



EFF STATEMENT ON ESKOM CEO ANDRE DE RUYTER'S 5 YEARS LOAD SHEDDING

Thursday, 18 March 2021

The EFF notes the comments by Eskom CEO Andre De Ruyter that South Africa will be subjected to power cuts for another five years as a clear indication that he was never equal to the task of turning around the power utility and resolving the country's energy crisis.

De Ruyter's admission that almost two years as CEO of Eskom, still faces a 4, 000 MW shortfall in the amount of power and the continued breakdowns of gaining coal-fired power station vindicates our position that his appointment was a shameful intent to collapse Eskom to rationalise its privatisation. Despite De Ruyter being the least technically qualified, his appointment to the power utility is consistent with Pravin Gordhan continued purging of African managers in SOE's in favour of the incompetent white male to reinforce the falsehood that Africans cannot manage strategic and complex institutions.

The country has been on lockdown for almost a year, which has come with less demand on electricity than would have been the case without lockdown. Nonetheless, the country has experienced more than 800 hours of load shedding during this period. This should be a clear indication to the Board that those in Eskom's management have very little capacity to turn things around.

The deliberate sabotage of Eskom to undermine its power generation capacity is part of the growing pressures from capitalists for Eskom to be sold and enter into irrational agreements with Independent Power Producers despite carrying no foreseeable capacity to provide adequate and dependable electricity for all South Africans.

Just yesterday, it was reported that there are still a lot of defects happening and this will necessitate that modifications be carried out to address some of these defects both at Medupi and Kusile Power stations. Some of the identified planned modifications include the Mills, Pulse Jet Fabric Filter Plant, Gas Air Heater and Hot Air Dust Erosion.

It is now clear that Eskom will require an increase in their scope and subsequently spending because all these modifications will require Capital to be executed. This will be in contrast to what the Eskom CEO promised during the SCOPA meeting of Parliament that there won't be any additional money used on the 2 Power Stations.

We cannot sit back and watch while a white male threatens the country's energy security and fast track the collapse of Eskom so that he can hand it over to his white friends. This is evident in the utterances De Ruyter made in October 2020 that the best way to increase SA's energy security is to bring more private producers onto the national grid.

We therefore demand that all purchase agreements entered with IPPs be immediately discontinued as they add no significant value to South Africa's electricity needs. We demand the entire board of Eskom, the Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan and De Ruyter must immediately step down and be replaced with competent African executives and leadership that will take Eskom forward.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Vuyani Pambo (National Spokesperson): 066 082 0889

Delisile Ngwenya (National Spokesperson): 066 388 8779

Sixelise Gcilishe (National Communications Manager): 071 142 1663

✉ communications@effonline.org

🌐 <http://www.effonline.org>

🐦 @EFFSouthAfrica

📷 @EFFSouthAfrica

📘 Economic Freedom Fighters