

MEDIA REMINDER

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT TO OPEN NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT ON 03 MARCH 2009

ISSUED ON 02 MARCH 2009

The President of South Africa, Kgalema Motlanthe will officially open the National Climate Change Summit on Tuesday, 03 March 2009 at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, Gauteng.

Media is invited to the opening session on Tuesday, 03 March 2009 at 14:00.

Hosted by the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism as well as Science and Technology, the Summit will formally launch the policy process that will translate Cabinet's climate change policy decisions and directives into fiscal, regulatory and legislative packages as well as sectoral implementation plans.

The Summit will provide all key climate change response stakeholders with an update on the most recent climate change research and other current South African initiatives and interventions. The Summit will also provide a platform for all key climate change response stakeholders to discuss and agree on the framework for a National Climate Change Response Policy.

Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, will deliver a keynote address during the opening session on Cabinet's climate change response directives and the international negotiations context.

The National Climate Change Summit will see over 600 participants from government, organised labour, business and industry associations, public interest groups and academia converge under the theme, "Climate Action Now!"

The opening day (03 March 2009) will also see the broadcast of a key video presentation on the global climate change challenge by Climate Change Nobel Prize winner, Professor Rajendra Pachauri. An address on the expectations for the Copenhagen COP in December 2009 will also be delivered through a video insert by Danish Minister of Climate and Energy, Connie Hedegaard.

Minister of Transport, Jeff Radebe and Minister of Minerals and Energy Buyelwa Sonjica will present government's vision on climate change mitigation with a transport and energy focus respectively.

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Lindiwe Hendricks will present government's vision on climate change adaptation.

Councillor Amos Masondo, Chairperson of SALGA will speak to local government's vision for a South African climate change response while industry's vision will be presented by Jerry Vilakazi, CEO of

Business Unity of South Africa (BUSA).

The vision shared by labour for a South African climate change response will be conveyed by COSATU Deputy General Secretary, Bheki Ntshalintshali and Richard Worthington will present civil society's vision as coordinator of the Climate Action Network South Africa.

Delegate registration for the Summit is closed but there will be live audio and audiovisual streaming of the Climate Change Summit. A blog facility will be available on the website as part of the live streaming display. Public comments and a selection of relevant questions raised during Q & A sessions will be streamed into the plenary session.

The Summit will continue until Friday, 06 March 2009. The conference programme is comprehensive and categorised into thematic areas. Several pertinent side events are also scheduled during the Summit.

To view the comprehensive programme and for further information on the live streaming visit www.ccs summit2009.co.za

Media is invited to the Summit

Summit Opening Details:

Date: Tuesday, 03 March 2009

Venue: Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, Gauteng

Time: Opening session begins at 14:00
(Please arrive sufficiently in advance for registration purposes)
(Press identification will be required for Summit registration)

To RSVP for the opening session contact:

Judith van der Merwe (DEAT)
Cell: 083 321 2617 Landline: (012) 310 3309 E-mail: jvdmerwe@deat.gov.za

For media queries contact:

Roopa Singh (DEAT)
Cell: 082 225 3076 Landline: (012) 310 3566 E-mail: rsingh@deat.gov.za

**ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM AND
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**