

Petroleum Agency SA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: SUSTAINING THE WILD COAST NPC V MINISTER OF MINERAL & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Petroleum Agency SA (**PASA**) notes the Constitutional Court's recent Wild Coast judgment.

The judgment reinforces the principle that petroleum development cannot take place at the expense of the environment, affected communities, or constitutional rights. At the same time, South Africa continues to face poverty, unemployment, inequality and energy insecurity. Reliable and affordable energy remains fundamental to advancing the well-being of South Africa's population. Fulfilment of PASA's mandate to promote and regulate oil and gas development demands that these two truths be balanced in equal measure.

This approach is consistent with South Africa's broader development and energy policy. The National Development Plan (NDP) places the reduction of poverty, inequality and unemployment at the centre of the country's developmental agenda. Furthermore, the Integrated Resource Plan 2025 (IRP) recognises that South Africa's energy transition must balance security of supply and environmental sustainability. Under the IRP 2025, sustainably produced natural gas is a crucial transition fuel for the transition to renewable energy. Thus, it is not a binary choice between environment and development. The real question is how South Africa develops and uses its resources responsibly while progressing towards a lower-carbon and sustainable energy future.

PASA does not advocate for petroleum development at any cost. Development must be underpinned by meaningful consultation, sound scientific evidence, rigorous environmental assessment, and careful consideration of climate impacts. Equally, PASA does not accept the notion that responsible petroleum development and environmental stewardship are mutually exclusive objectives.

Directors:

S Roopa (Chairperson)
CC Mpelwane | MV Ngwenya | RH Nkambule | P Motsielwa
Chief Executive Officer: Dr B Sayidini | Acting Chief Financial Officer: S Mahlambi
Company Secretary: Adv E Hendricks



South Africa's energy transition will unfold over time and must be managed in a manner that reduces environmental harm without creating new social or economic challenges. Our statutory responsibility is not to choose between environmental protection and development, but to help ensure that both are advanced through responsible, lawful, evidence-based, and sustainable decision-making.

ENDS

Issued by:

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