



Publication: Cape Times - Main

Title: Eskom board to scrutinise CEO Andre de Ruyter's performance, says Ramaphosa

Publish date: 04 Nov 2022

Page: 1

Reach: 29673

AVE: R 13463.14

Author: Mayibongwe
Maqhina

NATION

Eskom board to scrutinise CEO Andre de Ruyter's performance, says Ramaphosa

MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA
mayibongwe.maqhina@inl.co.za

THE Eskom board would soon assess the performances of the power utility's executives, including chief executive Andre de Ruyter, who is facing mounting calls to be sacked over the country's worst load shedding ever.

Responding to oral questions in the National Assembly yesterday, President Cyril Ramaphosa said De Ruyter was appointed on a five-year contract in January 2020 and reports to the newly-appointed board.

He asked that the board be given space to assess what needs to be done to improve efficiency of existing plants

and effectiveness of management and operators at all levels.

"This is a process, I believe, which they have started on or will be embarking on soon," he said.

When EFF leader Julius Malema interjected, he insisted that the assessment of the performance of the executive leadership should be done by a

properly constituted body.

"You may not be pleased with the process. That is the most fair process to anybody," said Ramaphosa, before indicating that no other entity except Eskom had had close to 20 CEOs in the 28 years of democracy.

He said the board would embark on the performance assessment so that it

could brief shareholders on what their own assessment was and present proposals.

"Let us give them the support they need so that they can do their work. Where they fail, clearly action does need to be taken," Ramaphosa said.

He blamed recent load shedding
To page 2

Page 1 of 2



Publication: Cape Times - Main

Title: Eskom board to scrutinise CEO Andre de Ruyter's performance, says Ramaphosa

Publish date: 04 Nov 2022

Page: 2

Reach: 29673

AVE: R 12124.27

Author: Mayibongwe
Maqhina

ENERGY

Kusile, Medupi delays worsened things

From page 1

on insufficient investment at Eskom in new generation capacity that was needed two decades ago.

Ramaphosa said the structural challenges had resulted in a national capacity shortage of between 4 000 and 6 000 megawatts.

"This situation was made worse by delays in building Kusile and Medupi, the faulty design that has accompanied that whole build, state capture, corruption and loss of experienced staff," he said.

Ramaphosa again said real maintenance at Eskom had been halted for several years.

"Power stations were run very hard to maximum capacity, with poor reliability on maintenance and neglect of mid-life refurbishment."

A range of initiatives were currently under way as a matter of urgency to stop load shedding.

"This work, which is managed by the energy crisis committee in the presidency, includes ensuring units at Kusile are brought into commercial operation and expediting what needs to be expedited at Medupi, implementation of reliable maintenance through focused and quality maintenance but also recruitment of experienced staff."

Eskom COO Jan Oberholzer had previously confirmed it would take no less than 18 months for the energy situation to stabilise.

Ramaphosa said non-payment for services was unacceptable and a number of steps had been undertaken to ensure payment of those debts was recovered.

The Department of Public Works pays service charges and property rates on behalf of client departments.

In September, the department paid R575m for property rates and municipal services and processed invoices valued at R51m to Eskom.

"Where there are disputes, as often there are, the department pays what is not disputed and engages on amounts and accounts that are disputed," he said.