



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY'S STRATEGIC AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN THAT INCLUDES 2500 MWe OF NEW NUCLEAR.

The South African Young Nuclear Professionals Society (SAYNPS) welcomes the strategic direction and the 2020 – 2021 performance plan as presented by the Minister of Minerals Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe on Thursday 07th Ma 2020. SAYNPS is pleased to hear that the Minister is taking bold steps in providing tangible plans and targets on the performance of the department over the next few years. “The department has provided some clarity on the future of nuclear build programme as per the IRP 2019, the plant life extension for Koeberg, the replacement of SAFARI I by a new Multi-Purpose Reactor (MPR) and the establishment of the central interim facility for sustainable management of radioactive waste.” SAYNPS suggest that the full implementation of the Nuclear Energy policy of 2008 by the department is long overdue as it will serve the full purpose of energy beneficiation whilst addressing the issue of security of supply.

In the wake of COVID-19, the country finds itself in a situation whereby our dependence on international communities to provide parts, spares, equipment and even manpower has resulted in us not being able to progress key maintenance to some of our plants. Therefore, in the wake of this, we are glad that the department recognizes the need for self-reliance in the utilization of nuclear technology value chain through localization as this will provide the much needed injection into the struggling economy of the country whilst creating jobs to millions of South Africans. It is understood that the department is considering Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to take into account the pace and scale that the country can afford, however, SAYNPS still believes that with the appropriate finance model, the country can still build at least two units of larger reactors with a carrying capacity of up to at least 2000MWe whilst the remaining 500 MWe can be allocated to SMRs, with the aim of expanding SMRs in the future, as the technology continues to develop. SAYNPS urges the government to keep this option open as a no regret option (in terms of proven technologies). The society further request the department to consider the use of brownfield sites planned for the

decommissioning of coal-fired power station to slot in the proposed SMRs as they believe this will assist in repurposing this site whilst maintaining the socio economic aspects of the communities leaving around those sites. The government must immediately accelerate the locally developed Advanced High Temperature Reactor (AHTR) as this provides for self-reliance and creates an opportunity for South Africa to sell this technology to other countries, in particular the African continent.

As a way forward, SAYNPS would like to remind the department that the involvement of the youth through the decision making process and active participation in these projects is vital to the success of this projects and the sustainability of the country.

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