

Sapref refinery to begin restart on 21 July

South Africa's largest crude oil refinery, Sapref, will begin restarting on 21 July, after temporarily shutting down as a wave of violent looting swept across the country, the operators said in a statement on Tuesday.



A general view of part of the South African Petroleum Refinery (Sapref) is seen in Durban, file. Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko/File Photo

The refinery, situated in the east coast port city of Durban, shut down last week due to violence that claimed more than 200 lives and caused billions of rands worth of damage.

A 50/50 joint venture between BP and Shell, Sapref has a nameplate capacity of 180,000 barrels per day and accounts for around 35% of the refining capacity in Africa's most industrialised economy, a net importer of petroleum products.

The refinery restart will take between seven to 10 days to be completed, the operators said.



Country's largest refinery declares force majeure amid KZN unrest

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