

President of Soitec, Andre-Jacques Auberton-Herve

MECs Present;

The Mayor of eThekweni Municipality; Mr James Nxumalo

Councilors present;

The Directors Generals for various Government Departments

Chief Executives and Senior Government Officials

Captains of Industry; and

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

I am greatly honoured to address you as we inaugurate the Solar Plant in the beautiful area of Kwa Zulu Natal Province. This is one of the important and bold strides of shaping the energy sector in particular intensifying our efforts of scaling up the deployment of the renewable energy and curbing the effects of climate change. This augurs very well with the approved Integrated Resource Plan (IRP 2010), the National Climate Change Response White Paper Policy and also supports the emerging green economy sector, the New Growth Plan including the role of private sector investment and Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

It is encouraging that this project has already started contributing towards the IRP 2010 which outlines 42% of RE by 2030 and leaves a legacy for COP 17. The IRP 2010 was designed to balance economic, social and environmental objectives, provide affordable energy while ensuring security of supply, provide opportunities for the creation of local industry clusters and help to achieve the emission targets.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the eThekweni Municipality completed a feasibility study and identified an appropriate site for a 500KW concentrated photovoltaic installation. This CPV is connected to the electricity distribution supply grid of the city to augment the power supply to the ICCC where the UNFCCC COP 17 is being hosted to reduce the carbon footprint

of the event. This clearly demonstrates the state of readiness in the municipal's energy planning and installation of this 500kw as a first phase. It is even more encouraging to see that the Municipality is a buyer of this clean electricity.

The installation is currently operational with guided tours being offered to delegates and visitors to the CCR Expo which also has a prototype solar tracker on display feeding into the Durban grid. The solar plant will offset the electricity requirements for hosting of the COP which are normally supplied by coal-based electricity. This is an exciting development for South Africa and will be the forerunner of a range of renewable energy projects currently being developed in the country. It serves as a catalyst displaying highly efficient modern solar technology as well as streamlining the regulatory process towards how renewable energy projects can be fast-tracked in South Africa.

Programme Director, I urge Private Sector invest more within the clean energy sector because Government alone cannot do it. Soitec's commitment to the development of accredited training programmes in South Africa with the express purposes of transferring knowledge and expertise to contribute to developing the local solar industry is commendable. This will assist us to close the skills gap along the clean energy value chain. The Soitec collaboration with the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) to train 50 students in the installation, maintenance, operation and commissioning of CPV power

plants complimented by the on-site training is a step in the right direction and very aligned to government objectives.

Programme Director,

We further remain committed to:

- Ensure security of energy resources, and pursuing an energy mix that includes clean and renewable resources to meet the needs of our fast growing economy, without compromising our commitment to sustainable development.
- Put in place clear programme of incentives for investment, as well as the development of the requisite human resource capacity to take full advantage of the opportunities presented due to the growth in this sector.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank the eThekweni Municipality, the Department(s) of Water and Environmental Affairs and SANEDI and others who worked tirelessly on the sterling work displayed here today by positioning KZN Province as one of the future energy hubs. You deserve a round of applause.

I thank you.