



EFF STATEMENT ON ESKOM'S CONSIDERATION OF PERMANENT STAGE 2 AND 3 LOADSHEDDING FOR THE NEXT TWO-YEARS

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The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) is not surprised by the dangerous and destructive consideration by ESKOM, which is to implement stage 2 and 3 of the rolling electricity blackouts for the next two-years.

The EFF has long exposed that there is no verifiable plan by ESKOM or government to put an end to the crippling blackouts, which result in billions of losses to our economy, destroy business and are a constant threat to the lives and livelihoods of millions of South Africans.

The announcement by ESKOM of this consideration, which will undoubtedly collapse this country into poverty, food instability and economic collapse is a concession of utter incompetence. It is even more concerning that in the midst of useless and meaningless meetings by the so-called Energy Crisis Committee, and PR-stunts by Cyril Ramaphosa, there seems to be no coherence in communication and direction within government and the energy utility.

The Minister of Minerals and Energy seems to suggest that the energy crisis can be resolved by utilizing existing generation capacity, implementing maintenance at power plants, utilizing coal, and sourcing electricity from programs such as Karpowerships.

Ramaphosa on the other hand is hellbent on pursuing a misguided approach of experimenting with absolute reliance on renewable-energy, while the Minister of Finance has communicated a period of 12-18 months to end the rolling electricity blackouts to the global community, completely contradicting ESKOM.

It has become clear that the government of South Africa is split in terms of what ought to be the ideal solution to South Africa's energy crisis, and this is largely due to the role of private capital which seeks to maximize profit through parasitic Independent Power Producers (IPP's). Part and parcel of the incoherence within government is the

role of an organized neo-liberal energy lobby, which operates through the media, rationalizing privatization while failing to place the ongoing crisis at the doorstep of the likes of Pravin Gordhan, Andre De Ruyter and Cyril Ramaphosa.

The EFF reiterates that the most immediate course of action at ESKOM is the complete restructuring of its leadership through employing competent energy experts who have exhibited the ability to end loadshedding in the past. This coupled with mutually beneficial relations with progressive nations on energy policy is the only sensible way forward.

The attempts to abandon coal as an energy source remain a nonsensical experiment by the West in Africa, and are hypocritical as no nation in Europe or America has shown any intention to abandon coal.

The people of South Africa must begin to appreciate that without a massive uprising to call for the removal of Cyril Ramaphosa as a President, the misery brought by rolling electricity blackouts will continue indefinitely.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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