



**SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ENERGY CORPORATION (Necsa)**

**MEDIA RELEASE: NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 12-17 MAY 2008 "NUKE IS NEAT"**

**Date: 10 May 2008**

Celebrated in all nine provinces, National Science Week activities will run from 10 - 17 May 2008 with many science based activities being performed to excite, educate, and encourage young people to study mathematics and science.

The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) in conjunction with DST and SAASTA, have partnered to deliver the objectives of National Science Week. Necsa's theme for this year is "Nuke is Neat". The primary aim of the National Science Week at Necsa is to create awareness among young learners about the various exhilarating careers available in the fields of science and technology and to highlight the benefits offered by nuclear technology.

Necsa's programme will start with an Employees' Open Day which will run for two days, 12 – 13 May 2008. At the same time a team of Necsa employees will be flying to the Vaalputs Waste Disposal Site in the Northern Cape where various National Science Week activities will be exhibited to schools and the Vaalputs Community Forum (VCF).

Necsa will then from 14 -16 May 2008 host a Schools' Careers Day with participating schools from the Gauteng and the North Western provinces. Many professionals from Necsa and other science institutions will be available to offer motivational talks, science shows, and career guidance to learners. At the end of each Schools Career Day, students will each receive surprise gifts from Necsa to further ignite their interest in science and technology.

Necsa's Public Open Day will then follow on 17 May 2008. A large number of the public is expected and selected Necsa employees will be available to offer information regarding its business activities, its involvement in community social activities and generally offer answers to the most frequently asked questions about nuclear technology. Tours around the Necsa nuclear facilities will also be on offer including a tour to the world-renowned SAFARI-1 Research Reactor which will this year, complete 43 years of operation with an outstanding safety record.

The National Science Week celebrations are aimed at promoting greater awareness and appreciation of the contribution that nuclear technology makes in all spheres of society today. With the resurgence of nuclear power globally and the approved "Eskom New Build", South Africa will be looking at today's youth to manage this phenomenal innovation in the future.

The National Science Week is celebrated Nationwide every year, and this year it was officially launched on 08 May 2008 at the University of North West in Potchefstroom by the minister of Science and Technology, Mosibudi Mangena. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) initiated the program and appointed SAASTA as the implementing agent.

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