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## Credible and mordenised institutions significant to building a world-class economy – DG October

South Africa requires credible and mordenised institutions, that are responsive to ever-changing technologies to accelerate the ailing economy and to compete with the global partners.

This was said by the Director-General of the Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**), Mr Lionel October. He was addressing the 10th anniversary celebration of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) in Centurion recently.

According to October, these institutions can enable the country to build an inclusive economy that responds to the need of all its people.

“For South Africa to create a world-class economy and strong manufacturing base, we need world-class institutions that are credible, trusted, modernised and corruption-free,” he added.

October emphasised that this would require a focused approach and fostering strategic partnerships with industry role players who are compliant and act consistently without fear or favour against those that do not comply. October commended the NRCS management for having stabilised the organisation and encouraged them to speedily implement the modernisation process which he said was central going into the fourth industrial revolution.

“Effective enforcement of technical regulations is now more important for South Africa than ever as the country is persuing an open economic system. The implementation of unilateral trade measures by some developed nations has placed severe pressures on the work of technical infrastructure institutions. Against this background, the transformation imperative requires of the regulator to implement speedy processing of regulatory activities so as to



allow new entrants to gain a foothold in the market while at the same time being able to effectively stem the tide of non-compliant products and downright dangerous products that are dumped in the market from abroad,” said October.

With relations to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, October said there was no reason for the institutions not to have world-class technology in managing standards. He further invited the NRCS to work closely with the department to develop measures and take advantage of opportunities brought by the advent of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution.

In highlighting some of the achievements by the NRCS in the past ten years, the Chief Executive Office Edward Mamadise pointed out that the regulator has performed more than 500 000 surveillance inspections and approved more than 300 000 letters of authority for business to trade in the South African market.

“These inspections saved the economy millions of rands as they ensured that no unsafe products were traded during the period under review,” he added.

Despite these achievements, Mamadise also highlighted areas of improvement the regulator need to focus on in the near future such as, finalising the modernisation project, stabilising the organisation and also improve the NRCS’s financial performance.

## Safe paraffin appliance awareness campaign: KwaZulu-Natal

The tiny village of Shaka’s Head near Ballito in KwaZulu-Natal received an early Christmas gift when the NRCS handed over more than 700 safer paraffin stoves to the community north of Durban.

The campaign was run in partnership with the National Consumer Commission (NCC) and the Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**).

This is also part of the ongoing campaign to remove unsafe paraffin stoves from across the country. Members of the media were invited to cover the event: It was aimed at raising awareness of the usage of safe paraffin stoves versus substandard stoves that contribute to fires, often devastating informal settlements across the country.

## NRCS takes safe paraffin appliance awareness campaign to KZN

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), in partnership with the Department of Trade Industry (**the dti**) and the National Consumer Commission (NCC) will hand over more than 500 stoves to the residents of the informal settlement of Shaka's Head near KwaDukuza in KwaZulu-Natal on Monday, 26 November 2018.

This is part of the ongoing campaign to remove unsafe paraffin stoves all across the country.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies says the campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the usage of safe paraffin stoves and to eradicate substandard stoves that contribute to fires that often devastate informal settlements.

"This campaign further enables face-to-face engagement with communities to make them aware of the risks posed by non-compliant products with regards to safety, health and matters of environmental protection and the rights of the consumers," he says.

Davies adds that it is imperative for the NRCS to deal harshly with businesses that are not obeying the law when it comes to non-compliant products and ensure that they are brought to book. This specific non-compliant products, he says, negatively affects all communities.

"The campaign must run throughout the year, with the NRCS inspecting business premises and prosecuting those that are manufacturing, supplying and selling these unsafe products to communities," emphasises Davies.

The campaign which was started in 2015 by the NRCS and the NCC, is aimed at educating consumers about the importance of using approved appliances such as paraffin stoves and heaters to prevent shack fires which often result in loss of lives and properties.



## NRCS's 8<sup>th</sup> Building Control Officer's Convention, a resounding success

The 8<sup>th</sup> NRCS building control officer convention held in Johannesburg was a resounding success. The convention discussed various topics with the built environment and emphasised the issue of speedy transformation within the industry.

The convention was convened by the NRCS in partnership with the dti and the City of Johannesburg.

Held under the theme, "Transformation towards a sustainable Built Environment", the convention is a platform where various stakeholders in the built environment share ideas with a view to implement the National Building Regulation and Standards Act in a

uniform method and further develop ideas to strengthen the Act as well as address current problems relating to the collapse of buildings across the country.

Delegates at the convention discussed, the state of the building industry in the South Africa, progress on the review of the NBR&BS Act which is under review as well as broader transformational issues within the built environment. Speakers at the convention include representatives from government departments such as Trade and Industry and Labour, academia as well as construction and civil engineering bodies to mention just a few.



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# New mandatory performance specifications to improve lighting efficiency

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) and the Department of Energy (DoE) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), hosted a consultative industry information session with the lightening industry in Pretoria recently.

The session, attended by various lighting sector stakeholders, was aimed at informing the industry about plans to start regulating the safety, quality and energy performance of household lamps.

Existing regulations (VC 8043: incandescent lamps and VC 9091: compact fluorescent lamps) cover older products but rapid technological advances have led to significantly more efficient lighting products being widely available across South Africa, necessitating the proposed new regulations.

The session also marked the first step in a formal process that will include a socio-economic impact assessment, risk assessment and stakeholder consultation. The planned regulations will take into consideration South Africa's commitments in terms of the Minamata Convention and the phasing out of products containing mercury from the market.

Government's objective is to protect consumers against poor quality products, reduce household electricity consumption, and importantly, ensure products meet minimum safety requirements. In the past few years, the NRCS in conjunction

with other government agencies at ports of entry, removed and destroyed millions of non-compliant light bulbs worth R1.2 million from the market.

Recent months have seen significant global shifts to phasing out more inefficient lighting products. South Africa has worked closely with international partners to compile a first draft of the minimum energy performance standards (MEPS), taking into consideration international best practices. This move is part of a broader collaboration on efficient appliances supported by the UNDP.

The DoE in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**), NRCS and the UNDP is also implementing a project called 'Market Transformation' through the introduction of energy efficiency standards and the labelling of household appliances in South Africa.

The main objective is to remove inefficient electronic appliances from the South African market and encourage the adoption of efficient technologies through enforcement of minimum energy performance standards (MEPS), labelling and incentive programmes which will eventually lead to significant reductions in electricity consumption and carbon footprint in South African households.



## NRCS joins forces with North West government to rid the province of unsafe products

The NRCS in partnership with the North West Department of Economy and Enterprise Development embarked on an enforcement and awareness campaign in Lichtenburg and surrounding areas.

The purpose of the campaign was to eradicate substandard products and educate consumers about the role of the Regulator and its regulatory activities.

Several stores were visited in the sprawling township of Lichtenburg to ensure that business were compliant with set compulsory standards and other municipal bylaws in as far as product manufacturing is concerned.

The campaign will also be rolled out to other parts of the North West province in the near future.

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