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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATOR TO CONDUCT A REGULATORY NUCLEAR EMERGENCY EXERCISE AT THE KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION ON 20 OCTOBER 2026

16 October 2026, Centurion, South Africa.

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) will conduct a regulatory nuclear emergency exercise at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station on Tuesday, 20 October 2026.

The exercise forms part of the NNR's ongoing regulatory oversight activities to assess emergency preparedness, evaluate response arrangements and strengthen coordination between organisations responsible for responding to a potential nuclear emergency. Members of the public are advised that this is a planned regulatory exercise and does not indicate that there is an actual nuclear emergency at the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station.

Effective nuclear emergency preparedness requires clearly defined responsibilities, tested procedures and coordinated action between the organisations involved in emergency response. The exercise is a regulatory activity aimed at testing the effectiveness of relevant emergency response arrangement procedures and coordination mechanisms.

"Through its regulatory control role, the NNR assesses whether safety and emergency preparedness arrangements meet applicable regulatory requirements. Exercises such as this are essential for evaluating practical readiness, strengthening response capabilities and promoting continuous improvement. The exercise will also help identify lessons and opportunities for further continuous improvement," said NNR CEO Ms Ditebogo Kgomo.

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About the National Nuclear Regulator

The National Nuclear Regulator 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 and secure manner and in accordance with international principles and best practices.

Nuclear Emergency Planning

Nuclear activities are conducted within a framework which aims to prevent accidents but also to mitigate their consequences. Section 38 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act mandates the NNR to ensure that provisions for nuclear emergency planning are in place and prescribes that the regulator must ensure the effectiveness of nuclear authorisation holder's emergency preparedness and response arrangements for protection of persons and the environment.

The effectiveness of nuclear emergency plans is verified, among other measures, through periodic emergency exercises at nuclear and radiological facilities. These exercises test established plans, preparedness and response arrangements, relevant procedures, equipment and resources; assess the competence of personnel in performing assigned tasks; evaluate the ability of individuals and off-site response organisations to work in a coordinated manner; and identify areas for improvement.