

29 January 2013

Good Morning Limpopo

Nda Limpopo

Thobela Limpopo

Goeie more Limpopo

Programme director

The Premier of Limpopo, Mr Cassel Mathale, the Mayor of Blouberg, Honourable Serite Sekgoloane, Deputy Chairperson of Government Employee Pension Fund (GEPF), Mr Prabir Badal

The SunEdison team

Members of the media

Distinguished guests

We are grateful to the people of Limpopo for welcoming us in their province. Ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a moment of pride for us as the PIC to be part of such an important investment in solar energy in South Africa. This ground breaking ceremony should represent the beginning of a journey towards a cleaner environment in this country.

Ladies and gentlemen the PIC is guided by the GEPF Developmental Investment Policy which rests on four pillars, namely:

Investment in critical economic infrastructure;

Investment in social infrastructure;

Investment in a sustainable future (greener economy); and

Investment in job creation, new enterprises and broad-based black economic empowerment.

The Soutpan Solar PV Park and Witkop Solar PV Park investments by and large fit the mandate and we believe will bring the requisite satisfactory financial returns to our pensioners, job creation and Black Economic Empowerment as well as the participation of local communities in this project. The PIC is committed to investing pensioners' money prudently. The projects are expected to cost R1.23 billion (Soutpan) and R1.63 billion (Witkop) with equity contributions of R307m and R341m respectively. Ladies and gentlemen we are pleased to announce that the power generated from the two facilities will be purchased by Eskom, through a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA).

Of particular interest is the fact that this investment will create much needed jobs to this province thus positively impacting on the lives of ordinary people.

Unemployment is a worldwide phenomenon and SA is no exception. The PIC is happy to contribute positively towards job creation in Limpopo. Thus impacting on the lives of ordinary people.

South Africa's economy will not develop without a secure supply of electricity. South Africa must double its generation capacity by 2026 to ensure stable power supply. The GEPF is concerned about the environmental sustainability of other methods of power generation. To that end, the GEPF believes that in the interest of environmental sustainability the transition to cleaner energy and a greener economy is inexorable over the medium- to long-term.

This means that South Africans will have to shift the way they generate and use energy. This will amount to a fundamental repositioning that will require investment in clean businesses, clean projects, and clean technologies such as the Soutpan Solar PV Park and Witkop Solar PV Park. This investment will create approximately 80% jobs 50% of which will be for blacks, 30% for black skilled and 20% will be jobs for the local communities.

Finally ladies and gentlemen, this investment will create an increasingly efficient Solar PV industry in South Africa; enterprise development much needed service delivery and energy security.

Mudzimu a vha fhe maanda a u tshireledza solar power station yashu.

May the good Lord give you strength and energy to make this power station a reality.

Modimo a le fe matla gore le kgone go aga solar power station y arena le go e sireletsa

I thank you.

Dr Dan Matjila

Chief Investment officer