

■ ENERGY

'Parliament does not owe Eskom money'

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power system from a total collapse or blackout," said Eskom.

Customers were advised to check their load-shedding schedules on the Eskom or municipal websites.

Meanwhile, Parliament has denied claims that it owes Eskom R17 000.

Its spokesperson, Moloto Mothapo, said the information given to the standing committee on public accounts during the presentation by the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Kevin Naidoo, was erroneous.

Mothapo said Parliament does not have any electricity account with Eskom, and thus cannot owe or be in arrears with the entity.

"Parliament's buildings, which include

the parliamentary precinct and villages that accommodate MPs in Cape Town, are under the management of the Department of Public Works.

"This means that the Department of Public Works, not Parliament, is billed for electricity and other services of the parliamentary buildings.

"The inaccurate information given to the parliamentary committee is concerning because, as an institution that conducts oversight over Eskom and is key to addressing the challenges currently confronting it, Parliament should not be among those contributing to the power utility's financial problems.

"Parliament's leadership will interact with the committee to ensure that this unfortunate inaccuracy is corrected," he said.