

10 December 2019

OPEN LETTER TO MR SAMSON GWEDE MANTASHE, MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MR PRAVIN JAMNADAS GORDHAN, MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES; AND MR ANDRE DE RUYTER, GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE: ESKOM

Dear Sirs

RE: USE OF UNPRECEDENTED STAGE 6 LOADSHEDDING

As a member of the South African public, I herewith want to inform you that whilst you might believe that the use of stage 6 load shedding is a “manageable crisis”, the average South African feels otherwise. Our “moermeters” have long surpassed stage 6 and your continued inability and/or unwillingness to effect meaningful positive change at Eskom and to the energy situation at large, have turned into a national embarrassment and frustration of epic proportions. You and your ANC government have allowed Eskom to become a failed State-Owned Enterprise within what is soon to be a failed state, should you not get your act together.

To ask for an end to load shedding at this stage would be to ask for the impossible, although it remains the end goal. Until such can be reached, I demand that the following measures be considered:

- To expedite the unbundling of Eskom into three separate entities, with a specific focus on the reduction of unnecessary staff and appointment of senior management based on merit.
- To expedite the signing of contracts with truly independent power producers (IPP) so that capable, knowledgeable and willing private energy producers can add power to a failing, state-controlled energy grid.
- To force Eskom to improve its communication with the South African public, as 20 to 30 minutes warning before the implementation of stage 2, 4 or even 6 load shedding is unreasonable and unacceptable.
- In addition, to force Eskom to share with the public the live status of each and every one of its power producing units, so that the South African public can come to its own conclusions regarding the likelihood of load shedding. At this stage unplanned outages below 10 000MW are kept below the radar, although they still represent an enormous problem. The loss of a mere 2 to 3 generation units, something not as uncommon as it should be, could easily lead to the implementation of stage 2 load shedding. Rather than to start warning the public of a constrained network at +/- 10 000MW unplanned outages, Eskom should be forced to keep the public informed about the exact status of its power network.



I further demand that you answer the following questions:

- Did you, in any way, shape or form, expect the situation wherein Eskom was forced to implement stage 6 load shedding on Monday 9 December 2019? If not, why not?
- What can South Africans realistically expect in terms of the power system for the remainder of 2019 and the year 2020?

Sirs, the festive season is fast approaching and South Africans want to know whether they can keep their food in their freezers, or whether they should rather take it along and eat it whilst it's still edible. South Africans want to know whether you will be able to keep the (Christmas) lights on. South Africans want to know if you take them seriously. You owe us answers. Grief and frustrations, unlike electricity, we get from Eskom.

Best regards