



## NSBE (SA)

### NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS OF SOUTH AFRICA "BRIDGING THE ENGINEERING SKILLS GAP"

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
MEDIA RELEASE

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TO: PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA HOUSES  
FROM: MDU MLABA  
SUBJECT: ESKOM's PLAN TO HIRE RETIRED ENGINEERS  
DATE: 08 MAY 2020

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#### **NSBE STATEMENT ON ESKOM's PLAN TO HIRE RETIRED ENGINEERS**

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) approached Eskom 5 months ago and offered to help in whatever way possible to fix their technical challenges. We are still waiting for them to take us up on that offer.

We are disappointed to learn that Eskom is planning to hire retired engineers as per the presentation by their CEO – André de Ruyter - at the joint meeting of Public Enterprises on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020, refer to page # 11 of the slide deck.

A list of the cherry-picked retired engineers was subsequently shared with NSBE and upon close scrutiny we discovered that all of them are white. We are aware that most of them are not qualified engineers, they are artisans and at best technicians. We are enraged by this plan as it undermines black engineers who are qualified, experienced and competent to fix the technical challenges at Eskom. Given the history of our country, we are completely offended by the CEO's call for retired white engineers and this notion that 'experienced and

**President:** Mdu Mlaba;

**National Executive Committee:** Lwazi Goqwana: Deputy President; Ernest Ngubo: Secretary General; Tumi Tshelo; Freddy Mugerj; Professor Pilate Moyo; Andile Dayi; Malusi Mlaba

competent engineers' are only white is one we reject with contempt it deserves. Not long ago, Eskom let go of some 20 highly experienced technical managers under the guise of restructuring. Most if not all of them were black. This latest proposal contradicts that previous action. How can Eskom justify hiring this crop of white engineers when it let go of competent black engineers with many years of institutional memory just recently? If that restructuring was made in error, how come are those technical managers not on the list that has been published?

It is completely unacceptable that 26 years into democracy we find ourselves in this space. We see this as a desperate attempt to reverse the transformation agenda at Eskom.

We call upon Minister Pravin Gordhan to reject this plan.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mlaba', with a flourish underneath.

Mdu Mlaba

President

08/05/2020