

Ramaphosa defends electricity minister appointment

By [Anait Miridzhanian](#) and [Alexander Winning](#)

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President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday, 16 February, defended his decision to appoint a minister to try to end crippling power cuts, rejecting criticism the role would cause confusion in government.



President Cyril Ramaphosa. Source: Nc Bothma/Reuters

Some lawmakers said the appointment would add a layer of bureaucracy as Eskom is overseen by the public enterprises minister while the energy minister is responsible for procuring additional power generation capacity.

Ramaphosa told parliament some people had suggested the appointment will "result in turf wars amongst the ministers who deal with energy and Eskom".

"This is not the case," he said, responding to a debate by lawmakers on his State of the Nation Address.

"(The power crisis) requires the undivided attention of a political principal who does not need to split their time and energies among different important responsibilities," he added.



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Ramaphosa said declaring a "state of disaster" would remove unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles to urgently adding power capacity to the grid.

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