



**THE PRESIDENCY | MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Union Buildings | Pretoria | Contact: +27 (0)12 308 1438 | www.thepresidency.gov.za

03 June 2023

**MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ELECTRICITY, DR
KGOSIENTSHO RAMOKGOPA, POST NECOM BRIEFING STATEMENT**

Yesterday, 02 June 2023, The Minister in the Presidency responsible for Electricity, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa briefed the media on the progress of the Energy Action Plan. This briefing is part of the weekly briefings curated by NECOM to appraise the public on the work done to end the intensity and frequency of load shedding.

KEY MILESTONES ON THE ENERGY ACTION PLAN

- ✓ Two additional hybrid projects from the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP) have been approved by the Eskom board and will now proceed to legal close. These projects are expected to reach close by the end of June 2023, and will add 274 MW to the grid.
- ✓ Preparations are underway to release additional bid windows in June and July 2023. This includes Bid Window 7 for wind and solar PV (5000 MW), further bid windows for battery storage (1200 MW) and gas (3000 MW), and RFPs for the Load Shedding Reduction Programme (750 MW) and the Cross Border Procurement Programme (1000 MW). These programmes will together procure over 10 000 MW of new generation capacity.
- ✓ The private sector, through Business for South Africa, has mobilized technical skills and capacity to support Eskom's Generation Recovery Plan. Support teams will be deployed at Matla, Kriel, Majuba and Kendal by 5 June 2023. Technical support will also be provided diesel supply chain optimisation to increase the load factor of OCGTs.
- ✓ Significant interest has been expressed in Eskom's Demand Management Programme, with over a thousand participants attending the first briefing session. Eskom expects the programme to be fully subscribed.
- ✓ Eskom has agreed to waive the requirement for security deposits to enable wheeling of electricity to municipalities in good standing. This will make it significantly easier for generators to wheel power from the Eskom network to customers on a municipal network. Previously, this required large deposits to be placed by the municipality with Eskom for each wheeling transaction.
- ✓ The Eskom Debt Relief Bill was passed in the National Assembly, which will now go to the NCOP for concurrence. This is a crucial step towards addressing the financial and operational challenges faced by Eskom.

MOBILISATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT

NECOM has secured Private sector support to identified power stations to commence on 5 June 2023. The support is as follows:

- Matla 3450 MW: target 11% EAF improvement
 - Coal washing/ash/slurry/scrubbing
- Kriel 2850 MW: target 25% EAF improvement
 - Cooling towers to recover 700MW partial load loss
- Majuba 3822 MW: target 12% EAF improvement
 - Bag filters – 1200 MW partial load loss
- Kendal 3840 MW: target 25% EAF improvement
 - Mills/dust & ash handling/air heaters/demin water

Technical project support agreed with Eskom:

- Kusile duct replacement programme review
 - Civils design review
 - Project implementation plan review
- OCGT Diesel supply chain optimisation
 - Supply optimisation
 - Cost optimization

Additional support to NECTOM:

- Support for establishment of Energy One-Stop Shop

REDUCING LOADSHEDDING OVER THE WINTER PERIOD

NECOM is implementing a range of measures with the aim to prevent load shedding from exceeding stage 5-6 over the winter period.

- ✓ Eskom Generation is working to reduce unplanned breakdowns to 15 000 MW and to **return ten additional units to service** at Camden, Duvha, Arnot, Tutuka, Kriel, Hendrina and Grootvlei power stations by 31 May 2023.
- ✓ Engineering teams are exploring solutions to **increase the load factor of OCGTs** over the winter months by increasing the supply of diesel to Ankerlig and Gourikwa.
- ✓ **NECOM will run an aggressive demand side management campaign aimed at reducing demand on the grid. It is possible to reduce demand by 1000 MW and reduce load shedding by one stage through simple measures:**
 - Set inverters and batteries to charge from the grid during the night, to avoid increasing demand at peak times in the morning and evening. Inverter charging can add up to 1400 MW of excess demand, or more than one stage of load shedding, during times when the grid is already constrained.
 - Switch off electric geysers at peak times, to save energy and reduce your electricity bill.
 - Switch off pool pumps and other unnecessary, energy-intensive equipment.
 - Switch off lights, appliances and device chargers while you are not using them.

PREVENTION OF A NATIONAL BLACKOUT

The risk of a national blackout, while inherent to the operation of a large power system, is extremely low given the various control measures in place, including load shedding. To this end, a national blackout would be caused by an unforeseen sequence of events, such as a natural disaster, triggering a simultaneous loss of supply across the country.

Higher stages of load shedding do not increase the risk of a blackout. Rather, they reflect the continued ability of the System Operator to manage the balance power system and balance supply with demand. Eskom has multiple safeguards in place to prevent a blackout, as well as detailed plans to restore the system in the unlikely event of an emergency. These systems are tested regularly.

ENQUIRIES

Mr. Kutlwano Huma

Email: Kutlwano@presidency.gov.za

Media Liason: Ministry of Electricity in the The Presidency