



**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MS. DIPUO PETERS, MP
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HAND-OVER OF THE KWA-NONQABA MULTI-
PURPOSE CENTRE AND THE ILINGELIHLE HOME FOR THE AGED**

**Saturday, 22 September 2012
KwaNonqaba, Mossel Bay**

Your Worship, Mayor of Mossel Bay, Alder Lady Marie Ferreira, Councillors and
Local Leadership,

PetroSA Chairman, Dr Benny Mokaba,

Deputy Director-General of the Department, Mr Tseliso Maqubela,

Members of the PetroSA Executive Committee and of the Department of Energy,

Members of the KwaNonqaba Community,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a pleasure to again join with the community of Mosselbay today as we
continue on our path towards a better and more equitable country.

More so, it is also my great pleasure this morning to use this opportunity to
congratulate our National Oil Company for its strategic acquisition of the Sabre Oil
and Gas Holding Ltd asset in Ghana.

This is a very important development for PetroSA and, indeed, our country. It will go
a long way towards establishing PetroSA as a National Oil Company worthy of the

name, as a key player in the oil and gas sector in the country, and it allows the company to be better positioned to meet its mandate of security of fuels supply.

This is good and, indeed, it is as it should be.

That is because we – the people and the Government of South Africa – have great expectations of PetroSA. We would like our National Oil Company to be a significant player in the petroleum sector not only in South Africa, but also on the continent.

We would like it to be an enterprise of which we can all be justly proud not just because of its commercial achievements, such as the acquisition of Sabre Oil and Gas in Ghana, but also because of its general adherence to good corporate governance, its good reputation and the positive way in which it does things. We want a National Oil Company which is a true source of pride for South Africa, and which is a socially responsible corporate citizen. This is what the NOC must strive for always!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are delighted, therefore, that we have gathered here this morning to celebrate PetroSA's positive contribution to the community, which is the construction of the KwaNonqaba Multi-Purpose Centre and the renovation of the Ilingelihle Home for the Aged.

We welcome this positive contribution to Mossel Bay, the location of our Gas-to-Liquids Refinery. This is but one of the many positive contributions that PetroSA has made over the years in this part of our country, here in Mossel Bay, in the Eden District and generally in the Southern Cape.

Chairman, we welcome and commend PetroSA for its good neighbourliness and we urge you to keep this momentum.

Just as we commend this social progress, we must encourage you, as the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy often does whenever you appear

before it, to ensure that as a National Oil Company, PetroSA has a national foot print in terms of its corporate social responsibility.

We look forward, therefore, to launching and handing over similar projects in other parts of the country in the months and years ahead.

It is important that there must not be a single province in the country where PetroSA has no footprint through its Community Affairs projects. This is particularly important as PetroSA prepares to enter the downstream market, and by doing so playing a larger role in the evolving oil and gas industry in our country.

As Government, we cannot wait for the day when our National Oil Company has a physical presence throughout the country, with its redesigned corporate identity proudly on display at filling stations across the country. We look forward to a time when we as a Ministry would ask our colleagues at the Ministries of Transport and Defence to support our National Oil Company by patronising PetroSA's filling stations.

We look forward to that time – and it is our fervent hope that it won't be long now.

In the meantime, we welcome the recent purchase from BP of the depots in Bloemfontein and Tzaneen, and we look forward to the opportunity to launch them soon.

Also welcomed is the pending completion of the Mbizana Integrated Energy Centre, which we look forward to inaugurating and handing over to the cooperative there in mid-November.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have spent some time talking about PetroSA and its role because of our high expectations of the company. As a Government and sole shareholder, we recognize that, in order for PetroSA to realize its full potential and to meet our high expectations, it needs to be appropriately capacitated and to be properly resourced.

In an address at *The New Age/SABC Business Breakfast* in Sandton in May this year, I made the point that we are aware that, compared to other National Oil Companies, PetroSA does not currently have the requisite strategic and operational fit that would enable it to be more agile and more effective in the fiercely competitive petroleum industry.

In particular, you would recall that I made the following statement:

Our National Oil Company has an important role to play towards ensuring that we meet our important goals as a Ministry and as a country. It is a strategic player charged with the important responsibility of ensuring security of fuels supply for our country – and it has to do so while it makes a profit, without relying on the National Treasury.

This is not easy to do, and yet PetroSA has done it year after year. PetroSA has ambitious plans for the future, which will have a positive effect on the development of our country. It is important that we support it and create an environment in which it can thrive. It is in our direct interest to do so because, as we know, major NOCs of more developed nations follow a commercially-oriented strategy and compete with International Oil Companies, while delivering on their developmental mandates at home. On the African continent, SONANGOL of Angola and GNPC of Ghana are also examples worthy of emulation.

Like their international counterparts, these NOCs have a more operational and strategic fit compared to our own PetroSA. I must make the point that strengthening the NOC in no way reduces the role and space of the private sector. There is ample space for economic co-existence of an NOC and IOCs, but the difference is that the NOC further carries the mandate of being a developmental instrument in the hands of the State”.

I meant it when I made the statement then and I still mean it now.

This is a matter that continues to receive my urgent attention, and we will keep on playing an activist shareholder role and ensure that the NOC is guided towards this important objective. This company is a valuable possession of the people's of this country, we will guard its prosperity and integrity jealously.

Coming back to the important work for which we have gathered here, I want to commend PetroSA for having honoured its Social Labour Plan/Local Economic Development commitments to the Petroleum Agency of South Africa by building the beautiful Multi-Purpose Hall and renovating the Ilingelihle Home for the Aged. It is my honour and privilege this morning to hand these buildings over to the community of Mossel Bay.

Our request to the Community of KwaNonqaba is that you take the best possible care of these facilities.

They are assets which should be treasured and taken good care of, knowing how lucky you are to have them. At this point of our national development project, not many communities have access of these type of facilities.

This centre must become truly multi-purpose, and must ensure that it involves all the sections of our community in their operations, from the children, the youth, the women and men and the elderly. It has the potential of becoming the centre of community life in this area, and we all, both the community and PetroSA has a responsibility to make this happen.

Let this beautiful asset become a center for social engagement, for entrepreneurship and development. Let us all work together to make it a productive asset for the people of this area.

Programme Director, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my profound and singular honour and privilege to now declare the KwaNonqaba Multi-Purpose Centre and the nearby Ilingelihle Centre for the Aged officially open,

and it is a great privilege to hand the keys over to the community of KwaNonqaba and the entire Mosselbay area.

I Thank You, Enkosi, Baie Dankie.