

Load shedding to persist, but blackout highly unlikely - Eskom



South Africa is not in any immediate danger of a total energy system-wide blackout. This is according to Eskom Chief Operating Officer Jan Oberholzer, who addressed a media briefing last Sunday. “Although the stages of load shedding have been high and for extended periods, this does not indicate that the power system is approaching a blackout. “As long as we are in load shedding to ensure the appropriate reserves are maintained, there is no risk of any higher load shedding at this point,” Oberholzer said

“The 4500MW [of long term breakdowns] is really making it challenging for ourselves because that basically represents five stages of load shedding.

But...all of this is managed on a project so there’s real dedication and promise,” he said. Turning to the power utility’s pump storage facilities, Oberholzer said dam levels at these are increasing and diesel has also been procured.

The pump storage facilities and the open cycle gas turbines [OCGTs] collectively contribute some 5700MW of emergency generation capacity and without these, South Africa would face an additional six stages of load shedding.

“We are on track to completely replenish the pump storage dam levels specifically at Ingula and Palmiet while we have some challenges at Drakensberg and the reason being that the two of the four pumps are out of service for planned maintenance.

“We have procured about 50 million litres of diesel that will be used as and when required and to make sure that we manage the pump storage dam levels and to make sure that we reduce the stages of load shedding during the day,” he said. Oberholzer warned that although lower stages of load shedding are being implemented, the situation remains unpredictable. “While there has been some improvement in available generation

capacity, allowing us to drop the stages of load shedding, we’ve also seen an increase in demand for electricity as industry and businesses try to catch up on lost production.

“This, combined with the unpredictability and unreliability of the generation fleet, makes planning quite difficult and this may result in changes to load shedding at short notice in the week to come,” Oberholzer said. Eskom CEO André de Ruyter said although the power utility continues to face challenges, these are being addressed in collaboration with government.

“I would like...to offer my sincere apology for load shedding and the huge and widespread disruption that this has caused to many parts of our economy but also to the daily lives of all our citizens. “This is highly regrettable and I can give the country the assurance that the Eskom team is hard at work in collaboration with the National Energy Crisis Committee [NECOM] as well as our partners in various government departments to address the issues that have led us to the current situation and to find sustainable solutions going forward,” de Ruyter said.

– SAnews.gov.za

Correctional facilities can produce educated, skilled ex-offenders

Justice and Correctional Services Minister Ronald Lamola says correctional centres can become a hub for education and skills development for all inmates. The Minister was speaking during the release of inmates’ matric results for the 2022 academic year in a ceremony held at St Albans Correctional Centre in the Eastern Cape. The class of 2022, both part time and full time, scored a combined 85.5% pass rate this year – up by some 10.5% compared to 2021.

“[All] the sentenced inmates must take part in education, training and skill acquiring initiatives. This will be in line with our efforts of striving towards access to education for all. We don’t have to accept a situation where inmates will refuse to be trained by proclaiming that they have a right not to participate in education. “Let the doors of learning be opened and every inmate must be made to strive to acquire education, and move from a sense of hopelessness to a sense of saying ‘with education, I will be an upright citizen and my full potential will be unleashed.’

“All our centres must not only support learning,

but they should promote it,” he said. The Minister emphasised that inmates who receive education stand to better the communities they are released into and this can restore “inmates’ self-esteem and social competence”. “A bright future becomes more tangible if [inmates] pursue education as a form of rehabilitation. Upon returning back to society, they become different people.

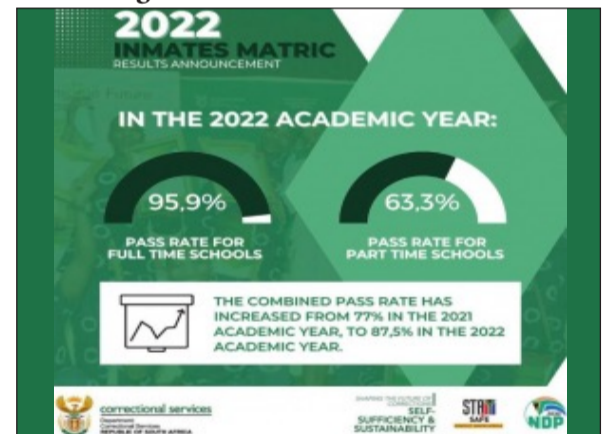
“Education in correctional centres has long term benefits for the country, ex-offenders with no or little education have lower prospects of finding gainful employment and they resort to crime as they cannot overcome the myriad of barriers they have to contend with,” he said. Lamola urged society to refrain from “discriminating against ex-offenders and denying them opportunities in areas and trades where they are best candidates”.

Every year, the department trains inmates in skills such as plumbing, tiling, brick laying and mechanics to provide them with a skill to take into the world once they leave correctional facilities. Turning to those who passed matric in the correctional services system in 2022, Lamola

congratulated them for their hard work and dedication. “I want to take this opportunity and congratulate all learners who excelled in their results. You worked hard, and you will serve as a great motivator for the 2023 class who we are hopeful will surpass your achievements.

“Your journey for education continues. We hope you will further your studies. Those who could not make it - try harder this year and you will eventually succeed,” the minister said.

– SAnews.gov.za



REA DI TSHOHLA, RE BETLA TSELA

PUISANO NEWS

You can now Boost your Business & Advertise on our social Media platforms

"Affordable advertising rates that meets your budget"

(Website & Facebook-page)

Website: www.puisano-ditaba.co.za

Contact us at

Email: peoplesagenda@webmail.co.za, leaowa@gmail.com, news@puisano-ditaba.co.za

SMS/WhatsApp/CALL: 079 185 0270

Compensation for ex-miners who suffered health injuries commences

The Department of Health will this week commence with the programme of screening, verification, medical examination and payment of benefits to eligible former mineworkers who contracted tuberculosis (TB) or silicosis between 1965 and 2019.

The countrywide programme will kick off on Monday, 23 January to Saturday, 4 February, in the northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal before moving to other provinces. The department is calling upon all former mineworkers or their dependents to visit their nearest lodgment site in their areas. The claimants are urged to bring along relevant documents such as a valid South African ID or Southern African Development Community (SADC) passport, industry card, service records from the mine they worked at or any available medical records.

The other documents include a deceased mineworker’s death certificate and an autopsy report, if available. The compensation amount, according to the department, will depend on several factors including the severity of the permanent respiratory impairment suffered by the mineworkers and their employment history at qualifying and non-qualifying mines. “However, in the case where the mine worker has passed on, the dependents are urged to submit the relevant documents including a death certificate.”

In addition, a claim for a mineworker who died before 10 December 2019 will only be eligible if the main cause of death is attributed to silicosis or TB, or there is an approved Occupational Diseases in Mines & Works Act (ODMWA) certificate or other exceptions.

– SAnews.gov.za