

**THE SPEECH FOR THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, HER EXCELLENCY HON MS
ELIZABETH DIPUO PETERS AT THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY GALA DINNER**

VENUE: SA CCR EXPO, DURBAN

1ST DECEMBER 2011 AT 18H00 – 21H00

Programme Director;

Honourable Mr. C. Meuwly, Ambassador of Switzerland, South Africa

Dr. H. Freitag, German Consul General to the United States, German Embassy

Dr. S. Karcher, Head of Division, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety

The Directors General for the Departments of Energy

Chief Executives and Senior Government Officials

Captains of Industry; and

Distinguished Guests,

Good Evening,

I am greatly honoured to be engaging with you as we shape the future of the energy sector in particular intensifying our efforts on the development of Energy Efficiency regulatory framework including the implementation of Energy Efficiency Initiatives. Our presence during this highly-esteemed occasion is our way of doing something to transcend our political power

relations with the global community to end the uneven socio-economic relations.

Almost all countries on this universe are increasingly devoting a large amount of their time dealing with the issue of energy security and the concomitant environmental impacts of energy use and handling. They do so because they are mindful of the vital role of energy in the global economy. It is good that we are deliberating today at the time when South Africa is hosting the peoples of the World at the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) also serving at the Seventh Meeting of the Parties (CMP 7) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which should inform the road ahead of us in dealing with Climate Change matters and energy efficiency among the many ways of deal with climate change.

It takes a collective to pave a way and realise concrete results. Let us work towards an integrated policy approach instead of working in silos. Among the objectives of energy efficiency, we need to exploit all the approaches that allow us to realise this “low-hanging fruit” in a short, medium and long term period. We have realised that these are closest to the market competitiveness and we should not lose sight of the long term strategic vision of providing cost-effective options of low-carbon future.

Esteemed guests, our energy efficiency programme embraces a holistic approach (i.e. focuses at a national level) on how all the stakeholders could work together to achieve a national objective while removing the non-economic issues such as lack of information and training, lack of awareness campaigns and the tackling of social acceptance issues, that is, behavioural change in this sector as these things still act as “showstoppers” in many cases. We have been working tirelessly with our social partners at NEDLAC to finalise the national energy efficient campaign to cement and concrete the implementation of the strategy going forward.

Programme Director, according to a study by the International Energy Agency released in 2010 on Gadgets and Gigawatts Policies for Energy Efficient Electronics shows that it has been proven that policy frameworks which are combined with different technology-specific support schemes are best suited to successfully implement the policy design principles and foster a smooth transition towards market integration. As a country we need to approach this matter holistically.

Government and the private sector should work together to “pull” super-efficient appliances into the market by co-operating on measures such as manufacturer incentives and support R&D. At the same time, we could “push” the most inefficient appliances out of the market by co-operating on measures such as global standards. I got even more encouraged recently when we our Standard and Appliance labeling programme was approved by

the Global Environment Facility fund to be implemented through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). At COP 16 the Mexican Minister of Energy shared with us their 50% subsidized refrigerator programme dubbed change your old wife to a new one which included the manufacturers and retailers and was successful.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we all recognize that African countries need to increase their resilience to minimize negative climate change impacts while growing their economies and eradicating energy poverty. While economic growth must still happen to reduce poverty, create jobs and improve the balance of payment of countries, developing countries can learn from advanced countries in terms of separating economic development from social and environmental concerns, and this gathering provide a platform for such experiences to be shared. We should take advantage of an evolving international climate policy to lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) whilst intensifying our economic growth within which energy efficiency is contributing to.

To address some of these issues, it is fundamental that the policies and strategies arising from these deliberations be designed in such a way that they are flexible but robust enough to enable investment to flow with easy to African countries but taking into account the socio-economic imperatives of individual countries. In addition, the regional integration of energy systems and markets should be encouraged and sufficient resources should

be utilized on helping Africa to create enabling environment that will scale up investments and mobilize private capital.

In South Africa, our government recognizes and acknowledges that to overcome challenges of global warming confronting human kind, it is important to diversify energy supply by developing advanced, non-polluting, more efficient, affordable, sustainable and cost effective energy technologies to meet the rising global demand for energy particularly in developing countries. We are required to balance exploitation of fossil fuel resources with alternative energy options that could assist to avert the dire consequences of increasing green house gas emissions.

I need to acknowledge that we trying hard to intensify energy efficiency momentum, extensive work has been done on various programmes (1) the **Industrial Energy Efficiency programme** - This is an initiative between the South African government represented by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Energy, Business Unity South Africa and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization focusing on skills transfer and technical support in the intensive roll out of energy systems optimisation in industry and the implementation of sound energy management practices..

(2) **Energy Efficiency in Buildings** - energy efficiency in the building sector which government committed by leading as an example.

- (3) The Department has just gazetted **Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Regulations** which closed for public comments on the 15th November 2011 and I hope you have submitted your valuable inputs which would enable us to finalise the regulations on how to provide a clear regulatory framework as well as incentivizing proven efforts and results within the energy efficiency sector.
- (4) **Energy Efficient Monitoring System** which ensures that energy efficiency policies are supported by adequate end-use information by substantially increasing the effort to collect energy efficiency data and information across all sectors. This monitoring system will enable the Department to compile an annual energy efficiency data and compare these energy savings with the sector targets on the energy efficiency strategy.
- (5) **Solar Water Heating programme** working towards a set target of installation of 1 million Solar Water Heaters (SWHs) by 2014; and
- (6) **Energy Conservation Scheme.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the list is not limited to what I have just mentioned. The Department is working very close with other key role players in terms on their respective mandates on cross cutting Energy Efficiency matters, for example, the Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**), National Treasury; the Department of Public Enterprises; the Department of Public Works, and SANEDI. Let me take this moment to our partners for the

continuous support and commitment Energy Efficiency. That is, UNIDO, Swiss Development Cooperation, GEF / UNDP, the Business Unity of South Africa (BUSA), the National Business Initiative (NBI) in these programmes I have just mentioned. **Working together we can do more.**

Our government remains responsible for the creation of an atmosphere 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 have actually resolved 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, etc.

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 scale up of energy efficiency 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 energy efficiency system

Thank you

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