

Eskom hopes to recover 6,000MW in the next 2 years, says Cassim

Speaking during the opening session of the Enlit Africa conference and expo in Cape Town on Tuesday, 16 May, acting group chief executive of Eskom Calib Cassim said the utility's executive management has agreed to assist generation "to the best of our ability to minimise the impact of load shedding this winter."



James Mackay, CEO of the Energy Council of South Africa, facilitates the fireside chat with Eskom's acting CEO Calib Cassim, and transmission GM Segomco Scheppers. Source: [Eskom/Twitter](#)

"We hope to recover 6,000MW in our fleet in the next two years," said Cassim, admitting that Eskom was "starting the winter on the backfoot, minus 3000MW. A year ago, we had three units of Kusile working, which we don't have, and two units of Koeberg are also not available this year".

Following the launch of the tell-all book by the former Eskom CEO Andre de Ruyter at the weekend, Cassim was asked how the campaign against corruption was progressing. He replied that there are certain areas where more corruption takes place and that is where the focus is. "Also, the number of items that have been raised on our whistle-blowing platforms is increasing and we see that as a positive indicator."

He said, however, that there was still a lack of convictions of those that are charged and that this was needed to set an example to instil confidence in Eskom. "What is positive is the support we have been getting from the security cluster in the last year with almost 300 arrests made."



Former Eskom contract employee arrested for fraud, corruption

15 May 2023



Cape Town able to 'protect its customers'

City of Cape Town mayco member for economic development James Vos said a survey amongst business owners has revealed that 66% of them have had to cut jobs because of load shedding. "With the national power supply that is still dominated by coal, it is clear that an urgent shift in policy is necessary. An important and hopeful part of this is that it is also doable, and I know this because here, in the city of Cape Town, we are doing it."

“At the moment, this city is able to protect its customers from up to two stages of load shedding, thanks to our maintenance and our investment in the Steenbras Hydro Pumped Storage Scheme.”

“Phase 1 of our tender for 200MW of renewable energy from independent power producers is also at an advanced stage, with contracts for this phase on track for final awarding in this year.”

“We also launched our biggest power tender yet, a 500MW dispatchable energy tender. It is part of our plan to protect our residents from the first four stages of load shedding within three years.”

Just energy transition

James Mackay, CEO of the Energy Council of SA, addressed a major theme of this year's Enlit Africa event, namely Africa's just energy transition. He pointed out that global clean technology investment overtook financing of fossil fuel projects for the first time in 2022.

“We have to ask, who will provide the investment for a just energy transition (in Africa) and how do we address the triple challenge (of energy security, affordability and sustainability)? When doing that, addressing socioeconomic challenges must be front and centre,” he said.

“South Africa will decarbonise and we will transition,” Mackay said. He warned, however, that being a late adopter of clean technology will further entrench the country's problems. “If we can't be agile enough to recognise the economic opportunities in clean technology, we will be excluded from global markets,” he said.



SA's power outages could reach critical levels this winter - likely scenarios

Hartmut Winkler 19 Apr 2023



Fourth dimension to energy trilemma

Vuyelwa Mahanyele, GE Vernova's regional sales director for gas, sees a fourth dimension to the energy trilemma (finding a balance between security, affordability and sustainability), namely the need to develop large infrastructure projects and the need for the jobs and skills to create the energy required to lead the continent's economic development.

“Decarbonisation is not as straightforward as we want it to be. It's not just renewable energy and batteries, which are critical.” She stated that both renewable energy sources and carbon-emitting sources have a role play.

“Without planning to incorporate both of these into our system, we won't achieve energy security.”

The Enlit Africa event is on at the CTICC in Cape Town until Thursday, 18 May.

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