

**MINISTER OF ENERGY, DIKOBEN MARTINS:**

**Opening Address delivered at the Nuclear Africa Conference 2014**

**18-20 March 2014, Accolades Hotel, Midrand**

Programme Director;

Mr Daniel Poneman, USA Deputy Secretary of Energy;

Mr Nikolai Drozdov, Head of ROSATOM International Business;

Dr Kelvin Kemm, Chief Executive Officer of Stratek;

Mr Sisa Njikelana, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy;

Officials of the Ministry and the Department of Energy;

Mr Phumzile Tshelane, Chief Executive Officer of the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa;

Dr Bizmark Tyobeka, Chief Executive Officer of the National Nuclear Regulator;

Dr Rob Adam, President of the Nuclear Industry Association of SA;

All dignitaries from foreign countries;

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning.

Welcome to the Nuclear Africa 2014 conference.

The objectives of this conference are laudable and include among others, namely to:

1. Develop a positive and proactive approach to the nuclear power planning and implementation process in Africa;
2. to show, foreground and harness skills in South Africa and other African countries to implement nuclear power programmes;

3. to address public interest issues such as safety, legislation, and
4. the handling and storage of nuclear waste material

In his State of the Nation Address to Parliament on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma announced that government will include the procurement of 9600 MW of nuclear energy as part of the energy mix.

Cabinet, in 2011, adopted the *Integrated Resources Plan 2010* which provides for the utilization of different sources of energy for electricity generation to ensure the security of supply by 2030. The different sources of energy include coal, nuclear, renewables, and hydro technologies.

Since the adoption of the IRP 2010, significant work has been done to implement it. The Renewable Independent Power Producers Programme (REIPP) is recognized worldwide because of its transparency and predictability.

The Renewable Independent Power Producers Programme (REIPP) has contributed significantly to Foreign Direct Investment in the South African economy, and we expect this to continue as we licence the next phases of the programme.

This experience shows that South Africa has the necessary capacity to undertake mega projects. Our long term vision is to be self-sufficient in all aspects of the nuclear value chain.

Recently the Ministry of Energy, led a delegation comprising of officials of the Department of Energy, the Department of Trade and Industry, National Treasury, the Department of Public Enterprises, the National Nuclear Regulator, the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa and Eskom on study visits to the United States, Russia, South Korea, China, and Japan to appraise what these countries can offer in terms of their nuclear capabilities in relation to South Africa's nuclear energy needs.

Since then, the Department of Energy has been interacting with these countries to explore possible areas of co-operation in the energy sector.

Some of these countries have proposals for partnership in the development of nuclear energy skills. Their programmes seek to target young South Africans still at universities and graduates. There is also a willingness to provide on the job training for highly skilled professionals in the nuclear sector. The Department of Energy is encouraged by the confidence shown by these countries in the growing potential of the South African energy sector.

This conference is therefore timely, as it allows stakeholders to engage substantively in regard to the opportunities that will come with the rollout of the nuclear programme. The Department of Energy and other Departments and stakeholders are working to finalize the procurement framework for the nuclear programme.

As soon as that is done, we will expect industry to take advantage of opportunities throughout the value chain of the nuclear energy programme. This will be another opportunity for all our people with requisite skills to enter the nuclear sector.

I wish to encourage industry stakeholders to start preparing for the upcoming opportunities by building local skills and improving local research and development capabilities.

Government's commitment to localization will result in opportunities for local industry in the manufacturing of various components that are used in the nuclear energy sector.

In addition to the participation of local business, we expect the nuclear programme to significantly contribute to skills development, industrialization and job creation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Government in due course will announce specific details of the nuclear build programme as soon as all our consultations and preparations are finalized.

The Department of Energy looks forward to engaging with all role players.

I wish you a success in your deliberations.

**I thank you**