



NSBE (SA)

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

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NEWSFLASH

TO: NSBE MEMBERS
FROM: MDU MLABA
SUBJECT: ESKOM's LOAD SHEDDING CRISIS
DATE: 07 JULY 2022

ESKOM's LOAD SHEDDING CRISIS

The NBE Leadership team represented by me and the Deputy President Mr. Lwazi Goqwana met with the Eskom's Chief Operations Officer Mr. Jan Oberholzer and Head of Engineering Mr. Thomas Conradie on 06 July 2022. The meeting followed a request from Mr. Oberholzer to meet to explore possible technical assistance from NSBE to end the load shedding crisis which has plunged the country to unprecedented stage 6 load shedding.

The tone of the discussion was frank and open from both sides. Eskom highlighted the shortage of technical skills to conduct maintenance and refurbishments on the aging coal fleet. The NSBE remains willing and committed to help Eskom to end the load shedding crisis on the following conditions:-

- (1) The Technical Task Team Report which was published in April 2019 be made available to NSBE to peruse and get up to speed with the engineering challenges at Generation Division. Eskom to give the latest update on progress achieved to date to implement the recommendations contained in the same report and highlight the gaps that still need closure.

President: Mdu Mlaba;

National Executive Committee: Lwazi Goqwana: Deputy President; Freddy Mugeru: Treasurer; Tumi Tsehlo: Head of Business Forum; Lungi Maminza; Kwazi Mabaso; Thato Selebogo; Simphiwe Mbanga; Bongumusa Thusi; Andile Dayi

- (2) The NSBE leadership team to be given an opportunity to have constructive engagement with Eskom Generation NSBE Members to get their honest views on what's holding them back from getting on top of the load shedding crisis. A safe environment to ventilate issues will be a pre-requisite to make this exercise meaningful and yield the desired outcome. Any victimization of our members for speaking up the truth will not be tolerated.

- (3) The Eskom Senior Executive Team, including the CEO & COO, to commit to putting concrete plans in place to improve staff morale, especially in Generation. Highly experienced and qualified black engineers who have dealt with load shedding a few years ago are allegedly constantly harassed and some hounded out of the power utility due to perceived loyalty to the previous leadership of Eskom. Plans to bring back retired artisans and engineers to be carefully managed with buy in from current employees and unions. If the integration is not properly handled, it would lead to polarization of the workforce and further deterioration of the energy crisis.

Mr. Jan Oberholzer to brief the CEO Mr. André De Ruyter on the outcome of our engagement and propose a way forward in due course.

ENDS

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