



transport
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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CAMPAIGN STATEMENT OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, HON. DIKELEDI MAGADZI (MP) DELIVERED AT THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION DURING 31ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY, 29 NOVEMBER 2019, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Madam President

Secretary-General

Honourable Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for the opportunity to present the South Africa Candidature under Part “C” of the IMO Convention.

Part of the reason why the Minister and President assigned me with this duty was in keeping with the 2019 IMO World Maritime Day Theme which is Empowering Women in (the maritime community)

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, for us Africans, this Assembly is taking place at a time when there are major developments in and around our continent, Africa. The African Continental Free Trade Area

Agreement brokered by the African Union (AU) and signed by 44 of its 55 member states in Kigali, Rwanda on March 21, 2018, will accelerate intra-Africa trade and position the continent at a much greater advantage in its trade with the world. The agreement is a major milestone in the implementation of the African Union (AU) 2063 Agenda in developing the Africa we want. The renewed interest on Africa by those out of Africa once-again reconfirms that the world need Africa and Africa needs the world. As we all are aware, Africa is an island continent deserving an ocean named after her. This reality calls on the much broader need for the indigenisation of Africa's maritime history. The vast ocean based mineral and energy resources continuously be discovered along the coast of Africa, means that Africa needs the world and the world needs Africa for the future survival of humanity.

Madam President, to illustrate this point just using one commodity, Gas. Existing studies show that, gas is expected to increase in demand around 2% p.a. with LNG expected to increase by around 4%, and it is expected that importantly LNG will represent 80% of the demand increase in long distance gas trade. It is also anticipated by the International Energy Agency (IEA) that, gas will overtake coal by 2030 to become the world's second leading fuel. You may wonder why am I raising these matters and the point is, our neighbour Mozambique will become the world's # 5 LNG producer after the USA, Qatar and Australia.

Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen considering the exponential growth in the use of Liquefied Natural Gas and the development of LNG powered engines, southern Africa will grow to be a strategic energy endowed sub-regional power with varied energy resources. This will surely strengthen the negotiating power of our sub-region and the African continental area.

South Africa's trade is 98% dependent on the sea, thus making shipping, a significant player in the national economy. The country has about 3,000 kilometers of coastline which borders over three oceans – the Atlantic, Indian and Southern Oceans. We have adopted the Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy (CMTP) which among others, aims to develop South Africa to become an International Maritime Centre by 2030.

We have 8 commercial ports play a critical and strategic role in the economic and social development of South Africa as well the economies of the land-accessed neighboring States. And these dynamics places our ports and shipping lanes at the integral and nodal point in the value chain system.

The enormity of our maritime domain also imposes a huge responsibility to South Africa as a coastal State as well as the port State.

As a coastal State, our obligation is to ensure that our marine environment is protected against pollution from ships; and that ships calling our ports and those traversing our waters are safe and secured.

In that regard, South Africa provides Aids to Navigation to global shipping including lighthouses, a fully-fledged Marine Hydrographic Service, emergency response capacity which includes the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Emergency Towing Vessel, Vessel Traffic Services, terrestrial and satellite Automatic Identification System, e-Navigation, and Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships. These systems are not only utilized for maritime safety and security of ships on South African waters but also support the entire Southern African Region.

South Africa also plays a prominent role in the suppression of piracy and armed robbery at sea particularly on the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. On that regard, we are signatories to the Djibouti Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

As a Port State country, we ensure that our Port State Control regime is effective and efficient when inspecting foreign ships on our national ports in ensuring that they comply with international instruments and standards. As a member of the two regional arrangements on Port State Control - the Indian Ocean MoU as well as the Abuja MoU, South Africa has been very instrumental in ensuring that unseaworthy and sub-standard ships are minimized in the region and such information is shared with the Member States of both the MoUs.

South Africa is committed and is working towards improving its maritime training and human resources development and offering in recognition that seafarers in particular, are a vital support mechanism for the global economy.

South Africa's membership of the IMO remains an active membership and this is proven by the fact that we continue supporting the work of the Organization in varied roles. We are host to the Sub-regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre; a Member of the IMO Council and most importantly we are the host of the IMO 2020 World Maritime Day Parallel event.

With the IMO already having declared 2020 as the year of "Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Climate", according to the IMO the theme will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the UN SDGs and showcase the work that IMO and its Member States are undertaking to achieve the targets.

This theme is also appropriate for the coming into force of the global cap of 0.50% global sulphur cap on fuel content from 1 January 2020. South Africa as a party to MARPOL in its entirety, wishes to state that by 12 mid-night on 1 January 2020, ships entering our waters would know very well that they are entering waters of an Annex VI party and would therefore be expected to be fully compliant. All parties will be expected to ensure enforcement of the provisions of chapter 4 of Marpol Annex VI without excuse whatsoever and South Africa will be ready, willing and able to without fear, favour or constraint to discharge her obligation.

South African Refiners have made public statements that they will have sufficient Low Sulphur Fuels Oils (LSFO) available in both the Ports of Durban and Cape Town.

We would like to express our gratitude to Secretary-General and IMO Member States for entrusting us with organizing the next World Maritime Day Parallel Event. This prestigious event will be held from 28-30 October in Durban, province of KwaZulu Natal. We also encourage our guests to stay longer to attend the Port Festival in Durban as well as the Cape Town International Boat-show also taking place also in October 2020.

We have no doubt that the IMO is the only United Nation's body which is mandated to set global standards for maritime safety, security and for the protection of the environment as well as to facilitate global seaborne trade. We are fully and unconditionally committed to the attainment of these objectives.

We also commit ourselves to work together with other countries in advancing the work of the Organisation whilst contributing with greater energy in promoting the interests of developing countries.

This commitment is demonstrated by the fact that South Africa is a State Party to more than 30 IMO instruments including the mandatory Conventions like SOLAS and MARPOL, IOPC Funds and the OPRC and not to mention the Search and Rescue Convention. We also continue to discharge, effectively, the Port State Control, Flag State and Coastal State obligations and responsibilities.

Mr President with these therefore, it gives me great pleasure, honour and privilege to present the candidature of the Republic of South Africa for membership of the IMO Council under Category "C". We believe that in addition to our marine geo-economics' considerations coupled with the fact that we are the only country in Southern African Development Community serving on the IMO Council, our reelection would not only contribute in strengthening the IMO, but will ensure the voice of marine SADC community is present and can be heard. Please (vote) South Africa (for) southern Africa!

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