

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Regulations regarding petroleum products specifications and standards for implementation**

**09 September 2021, Johannesburg** – The South Africa Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA) received confirmation from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) that the new regulations regarding Petroleum Products Specifications and Standards were gazetted repealing those published under the Government Notice No. R. 627 of 23 June 2006.

These Petroleum Products Specifications and Standards mandate the use of ultra-low sulphur petrol and diesel products from the 1 September 2023. SAPIA notes the gazetting of these regulations with great concern. Despite assurances by the Department, these regulations have been gazetted before consultation with respect to the necessary refinery upgrades being concluded.

SAPIA is of the view that the very short time frame provided for implementation is impossible to meet and will likely render the refinery fleet obsolete within two years, making South Africa wholly dependent on imports for its liquid fuels. This is going to raise considerable questions on the security of supply of products, resulting in a negative trade balance.

A further consequence of the regulations means that tens of thousands of jobs will be placed at serious risk. This includes not only jobs in the refineries themselves but also in the industries associated with the refineries – those that supply services to the plants and those that rely on the production of specialty products from these plants.

SAPIA is presently in the process of consulting with the Department for them to amend these regulations so that a mutually acceptable and possible implementation date is obtained. These consultations will also include obtaining a suitable financial framework to promote the necessary investments to upgrade the refineries.

## **ENDS**

### **About SAPIA:**

SAPIA represents the collective interests of the South African petroleum industry and plays a strategic role in addressing a range of common issues relating to the refining, distribution and marketing of petroleum products, as well as promoting the industry's environmental and socio-economic progress. SAPIA fulfils this role by contributing to the development of regulation in certain areas of South African policy; proactively engaging with key stakeholders; sharing research information; providing expert advice; and communicating the industry's views.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Cindy-Lee Maneveld  
Head: Advocacy, Engagement and Communication  
Mobile: 066 423 2319  
Email: heac@sapia.co.za

### **Board of Governors:**

M. Kane-Garcia (Chairperson), H. Mtolo, B. Smit, N. Chili, P. Naidoo, P. Vilakazi, T. Mojapelo,  
W. Sanchez & Y. Hassan