



## **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 LOAD SHEDDING CRISIS  
DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 2021

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#### **NSBE STATEMENT ON ESKOM's LOAD SHEDDING CRISIS**

It is now 2.5 years later since the technical report was issued and the load shedding crisis has worsened. The current Eskom leadership team keeps blaming their predecessors indefinitely for operational challenges that they were hired to fix. Load shedding is costing the economy approximately R4bn per day depending on its severity. Our lack of confidence in the current leadership team and the public outcry are fully justified.

On 04 March 2019 the Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr. Pravin Gordhan, met 11 industry specialists who were appointed as members of the new Eskom Technical Review Team.

The Technical Review Team included highly qualified and experienced academic, engineering and power systems professionals and were required to conduct an intensive review of the operations, maintenance and the technical environment at Eskom Power Stations. The team was tasked to examine amongst others:-

- Plant unavailability due to scheduled maintenance,
- Plant unavailability due to unplanned outages and unscheduled maintenance,

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- Operator errors resulting in power plants tripping and shutting down, and
- Technical and operator associated inefficiencies resulting in lower than optimum electricity output from the power station units.

The Technical Team reported directly to Minister Gordhan and to a Technical sub-committee of the Eskom Board. The Team met again on Friday, 08 March 2019, to develop the methodology and work programme and formally began executing their mandate on Monday, 11 March 2019. The Eskom CEO facilitated the work of the Technical Review Team by allocating up to three technical, operating and engineering personnel, who assisted with access and information collection.

The members of the new Technical Review Team were:-

Dr Tsakani Mthombeni (Coordinator)

Mr. Ian Morrison (Coordinator)

Mr. Seeralan Chinaboo

Ms. Khumo Morolo

Mr. Gladman Mkwai

Mr. Robbie van Heerden

Mr. Sibuyela Sithuba

Dr Walter Schmitz

Mr. Vitesh Maharaj

Mr. Lwazi Goqwana

Ms. Phindile Mooketsi

Dr Mthombeni was the Chairperson of the Energy Intensive Users Group (EIUG) and also served on the President Cyril Ramaphosa's Sustainability Task Team for Eskom. Mr Ian Morrison was a retired executive, with many years of experience as an engineer and mining professional.

The Technical Team delivered their report to Minister Gordhan and the Eskom Board towards the end of April 2019. The report contained technical findings and recommendations on what needed to be done to improve Eskom's operations to stop load shedding.

We urge Minister Gordhan to declassify the report and make it public in the best interest of our beloved country.

Given the fact that they have been in possession of this report since it was published, we expect the Eskom Board Chairperson, Professor Malegapuru Makgopa, and the Eskom Group CEO, Mr. André de Ruyter, to quickly follow through and take the nation into confidence by accounting on progress achieved to date to implement all the recommendations contained in the technical report.

## **ENDS**

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