



## MEDIA

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*Dear Editor*

**INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHENING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY REGIME. NNR CEO DR BISMARK TYOBKA ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE REGULATORY COOPERATION FORUM (RCF).**

**- 23 June 2017, Centurion, Pretoria, South Africa –**

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) received yet another acknowledgement from the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). NNR CEO, Dr Bismark Tyobeka moves from Vice Chair to Chair of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF).

During the annual RCF Steering Committee meeting which took place from 13-15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in Brussels, the IAEA confirmed the selection of Dr Tyobeka as the new Chair of the RCF. One of the factors supporting the selection of the new chair was that Dr Tyobeka served in the role as Vice Chair of the RCF since 2014. This was recognised as a vital factor for maintaining continuity in the important work done by the RCF.

The RCF has a profound historical relationship with South Africa, in that it was established as an outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IAEA International conference on Effective Regulatory Systems which took place in December 2009 in Cape Town. As the new chairman, Dr Tyobeka pledged his full support towards promoting collaboration and cooperation among the RCF members in order to strengthen nuclear safety infrastructures for new and expanding programmes.

“South Africa, like the rest world is facing economic, social and environmental challenges. These challenges are further compounded by the increasing demand for clean, safe and reliable energy. Such demand is taking place amidst heightened socio-political tensions but we all have to remain focused on the roles we have to play in creating a better future for the world. Delivering on our long standing

commitment towards achieving and sustaining a high level of nuclear safety to support socio economic progress will always be our key focus. To chair the RCF is truly a reflection of the international nuclear community's confidence in South Africa's commitment to enhancing the development of nuclear safety regulatory infrastructure of regulators from new and existing nuclear countries," concluded Dr Tyobeka.

The NNR participates in various international multi-lateral regulatory fora, international networks, safety committees and bilateral cooperation initiatives aimed at advancing its mandate for providing for the protection of persons, property and environment against the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

For more information, please contact me.

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### **About the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF)**

The RCF is a member-driven forum of nuclear power regulators that promotes the sharing of regulatory knowledge and experience through international cooperation and collaboration using the IAEA Safety Standards as its basis. It involves countries with advanced nuclear power programmes, countries embarking on nuclear power for the first time and countries with smaller programmes considering expansion.

The primary objectives of the RCF are:

- To promote collaboration and cooperation among RCF members to improve coordination of support for regulatory infrastructure development;
- To contribute to achieving and sustaining a high level of nuclear safety, consistent with the IAEA Safety Standards and Guidance;
- To optimise resources among RCF members and avoid unnecessary support duplication through improved coordination.

### **About the National Nuclear Regulator**

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999). The fundamental objective of the NNR is to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices suited for South Africa. To this end, the NNR provides oversight and assurance that activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in South Africa are carried out in a safe manner and in accordance with international principles and best practices.