

**MEDIA RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

**MINERALS DEPARTMENT WILL NEITHER ACCEPT NOR  
FINALISE CURRENT APPLICATIONS FOR SHALE GAS  
EXPLORATION**

The Minister of Mineral Resources, Ms Susan Shabangu, MP, today (**Friday**, 29 April) announced that the Department will neither accept new applications nor finalise existing applications until the department's feasibility study is finalised.

Minister Shabangu said, "Given the intensity and scale of the issue and the fact that this (shale gas exploration) has never been done before in our shores, my department will conduct a comprehensive study which will assist us to formulate our approach after which we will go back to cabinet."

The department is contemplating sending a team of experts to other jurisdictions so that they can draw lessons with regard to this issue.

Ends

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Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources

29 April 2011