

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DDG NUCLEAR ENERGY, MR ZIZAMELE
MBAMBO, ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
ADVOCATE THABO MOKOENA
STAND UP FOR NUCLEAR SOUTH AFRICA, 18 SEPTEMBER 2021**

National Coordinator for Stand Up For Nuclear South Africa, Ms Princess Mthombeni

Chairperson of the Necsawu Branch, Mr Zolani Masoleng

Principals of Schools of Specialisation in Nuclear Technology, Mr Mkhwanazi from Edward Phatudi Comprehensive School and Mr Simon Tsotetsi from Phelindaba Secondary School

Event organisers and collaborators: Nuclear Industry Association of South Africa, South African Young Nuclear Professionals Society, Southern African Radiation Protection Association, SA Vest Group and Women in Nuclear South Africa

Educators and Learners,

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good afternoon and a warm welcome to all of you who came to this year's Stand Up For Nuclear South Africa event. I have been made aware that Stand Up For Nuclear is the first international pro-nuclear movement which works with allies around the world to advocate for the protection and expansion of nuclear as a source of energy and other applications. I am reliably told that as South Africa, we have been part of this progressive movement since 2018. This initiative is truly welcomed and we look forward to bigger and broader Stand Up for Nuclear Event across the country in future.

It is inspiring to see so many people here today and I am delighted to see the passion that you demonstrated, not only for walking but for creating more awareness about nuclear science and technology.

I was pleased to hear that the South African pro-nuclear activists led by NEHAWU Professionals Technical Committee (NPTC) collaborated to make Stand Up For Nuclear South Africa a vibrant movement. This collaboration by Nehawu Professionals

Technical Committee, Nuclear Industry Association of South Africa, South African Young Nuclear Professionals Society, Southern African Radiation Protection Association, Women in Nuclear South Africa, Thyspunt Nuclear Development Forum and SA Vest Group to Stand Up For Nuclear demonstrates that when nuclear aligned organisations work together, great things can be achieved. I was made aware that this event is also happening concurrently in the Western Cape, Strand Beach, and Eastern Cape, in the Thyspunt area of Oyster bay.

Programme Director

We acknowledge the important role of nuclear energy, alongside other clean energy technologies, to achieve the Paris Agreement commitments and the UN Sustainable Development Goal: Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050. This is witnessed through our policies.

The South Africa's Nuclear Energy Policy of 2008 is very clear, especially ***Principle Number 3, which states that "Nuclear Energy shall form part of South Africa's strategy to mitigate climate change."*** In line with this policy principle as we embark on consultations for the Just Energy Transition in South Africa, we recognize that as a clean energy source Nuclear Power can contribute in moving the country towards achieving the Net-Zero Emissions by 2050 in line with the our country's obligations in Paris Climate Change Agreement.

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa has recently concurred with a Ministerial section 34 determination for the procurement of 2500MW new generation capacity from nuclear energy. The Department will commence with planning work for 2500MW nuclear programme with intention to complete the procurement in 2024 to support the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and ensure security of energy supply.

The Koeberg Power Plant design life is currently being extended by another 20 years by undertaking the necessary technical and regulatory work. Koeberg Nuclear Power Plant plays an important role to supply the clean baseload electricity to ensure the security of energy supply.

The Multipurpose Research Reactor Project for the replacement of the SAFARI-1 Research Reactor has progressed significantly with the completion of the Pre-feasibility Report. The Multipurpose Research Reactor, once installed, will allow South African to continue as a global leader in the production and supply of radioisotopes to industry and medical sector both nationally and globally. This is the beginning of communication on the benefits that the multipurpose reactor will bring to South African and the world at large and what a better way to kick-start it than with Stand Up for Nuclear.

The National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute (NRWDI) continues to manage radioactive waste on a national basis. As designated implementing Agency, NRWDI is working with key stakeholders in planning of the Central Interim Storage Facility (CISF).

Programme director

As the Department, we support initiatives for engaging with the public through platforms created by nuclear industry professionals. We regard Stand Up For Nuclear as one of those initiatives that can help demystify nuclear technology for a broader audience to ensure public' understanding and acceptance of this important technology. Robust, clear and continuous engagement with the public is key to a successful implementation of nuclear programme. We need to harness all communication platforms at our disposal to inspire and energise South Africans and assert a narrative of hope that nuclear energy can be used to improve our socio-economic conditions.

In closing, I would like to thank all stakeholders in the nuclear sector, for their continued support of activities such as Stand Up For Nuclear. The former President of the Republic of South Africa, Tata Nelson Mandela once said; "It always seems impossible until it's done". Once again, you have done it. You have successfully pulled through an event that will be recorded in the global platforms, on behalf of South Africa.

Congratulations to the organisers and collaborators!

Thank you