

ENERGY PLANNING COLLOQUIUM

29 MARCH 2012

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

BY

DIRECTOR GENERAL – MS NELISIWE MAGUBANE

Honourable Minister of Energy, Minister Dipuo Peters

Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning, Minister Trevor Manuel

Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Minister Edna Molewa

Deputy Minister of Energy, Barbara Thompson

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee of Energy, Mr Sisa Njikelane and members of the committee present

Others Members of Parliament present

Representatives from Labour and Business Constituencies

Our international speakers and guests

Directors General from all Government Departments present

Chairpersons of State Owned Entities and Government Agencies

All other stakeholders and partners present – including representatives of the Oil Companies, energy sector associations, and labour organisations

Officials from Government Departments

Esteemed members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to the Energy Planning Colloquium which the Department is so proud to host over the next two days. Welcome to this last event of Energy Month, as we recognise and seek to honor the declaration by the Secretary General of the United Nations of making 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The Energy Planning Colloquium seeks to bring together sector stakeholders to discuss pertinent issues facing the energy sector and collectively develop solutions and strategies that will shape the future energy sector roadmap of our beloved country.

The provision of adequate and reliable energy is essential to ensure that South Africa meets all the energy needs of the country, exploit our natural endowments in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner and contribute towards the lowering of the cost of doing business in South Africa. It is therefore critical that proper energy planning takes place to ensure that we meet this objective.

Ladies and gentlemen, my role here today is to merely open the conference and I do not want to take the words of the honourable and prestiged speakers that will address us today.

With these few words I declare the conference open and call upon the honourable Deputy Minister Thompson who will deliver the opening and welcoming remarks and share with us the purpose of this gathering.

Thank you.