

# Energy efficiency powers ahead

An energy accord, recently announced by the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka of the South African Energy Efficiency Accord will give a boost to more efficient energy use in the country.

With the active support of Business Unity South Africa, the process for a voluntary Energy Efficiency Accord was signed at a banquet at Kyalami Theatre on the Track. "It encourages us as leaders to know the private sector recognises the advant-

ages of promoting energy efficiency as an imperative for business to thrive in the future," says Ngcuka. "South Africa uses some 40 percent of the total electricity consumed by the continent. The signing of this accord makes us one of the few countries in the world to have such a strategy."

On the current fuel price increases, the minister said, "Today petrol went up by 20c a litre. People complain but give little thought to buying cars that use less fuel. We plan to provide

information on the fuel consumption of new vehicles."

She said, because electricity was a lot cheaper here than in many countries, South Africans had not developed the instinct of being energy savers. Ngcuka proposed that government should make consumers' choices easier. She said poor people spent time and money on inefficient and expensive energy sources that proved to be unhealthy, causing respiratory disease, burning of shacks and burns that caused terribly deformities.

The first step has been taken with the launch of the appliance label campaign, promoting the use of energy efficient appliances. The labels are graded A-G with G being the poorest performing product.

