

**WELCOME REMARKS BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR THE SA-EU DIALOGUE
ON THE INTEGRATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENT
TECHNOLOGIES IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN
SOUTH AFRICA**

Split Incentive Dilemma Workshop

Sheraton Hotel, Pretoria, 09:00-12:00

26 November 2021

Programme Director, Dr Coralie van Reenen

Minister Counsellor and Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to South Africa, Dr Bernard Rey'

SANEDI CEO, Ms. Lethabo Manamela

DFFE Acting Deputy-Director General, Mr. Peter Lukey

Mr. Daniel Grewan from SA Property Owners Association

Industry Associations present here

Government Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is a great pleasure for me, as the Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, to welcome you on this important occasion of a dialogue between South Africa (SA) and European Union (EU) stakeholders on the integration of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in government buildings and

infrastructure in South Africa. The dialogue will help us improve sectorial policy dialogue between SA and EU, resulting in an effective implementation and appropriate visibility of our energy savings interventions in public infrastructure.

Ladies and gentlemen

Your participation in this dialogue demonstrates your commitment to the improvement of energy performance of our buildings, and a drive towards a low-carbon economy. Furthermore, our collaboration with the EU, Denmark and German governments on energy issues, especially energy efficiency, is indeed a demonstration that as a country we take seriously the need to change the way we use energy, while we maintain the sustainable economic development imperatives.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the SA – EU Dialogue Facility for their support and contribution to South Africa's objectives of responding to energy challenges and climate change response measures. And we are looking forward to continue to learn from EU member countries on energy efficiency policies considerations, as well as strengthening the relationship on the reduction of energy-related carbon emissions.

As you would know, energy efficiency is widely recognized as the most fundamental short-term imperative for rapid, ambitious and cost-effective climate change mitigation. The efficient use of energy represents an opportunity to encouraging a more sustainable energy policy and security of energy supply. As a matter of fact, improved energy efficiency is the most cost-effective, least-polluting and readily available energy resource.

Programme director, government commitments to lead by example in energy savings and improving energy efficiency as is evident with our focus to integrate small-scale renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in government office buildings, schools, hospitals, public streetlighting and water service facilities.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to have a fruitful discussion and I am looking forward to the recommendations the dialogue will provide.

I thank you