



**Minister of Energy, Her Excellency Ms. Dipuo Peters, MP at the Energy Efficiency Day  
hosted by the DoE on the accession of the COP17/CMP7  
Umdloti Room, SA CCR Expo, Durban  
7th December 2011  
009h45 – 1h00**

Programme Director,  
Director General of the Department of Energy  
Mr. Lepeltier, French Ambassador, Climate Negotiation;  
Councillor Moosajee, Member of the Mayoral Committee for Transport, City of  
Johannesburg;  
President of ADEME, Mr. van de Maele;  
Ambassador Jones, Deputy Executive Director, International Energy Agency;  
Mr. Bando, Executive Director, International Partnership for Energy Efficiency  
Cooperation;  
Chief Executives and Senior Government Officials;  
Distinguished Guests  
Members of the business community,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning,

Programme Director, let me start by reminding ourselves that South Africa is a developing country and will continue to be developing until we reach a certain income levels per capita. Our national output and the quality of human

development and the quality of life have reached the levels of the best around the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am encouraged by the fact that we are now taking full responsibility of our actions on energy efficiency as citizens of this beautiful country. Platforms like this one affords us with an opportunity to discuss how best we could be energy efficient and now we are even taking it further by sharing our experiences with the world during this precious time of the country hosting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference “dubbed” the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties also serving as the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Indeed if all of us do our part, together we can do more.

Our concerted efforts will certainly result in a dramatic improvement in energy efficiency and cost reduction that will allow us to talk in confidence about the balance between the energy supply side and demand side management. Yet there remains potential for greater, national market transformation within the end-use efficiency in the country.

Programme Director, achieving this potential will require application of good practices at a national level (i.e. all energy users inclusive), as well as a step change in policies, and harmonising technical codes and standards included in the plan. As a country we have done substantial work relating to these tools and we are still in progress as we grow as part of the global market. In this regard, all of us, as government, industry, business and communities, have consciously and continuously worked harder to strive to optimise methods of reducing barriers to support the adoption of cost effective, energy efficient good practices in a sustainable manner that the country has planned, in order to improve our lives but also to ensure that the generations that come after us can and will continue to implement what they have become accustomed to in everything they do that consumes energy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is encouraging to see that energy efficiency is now reaching the broader community and this was affirmed by the recent discussions on the National Energy Efficiency Campaign Strategy that transpired between Government and its Social Partners (National Economic Development Labour Advisory Council) which indeed demonstrated the seriousness and readiness of how we would like to implement energy efficiency policies as a team.

In 2005, the South African Government approved the **Energy Efficiency Strategy** which outlined to reduce energy consumption as a percentage of national energy demand by 12% in 2015, using 2005 as the base year. The overall target is divided into sub-targets for the key economic sectors which are as follows:

- Commercial and Public buildings 20%
- Residential sector 10%
- Industrial and Mining sectors 15%
- Transport 9%

In addition to this strategy which is currently under review, there are several cooperative initiatives on energy efficiency among various sectors and stakeholders, that is, **industrial energy efficiency programme** which industry and business are working very close with government; **energy efficiency monitoring systems** together with our international partners such the United Nations Development Organisation (UNIDO), **Solar Water Heating programme** with Eskom and Municipalities; and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) including other international governments, jut to quote a few. This matter is not a one person responsibility but for all of us to work towards achieving concrete results.

Recently we got an approval from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to undertake a **Standard and Labeling programme** for the next three years with a

special focus on twelve appliances. This programme will be implemented through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

When we aggregate the individual efforts, the extent of saving will be large. It is no longer a question that the way we use our electricity at home should change. The President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Honourable Mr Jacob Zuma mentioned in his State of the Nation Address that the citizens should do more on energy efficiency by switching off their gadgets when they are not in use.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the country will continue to forge relations with those who are already advanced in this sector and it's been proven to their benefit on addressing all these barriers. Meeting future energy demand while substantially reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions will require nothing short of an energy revolution.

Government is trying hard to improve in defining the long term policy objectives which bears testimony on the approved Integrated Resource Plan 2010, progress on the Independent Power Producers procurement programme, drafting of Integrated Energy Plan, and the recent draft Energy Efficiency Regulations to enforce the Tax Incentive Regulations by National Treasury which had just closed for public comments, Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP2), Energy Efficiency incentive programme announced in 2010 by Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Rob Davies to allow companies investing on energy efficiency measures to be incentivised, Energy Efficiency Public Buildings without excluding the review of the National Energy Efficiency Strategy. The list is not exhaustive, there are many more. Programme Director, allow me to indicate that policies alone are not enough hence a need to work as a collective for us to get far "together we can do more".

I am urging all you here to realise the urgency of implementing effective support mechanisms in order to accelerate the exploitation of the major potential of

energy efficient technologies to improve energy security and climate change whilst removing and overcoming non-economic barriers (i.e. administrative hurdles, obstacles to grid connection, lack of information and training and the tackling of social acceptance issues, etc) as a first priority to improve policy effectiveness.

Programme Director, the energy sector currently accounts for a large percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which directly contribute to climate change. It is clear that without delay we need to implement good practices to reduce energy demand, choose cleaner sources and deploy the best available energy technologies to improve energy efficiency. Such measures not only cut energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but are often low cost, immediately available and relatively easy to implement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is no doubt that low-carbon technologies will have a crucial role play to assure future energy supplies and offset energy's environmental impact. In addition to energy efficiency, many types of renewable energy, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and new transport technologies will all require widespread deployment to reach ambitious target for emissions reduction that South Africa and the rest of the world have committed to. Let us all find solutions to future energy challenges by engaging robustly and continuously as energy efficiency programmes.

South Africa as the host of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - COP 17 /CMP 7 has a responsibility to intensify its efforts of implementing all identified solutions to address climate change and energy efficiency is one of the measures. Within the parameters of Greening the COP 17 programme, several energy efficiency measures have been implemented at both the facilities hosting the UNFCCC Conference, transport side, community level. That is, lighting – retrofitting of the ICC, green transport, installation of Solar Water Heaters, provision of efficient cooking stoves at community level, traffic

and street lighting, etc. These measures confirm that climate change and energy are seriously interrelated.

Programme Director, The use of alternative forms of energy has always been at the centre of the South African Government policy since 1998. We have enjoyed over 13 years of democracy without any risk of electricity supply failure. Electricity was cheap relative to other energy forms. For us as a country everything using electricity from the national grid epitomised being modern (electric heaters, electric cooking, electric kettles and geysers and more). This has led to us as a country becoming one of the highest users of electricity per person per year around the world.

Things have changed now. The period 2007 and 2008 saw a number of noticeable disruptions in the electricity supply, where sections of the country were plunged into darkness as a result of Eskom not being able to meet the demand of electricity nationwide. That state of affairs led government to look at other ways and means on ensuring that the available electricity supply can still be shared with the industry and the commercial sector to provide services, jobs and economic growth, the households to provide livelihoods and the public sector to ensure that hospitals and schools still run and governments is still able to provide its services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the ways that we seek to achieve was to change ordinary light bulbs that we are used to (i.e. Incandescent lights), to energy saving lights (Compact Fluorescent Lights – CFLs). That programme has resulted in significant saving, though not enough to abate the challenge that we are still facing. We are aware that communities use various appliances to heat water, ranging from a stove top with kettles and pots, electric kettle to a water geyser for those who can afford. Fortunately, water should not necessarily be heated by electricity. There are

other cheaper and cleaner forms of energy to do the job. This is the main reason why we need to intensify these efforts. Ladies and Gentlemen, Electricity tariffs have increased and will continue to increase in the near future.

South Africa cannot afford to waste even a single unit of electricity. We will depend on all the citizens to report any wastage of resources to relevant local authorities, ranging from streetlights that burn during the days including lights in buildings that are on day and night. For example, there is a lot that need to be done in the hospitality sector and office buildings to save electricity. Most people in the cities have already switched to solar water heating in a number of applications. Efforts to intensify this programme are well under way.

As we gain momentum on the roll out of the energy efficient initiatives / projects and partnerships we will continue to innovate and come up with new ideas of how we as government can continue to provide energy efficient services that are beneficial to the communities, create jobs and are friendly to the environment.

Our government remains responsible for the creation of an environment that is conducive for uninterrupted business activity. We are continuing to do this through appropriate policy formulation and implementation as well as by providing regulatory certainty.

We 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

The approved IRP 2010 and various pieces of legislation attest to this firm government commitment on energy security and supply.

Many of the building blocks to support the scale up of energy efficiency initiatives exist today. Effort therefore should be concentrated on regrouping these building blocks and ensuring the right level of coordination between public and private sector to create a bankable, ,and indeed, efficient energy efficiency system.

I thank you for your participation here today, and look forward to our furthering the dialogue in search of solutions to our collective challenges.

Thank you.