

ENERGY PLANNING COLLOQUIUM

29 MARCH 2012

Purpose and Welcome

BY

Deputy Minister Thompson

Programme Director

Honourable Minister of Energy, Minister Dipuo Peters

Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning, Minister
Manuels

Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Minister Molewa

<List all Ministers present by name>

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee of Energy and
members of the committee

Chairperson of the Select Committee on Economic development and
members of the committee

Representatives from Labour and Business Constituencies

Our international speakers and guests

Director-General of the Department of Energy

Directors General from <list departments>

Chairpersons of State Owned Entities and Government Agencies

Chief Executive Officers of State Owned Entities and Government Agencies

Officials from the Department of Energy and all other Government Departments represented

Representatives from the oil and gas as well as the electricity industries

Representatives from various organizations and interest groups

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the Energy Planning Colloquium. This event marks the last activity of Energy Month; however it also marks the beginning of broad stakeholder consultations for the development of an important energy policy.

The purpose of this colloquium is to launch the development of the Integrated Energy Plan for South Africa. One of the primary objectives is to ensure that we obtain input from a broad stakeholder basis through an inclusive process. Energy and energy issues affect each and every South African and it is therefore important that we include you in discussions and debates that will shape this important policy.

Programme Director, we have invited several speakers to provide us with different perspectives on key global issues facing energy sectors across different economies. This insight will afford us an opportunity to explore different strategies of dealing with these challenges which are often beyond our borders and are therefore beyond our control.

Issues of climate change and sustainability, particularly within the energy sector are paramount and should take centre stage in any discussions on energy policy. Various speakers will share their perspectives on how we can tackle the climate change issues while simultaneously ensuring that we maintain a balanced view of all the three pillars of sustainable development, namely: Economic growth, Social development and Environmental responsibility.

Several authorities from local government will also share with us work which they have done within the energy sector. Their presentations should not only provide us with insight into energy plans which have been developed or are currently being developed at a provincial and local government level, but they should also put forward mechanisms of ensuring alignment with the national energy planning process.

Detailed discussions on current activities pertaining to the development of the Integrated Energy Plan will take place on the second day of the colloquium. In order to ensure that adequate time is allocated to debate upon the various thematic issues, several breakaway sessions will be held. While energy issues affect each and every one of us, different breakaway sessions will appeal to different stakeholder groups. Our aim is to ensure that we are able to engage with you on those energy issues that affect you

the most and are most relevant to you and therefore to which you would like to provide input.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am personally very passionate about issues that affect women and the empowerment of women. It is widely acknowledged that access to energy and more importantly access to modern forms of energy, helps reduce poverty and improves the conditions and standards of living for our people and therefore acts as an enabler for socio-economic development. Livelihoods of our citizens and in particular women in rural areas can be enhanced significantly with access to the right forms of energy. In our discussions let us focus on exploring all possible options which we can pursue to make clean, safe and affordable energy sources available to all South African citizens. In our discussions let's not forget to address subtle but key issues such as convenience which often go forgotten in discussions of accessibility. Let's not look for "one glove fits all" solutions, but rather solutions which meet the individual and differing needs of our communities and of our people.

Programme Director and honourable guests, while I do not want to preempt what my Minister will table, I certainly hope that over the next few days, we will discuss and debate constructively upon key issues which obstruct progress with regards to ensuring access to energy.

In the State of the Nation Address the President appealed to all our people to join hands in dealing decisively with the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. Taking a cue from his words I appeal to all participants to meet heads and deliberate on the issues and

challenges that are on the table so that we can come out of here having made meaningful input to the development of the Integrated Energy Plan.

Without much ado, let me welcome our Minister, Minister Dipuo Peters onto the stage to make the key note address.

Thank you

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